

so well did they perform their work, so nobly did they carry out the mission which they voluntarily undertook; that they earned the gratitude of a suffering people, and, at the same time, obtained some consolation for their own sad hearts. God, in his mercy, spared these six women from being stricken down by the fever; and then Nell, feeling that she had discovered a way of escape for her poor fallen fellow-creatures, continued her good work. She inaugurated a system by which her Band of Mercy performed their duties wherever their services were required. In the hospitals, in times of epidemics, in cases of accidents, in private families, wherever the attendance of a faithful nurse was wanted, there Nell would send one of her band. Who was there to be found to insult or scoff at these poor repentant women, when they were seeking to atone for their fault in such a noble manner?—none; rather did they earn the respect and admiration of the world. They had secured, so far as this life was concerned, a powerful protector in the shape of public opinion. So far as their souls were concerned, we are told that charity covereth a multitude of sins. Surely the prayers of these Magdalens, like the petition of the publican of old, had, beyond peradventure, reached Him who is the infinitely pitying, loving one, and He had pardoned, at least that was Nell's hope.

THE END.