



DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND LITERATURE.



QUEEN'S PRISONERS—OFF TO BOW STREET.

LITTLE LONDON WAIFS.

One of the newest and most successful of English philanthropical institutions is the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The picture, "The Queen's Prisoners," drawn by the *Graphic* artist from life, is of one of the daily scenes at its shelter door. The three little folks in it are law-breakers. They were taken up by the police under the Vagrancy Act for begging, and brought before the Bow street magistrate, by whom they were remanded for a week to the Society's care. Such cases are all now sent to it, for it to find out who is the really guilty party; the children are obeying somebody. The youngest is a very pretty child; she had learnt to say, "If you please, give me some money, mother is starving." "God bless your pretty face," people said, and gave to her. The two right-hand figures are sisters who made eight or ten shillings per day. Yet were they starved to make their prettiness pathetic enough to catch the people who went by. The woman who had them, watched them, placing herself at a distance, and conveyed what they got, as they got it, to a public-house, to others with whom she went. They are now off back again to Bow street, where the woman was sent to prison. They have since then gone to the Princess Mary's Home. The child on the left was

restored to her mother, who was not punished "this time." Through the new orders of the Chief Commissioner of Police this Society now deals with all little begging children. "The Baby Room" gives a view of another of the many departments of the Society's work. The four children are from a baby farm; with three others, they were taken from a twelve-foot square room. They were found almost absolutely naked, blue with cold, and famine-stricken, and their frail lives were insured. Money had been paid down with them for good and all; they were not wanted, and ought not to have been born. Their death would be an advantage to everybody concerned, so, in this wretched den, sitting in their own filth, they were left slowly to die. They are seen now after seven months' careful nursing. The Society traces these "farmers" through their advertisements by specially adapted agencies of its own. In this case the "farmer" was sent to prison for two years, and her husband for one. When brought to the shelters the children's little legs, say those who saw them, hung from them like the cotton legs of dolls—one had curved spine, one bronchitis, and all were mere, shrivelled, skin-covered skeletons. One of the seven could not be recovered; it died. Two have been suitably adopted, and the others are now sufficiently recovered to be placed in homes.



THE BABY ROOM—FOUR INSURED CHILDREN, AFTER SEVEN MONTHS' CARE.

1889  
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