

several noted clergymen and others had spoken, a man arose, stating that he was employed as one of the book-lawkers of the Society, and told the story of the midnight adventure, as a testimony to the wonderful power of the word of God. He concluded with, 'I am that man.' The lady arose from her seat in the hall, and said quietly, 'It is all quite true; I am the lady,' and sat down again."—[Monthly Packet for December.

### HOME AMONG THE FLOWERS.

He who describes this world as all sunshine, makes a great mistake, but he who talks of it as being all shadow, makes a still greater one. It has in it much that is bright, and fair, and loveable. Oh for a quick eye to see in it what is beautiful and good, and a grateful heart to turn it to advantage!

As you may never have heard of the *Rauhe Haus* (Rough House) at Hamburg in Germany, we will describe it in a few words. At one time this house, or homestead, was no doubt rough enough; but, as it is much altered for the better, we will describe it under the more pleasant name which some people have given it of 'Home among the Flowers.'

It is now about seventeen years since a kind-hearted friend to young people, of the name of Wichern, formed a new plan for the welfare of vagrant children. A little broken-down farmhouse was to let so he took it, that it might become a home for his poor outcasts. He was not long in want of young people to fill it with, and since then other buildings have been added to it. The new plan of Mr. Wichern was to form the young people into families and educate them, and teach them useful trades.

Now fancy to yourself a number of small houses with ten or a dozen boys in each, just such boys as we have in our English Ragged Schools. Every house has a Christian-hearted young man, with two assistants, at the head of it, and these take care of the boys and instruct them in piety and usefulness,

"And guard and guide them every day,  
And lead them on the heavenly way."  
But, perhaps, if we describe one of these small houses by itself, you will understand the plan better. Here, then, is a little

wooden building, one story high, standing among the flowers and the apple-trees, with one room above for the assistants. The boys have their time divided, so much for out door-work, so much for study, so much for play, so much for taking their food, and so much for sleeping. Now they are at their books and slates, now working at farm-work, or at shoe-making, tailoring, printing, and other trades, in shops built for the purpose; now enjoying their sports, now taking their meals, and now taking their rest in sleep. In these happy homes among the flowers and the apple-trees, clean, comfortable, and well employed live those who were penniless, and homeless, and friendless.

When a wretched little vagrant from the streets is sent in here, he is not at once placed among the rest. The little stranger is put with a few other new-comers into a separate house, where two or three young men have charge of him. He eats at their own table with his few companions, and has enough. The overseers study his temper, and either set him to a trade, or to garden and farm-work, as he seems best fitted. He has his play and playmates, and free fresh air, and friends to care for him, who hold it a labour of love to do for the fatherless ones, in a feeble manner as Christ did for them.

After a little time the new-comer is received into one of the other houses, and regarded as a part of the family. Here he takes his share of their work and their play, and is treated with kindness. What a change must a life in a home like this be, among the flowers and the apple-trees, to the life of a poor friendless lad, living by his wits, cheating, lying, and swearing, and suffering, as a homeless outcast, all the evils of poverty and want!

If you could see some of the poor, ignorant, dirty-faced lads in their ragged clothes, without shoes and stockings, first going into the Home among the Flowers, and then look at them after they had been received into one of the happy families, you would hardly know them again.

In the Home among the Flowers, girls are received as well as boys. There are as many as thirty or forty of them, who learn to wash, iron, sew, and to attend to household affairs. After being trained five or six years, the boys are put out as apprentices