

had been torn from them by an attack of spinal meningitis.

Georgina Stewart was born in Camborne, Ontario, March 16th, 1854, her parents being George and Jessie Stewart. She united with the Congregational Church, Cobourg, on profession of faith, in the summer of 1872, at which time the Church was supplied by Mr. Griffith, then a student in the Congregational College of B. N. A. On the 24th of June, 1874, she was united in marriage with the Rev. J. K. Griffith; the issue of this union being three boys and one girl.

Mrs. Griffith was a woman of warmest sympathies and kindest affection. Her marked discretion was a great aid to her husband in his position as pastor, while her modest mien strongly commended her to the people he served. Her devotion to her husband and children was a conspicuous feature of her character, and their hearts were linked inseparably in all their interests, hopes and endeavors. During the past two years she has been subject to frequent hemorrhages of the lungs, but she has borne patiently and uncomplainingly her long illness to which she finally succumbed on Friday, April 9th. This result being hastened perhaps, by a few months, by the recent death of her first-born son.

W. J. C.

The Family Circle.

THE NIGHT SCAVENGERS OF PARIS.

BY WILLIAM GILBERT, AUTHOR OF "SHIRLEY HALL ASYLUM," ETC.

Of the many subjects worthy of commendation in the Municipal Government of Paris, prior to the Prussian War, was the extraordinary cleanliness of its streets, especially when compared with those of our metropolis. Yet, some thirty or forty years since, English visitors to France were accustomed to draw a flattering comparison from the superior cleanliness of the London roads and pathways over those of Paris. Now all is changed. In the present day we are as far behind Paris in the cleanliness and order of our streets as the French capital, in that respect, was formerly inferior to our own. This reformation is principally due to the labors of an organized body of scavengers, or *Corps des Balayeurs*, under the direction of a central municipal authority. In the duty of scavengering Paris a feature deserves to be remarked, which might be followed with good effect in London. Unlike our own metropolis, where the scavenger's cart is met in the roads at all hours of the day, the labors of the Paris scavengers, or *balayeurs*, are performed at night; so that they do not come under the notice of the stranger unless he visits the localities in which they especially reside; for they are, as a rule, exceedingly gregarious in their habits, dwelling together in colonies, and associating but little with the Paris working-classes generally.

One of the principal localities in which the *balayeurs* reside is beyond the Jardin des Plantes, in the Quartier St. Marcel. Here alone they number, including their wives and families, some 6,000 or 7,000. An occupation more fatiguing or less attractive than that of the *balayeur*, male or female, it would be diffi-

cult to imagine. Their employment is of the most laborious, and their remuneration of the smallest.— Their ordinary daily routine is monotonous and regular. They generally go to their beds early in the evening, and sleep till midnight, when they put on their coarse working garments; and, after having taken some refreshment to support them in the fatigue they are about to undergo, they assemble at 1 a. m. at a given point, where, before proceeding to their labors, they are mustered with the regularity and exactitude of a corps of soldiers. Their number being ascertained, the names of the defaulters and the reason of their absence being noted by their chief, they are told off in detachments, under the orders of experienced foremen, to the different localities in their charge, and at which they are obliged, under a penalty to arrive before 2 a. m., the hour their duties begin. The number of *balayeurs* in a detachment differs considerably, according to the nature of the district assigned to it. The proportionate number of women in each detachment varies, from the same reason, considerably. On the asphalté of the Boulevards, where the dirt to be cleared away is either dust or soft mud, the proportion of women is large; in other parts where there is much heavy refuse and dirt, the men are more numerous. The principal portion of the sweeping is performed by women, who are provided by the municipal authorities with long brooms suitable to the work, while the labor of filling the carts falls on the men.— Their labor continues unceasingly from 2 a. m. till nine, when they simultaneously leave work to return home. This routine goes on the whole year—winter and summer, wet or dry, hot or cold—without intermission. The men earn on an average, three francs, or about half-a-crown a day, the women and apprentices (for the craft is a sort of guild) about tenpence.

Dirty and unpleasant as the nocturnal avocations of the *balayeurs* may be, their homes, as a rule, are far cleaner and better kept than the dwellings of the lower class of Parisians generally. Few who in the early morn see the crowd of *balayeurs*, men and women (the former with shovels on their shoulders, the latter with long brooms), wending their weary way towards Quartier St. Marcel, would imagine them to be the tenants of the cleanly-looking homes in which they reside. And their habitual cleanliness comes out into stronger relief in the Quartier St. Marcel than it would, perhaps, in any other part of Paris; for in streets in close vicinity to those inhabited by the *balayeurs* are others solely occupied by the *chiffonniers*, or rag-pickers. Although the avocations of the *chiffonniers* may bear some resemblance to those of the *balayeurs*, a wide difference, morally speaking, exists between them. Both are night workers, and yet the *balayeurs* keep themselves apart from the *chiffonniers* in a spirit of the most rigid conservatism. Nor is this much to be wondered at, for it would be difficult to find two classes of individuals more unlike. The *chiffonniers*, as a rule, are drunken, immoral, dirty, and improvident; the *balayeurs*, on the contrary, are, notwithstanding their labors, cleanly, sober, and prudent. The *balayeurs* are all poor laboring people, brought up to hard work and poor fare; the majority have learned their simple handicraft from their parents. They choose the trade, and respect it, hard as it is, as a means of earning an honest livelihood. The *chiffon-*