

CHARACTER SKETCHES.

No. 8.—OUR MARTYR.

As opposed to "Our Bully," who roars at you, like the celebrated bull of Bashan, that he is not going to stand this, that, or the other, stamps on your corns without apologizing, and gives you to understand, that nothing is good enough for him; as opposite to this objectionable character we now call your attention to another—almost as objectionable in a different way,—namely Our Martyr, who has no connection however with the "noble army," but is a self-constituted martyr, whose sufferings exist for the most part, entirely in his own imagination, and even then are scarcely worth mentioning.

Our Martyr is a meek man, his smile is deprecating and his sigh the very breath of humility itself. In inquiring



after his health, he is always "As well as can be expected," from which, he would have you infer, that he can never enjoy perfect health, but is thankful he is no worse. If you suggest a holiday, he replies, that he cannot afford the time, and on your saying that everyone else takes a holiday, and that he will break down otherwise, he answers probably, you are right, but that he must grin and bear it. He is for

ever talking of his bad luck, but supposes he shall pull through somehow. Should you induce him to join a party or excursion, you need have no compunction about making him accept "a back seat" for he will inform you with one of his deprecating smiles, that anything is good enough for "him." Life is a thorny path according to Our Martyr, although he goes about well dressed, and eats and drinks of the best.

Our Martyr with his suffering airs is both tiresome and annoying. Why cannot he take the goods, the gods provide him with, cheerfully, and bear his troubles quietly, without thrusting them under your eyes all the time? Why? Because in that case he would be a sensible fellow and no longer one of Our Martyrs.

CHOLERA.

A great deal has been recently written about the terrible scourge, Asiatic cholera, which has made its periodical visit to Europe, and although it is a subject hardly in keeping with the aims of the "Antidote," yet it is of such general interest that we feel we cannot pass it over in complete silence, especially as there is so much misapprehension in the ordinary mind as to the nature of the disease. Some of our daily papers have made both wild and sweeping assertions, regarding the duty of the Government, urging the strictest quarantine based upon the theory that cholera is contagious after the manner of small pox, instead of which, the infectious "germs" of the former are, primarily, in the air and not in the person, as in the latter disease. For this reason it may be accepted, as an axiom, that it is practically useless to attempt to quarantine cholera. We state this deliberately, not upon our own authority, but upon that of some of the leading Anglo-Indian physicians as well as on that of the well-known Florence Nightingale, who, only a few years back, wrote emphatically that "you cannot quarantine cholera." Such being the case, the question to be considered, is how to deal with the scourge should it be wafted to our shores? The reply may be summed up in the few words—starve it out. Cholera feeds and thrives upon garbage, and decomposing matter of all kinds, hence it is more virulent in its tropical home, as a rule, than in more temperate or colder climates. Thus the great—we may say the only—precaution, which will be of any use, in meeting, and fighting against the spread of cholera, is,

in the first place extreme cleanliness and attention to sanitary rules, or, as the circular lately issued by the Provincial Board of health, states "to destroy its breeding places." We cannot help remarking, that we think the said Board should do more than simply offer suggestions as to the course to be pursued, and insist that such course must be carried out. The old saying prevention is better than cure is never more truly exemplified than with regard to cholera, and we believe that one of the reasons why the disease has of late years, made so little headway in England, is on account of the generally proper sanitary arrangements of her large cities. In the second place when the enemy puts in an appearance, no time must be lost in destroying the "germs," which proceed from the patient the minutest portion of which may contaminate a large body of water.

We have before us a treatise on cholera, by Dr. S. Goodeve Cluckerbutty, of the Bengal army, who is very decided about the uselessness of quarantine, which is battling with the air. Ours is not a paper to describe minutely the symptoms or cures for cholera, but we may state that the disease consists of three stages. First.—Invasion. Second.—Collapse. Third.—Reaction. The last with a strong healthy patient means recovery, but a delicate person may lack the necessary strength to pull round. One almost invariable symptom with adults in the first and second stages is the presence of violent cramps at the extremities and in the abdomen, accompanied with intense coldness, even though the thermometer stand very high. If a medical man is not within immediate call, a mustard plaster should be applied to the pit of the abdomen and the patient wrapped in warm blankets.

In conclusion, while we trust that a west wind may blow the cholera back from whence it came, before it crosses the Atlantic yet remember that "Forewarned is forearmed," and by a thorough cleansing of our cities and enforcing sanitary rules we shall do more to keep away the disease than by quarantining every ship which visits our ports.

Miss Sprightly.—"So I understand Mr. Epsom has made the running with Lydia Oaks?"

Miss Dashaway.—"Well, he did not make much running."

Miss S.—"How?"

Miss D.—"Caught directly."