

whole question to be a difficult one, as I am sure you do. I first visited the Home to ask whether a few of the poor women coming out of Prison could be sheltered there for a time. Finding they were cordially received and cared for, and thinking I might be of use to the Matron, in Mrs. Taylor's absence, I continued my visits. Then, if you recollect, the difficulties of the old work seemed so great (the inmates having to be sent to the Hospital just at the time when they most needed loving influence, &c.) that you thought the Home might have to be closed, or the character of the work changed. I then asked whether the committee would allow the building to be used for a convalescent hospital. You spoke at that time of calling a meeting for the first of May, 1879, when, if the contributors were willing such a change might be effected. The meeting was postponed, however, and some friends did not approve of the plan. As I continued working among the unfortunate class for whom the Home was opened, their sorrow pressed so heavily upon my own heart that I also ceased to wish for the change, and could only pray that this place of shelter might not be closed, and that the Lord would guide the work, and supply the great need felt there. In my weekly visits to the Female Prison I find many who, after hearing the Gospel lesson—the story of a Saviour's love—ask, “Is there anywhere I can go to begin a better life?” and it has been an unspeakable comfort to me to be allowed to take them to this Home—some for a longer, some for a shorter time.

In most institutions so much time has to be lost waiting for a “Ladies Committee Meeting,” and so many cases do not come under its “rules,” that they do not meet my need in the jail work at all, therefore I feel daily what a Christian lady expressed to me the other day when, in speaking of a woman whom she had tried in vain to find a place for elsewhere, she said, “when I found that Mrs. ——— could be received in Seigneurs Street, I did bless God for that Home.” Some of those most interested in the prisoners are anxious that the Home should be kept open for them, and thus far I go heartily with them; but when they say that the special branch of work carried on there in the past encourages vice, by providing for mother and child, I cannot agree with them at all. Why should we refuse a helping hand to a poor girl who has taken the first step in a life of sin, and wait until she has gone down, down perhaps for want of Christian love and care, till she has become an inmate of a prison or even worse!—and then do all in our power to rescue her? I am satisfied that some of our most hopeful cases are among these girls who are grateful for loving kindness at such a time, and gladly listen to the story of the far deeper love of Him who “came into the world to save sinners.” I only wish it could be so arranged that the *whole* work could be carried on in the building under the one influence. That point seems to me to be of immense importance, and to need prayerful consideration.

Another question which presses even more upon my heart is, what provision can be made for the helpless children at this point. I am again told that we are encouraging vice by relieving the mother from the consequence of her sin. I answer: There stands the Nunnery, where, without a question, the child can be received at any moment, either to die or to be brought up in Romanism. I am told it is better it *should* die. Yes, surely for the poor child, but what about the responsibility of Christians if we forget the words: “Even so, it is not the will of your Father which is in Heaven that one of these little ones should perish.” Is it not as far as *our* responsibility is concerned, leaving them to perish if we leave them to die, or (which is far worse) to be brought up in error? And should our Lord come quickly and prevent either sad alternative, I, at least, would like to say: “Lord, we have cared for these little ones for Thee!”

A few infants we have found good homes for, and I believe that if we helped the mothers as far as possible to keep them, and, where this could