

many of whom, from thoughtlessness, improvidence, intemperance and other causes, are often without the warm night-coverings which are as necessary as food, and the lack of which occasions much suffering and unseemly herding together for the sake of warmth.

After due consideration, early in October, 1876, thirty-four pairs of white and grey blankets, of various sizes and prices, were procured direct from a good mill in Whitney, in order to obtain them as cheaply as possible, and with this little stock we commenced. The great aim of the society being to help the poor to help themselves, and thus to teach them careful and provident habits, the two ladies who conduct it determined to attach a small profit, and induce all the women who could to pay for them themselves by small weekly instalments, it having been proved over and over again that they value much more anything for which they have paid either wholly or in part, while it preserves them from the degradation of unnecessary or ill-bestowed charity. The small sum of threepence per week was fixed upon as the minimum instalment, each intending purchaser to pay as much more as she pleases, the article becoming her property when paid for. This we have found to work admirably, the desire to possess a blanket or sheet of her own inducing many to be economical, and to save the pence which would otherwise be squandered in things not necessary, in order that she might the more quickly pay for the coveted article. Many of the husbands, too, seeing their wives' careful anxiety, have been led to give them an extra shilling or sixpence to have "put upon the card" on Monday, the said sixpence or shilling, in most cases, being that much less spent in intoxicating drinks, so that husbands and children alike benefit by the prudent forethought inculcated in the wife.

In cases where the subscribers are very poor, they have them at less than cost price, and in extreme cases, in which deserving persons—through no fault of their own—are absolutely destitute, they are given; while a certain number are set apart to be sent to the sick and the aged. The benefits arising from this society are so appreciated by the mothers and others, that in little more than two months from the time of its commencement twenty four blankets had been purchased entirely, and others were being paid for. We were then so often asked for sheets, that we purchased one hundred yards of thick twill winter sheeting, which so met with their approval that in the first week and a-half after its purchase no less than fifty yards had been bespoke, and we were soon obliged to purchase our second hundred yards. As the spring advanced, we found it necessary to add unbleached and white sheeting, also for summer use, and this winter we are adding counterpanes.

The feeling of gratitude for the timely help rendered has induced many to attend the mothers' meetings, and thus to receive moral and spiritual good, and it has occasioned many opportunities both for the ladies and Bible nurse, to speak a word in season to those bowed down by poverty, sorrow, age, or suffering, and caused the visits of the latter to be welcomed in many a home, in which perhaps otherwise she would hardly have been kindly received, so true is it that kindness and attention to their bodily comforts, is the key to unlock the hearts and reach the benighted minds and neglected souls of many of our poor.

The instalments are collected every week at the mothers' meeting from those who attend, each woman being provided with a card on which the sum is entered; the Bible nurse, in her usual rounds, collecting from those who do not attend, or who are temporarily prevented from doing so, and it would gladden the hearts of those unacquainted with the poor, to see the look of pride and pleasure with which many a one will hold up the purchased blanket or sheet, and say, "I could never have had it but for this society," and the gratitude they express to its promoters is very cheering.

Unable as they are to pay for such articles at once, they cannot go to the draper's, and if they come into contact with the travelling tally-man, they have to pay three times the value for a very inferior article, while here none but thoroughly good articles are purchased, and the profit attached is so very small, that they are saved the two profits of the wholesale warehouseman and the retail tradesman. Many of our purchasers have never owned such articles before, and the pride they feel in their possession, helps them to strive to acquire other necessary articles of comfort and cleanliness, while the poor children share largely in the benefit, as instead of being huddled together in mother's bed for the sake of its scanty and almost nameless covering, in many instances they have now little beds on the floor for themselves, with one or two of our small grey blankets so suitable for them. It was a "happy thought" which God put into our heart, and we have been richly repaid, not only in the gratitude, but in the moral elevation also, of these our poor sisters.

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THE DROWSY SENTINEL.

A GENERAL, after gaining a great victory, was encamping with his army for the night. He ordered watch to be kept all around the camp as usual. One of the sentinels, as he went to his station, grumbled to himself, and said: "Why could not the general let us have a quiet night's rest for once, after beating the enemy? I'm sure there's nothing to be afraid of."

The man then went to his station, and stood for some time looking about him. It was a bright night, with a harvest moon, but as he could see no sign of danger anywhere, he said to himself, "I am terribly tired; I shall sleep for just five minutes, out of the moonlight, under the shadow of this tree." So he lay down.

Presently he started up, dreaming that someone had pushed a lantern before his eyes, and he found that the moon was shining brightly down on him through the branches of the tree above him. The next minute something whizzed past his ear, and the whole field before him seemed alive with soldiers, who sprang up from the ground, where they had been silently creeping onward, and rushed toward him.

Fortunately the arrow missed him; so he shouted aloud to give the alarm, and ran back to some other sentinels. The army to which he belonged was thus saved, and the soldier said, "I shall never forget, as long as I live, that when one is at war one must watch."

Our whole life is a war with evil. Just after we have conquered it, it sometimes attacks us when we least expect it. For example, when we have resisted the temptation to be cross and peevish, or disobedient, sometimes when we are thinking, "How good we have been!" comes another sudden temptation, and we are not on our guard, and do not resist it. Jesus says to us, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation."