

Respecting these clauses, the omission of "attempts" from both is lamentable; also that under section 2, the crime, when committed against a minor, is not emphasized.

On the other hand, the measure of protection given by this section to the large and dependent class of working-women is every way satisfactory and just.

There is not, however, in the Minister's bill, any provision for the punishment of other unfaithful trustees. The large numbers of girls and women who are in asylums, prisons, police-courts, schools, and so forth, are entitled to receive special protection under the law; and such public trustees as teachers, innkeepers, prison and asylum employees, conductors, policemen, hackmen, and other persons, to whom girls or women are entrusted, should be awarded exemplary punishment when they betray the trust reposed in them.

Section 7 is by no means satisfactory. From my stand-point, the minimum of amendment to it would be as follows, the words within brackets to be omitted, those in *italic* to be added:—

"7. Every one who, being the parent, *near relative*, or guardian of any girl or woman [under the age of twenty-one years], (1) procures, or *attempts to procure*, such girl or woman to have *unlawful* carnal connection with any [man other than the procurer] *person or persons*; or (2) who orders, is party to, permits or knowingly receives the avails of the *seduction, defilement or* prostitution of such girl or woman, etc., etc,"—with three degrees of punishment—one for 16 years, a lesser for 21 years, and the least in the case of a major; and "near relatives" to mean the persons included in the preceding section.

The reasonableness of these changes is apparent on their face.

PUNISHING INDECENCY.

Section 4 does not seem to go very much beyond clause (c) of the Vagrant Act, either in the definition of the offence or in the punishment awarded to it, and that clause has been found to be ineffective. It is doubtful whether the words "public place" will cover private grounds, or the culprit's private house, although the offence be in public view. Moreover, the judge should have power to award two years' imprisonment in aggravated cases, which are far from being rare.