

FEMALE HOME.

(To the Editor of the Witness.)

SIR,—Possibly some facts from me regarding those charges which have recently been published by the *Star* may serve to account for the evident discrepancies with which they have been garnished.

But before entering upon them. I would hasten to apologize to the people of the American nation (as it is in that sense my fault has been resented), for at the time of writing an offensive expression, forgetting my many friends among them, and allowing my experience of their good qualities to be for one moment obscured by the ingratitude and dishonesty of one, and the malicious conduct of a few others.

I resided in the United States for some time, and my husband (like many other Scotchmen) lost his life in the American war. This loss, which no pension can make up to me, should keep me clear of hard feelings and ingratitude from any of them. It may interest some to know that the number of Americans who have obtained refuge in this Home since its opening nearly eight years back is thirteen. One or two of the first comers of these ones have sent others without cards or influence of mine. I have no knowledge of more than five cards being sent to the United States.

In the case of the American girl, I will simply remind those who furnished the *Star* with the account that they omitted to mention the change of clothing which the girl, with my permission, left behind to be washed, a fact which was admitted in presence of others by her employer, as also that he refused to take them to her the next time he came, because they were wet, nor were they sent for again. I hold a letter from Dr. Hooker which proves that she was quite aware of having to pay her expenses here *before she left Springfield*, and, instead of reserving her money for that purpose, she went out and spent it, telling the other inmates here that as soon as I placed her in a situation she intended to "skeddadle you bet." This I took means to prevent.

The next case pointed out is Grace Jeffrey (I was not the first to put the name in print), who was brought here simply as a fallen woman. She *never* was confined in this Home, nor anywhere else to my knowledge, in short had no need to be. The assertion that I abused her is equally false, and as several months had elapsed between her leaving this Home and entering the Home for the Friendless, the "vermin and other evidence of sad neglect and abuse upon her person," is false or not chargeable to me.

So is the statement in the next item. I have taken *into* the Home many "covered with stripes" both in body and spirit, but no one can with truth say I ever inflicted any. As the surgeons and steward of the General Hospital well know, I have been for days and nights by the bedsides of sick and dying women there, who had been inmates in this Home, and who would never have desired my presence had I treated them or others as my anonymous accusers state. Yet, though they keep in the shade, I have every reason to think the chief instigator of the conspiracy is the same per-