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**126 HOLLIS STREET.**  
**C. R. BARRY, Agent.**

[FOR THE CRITIC.]  
LETTER TO COUSIN CARYL.

Dear Cousin Caryl,—Of course I found something new in New York; one always does; the city is so big, and the people are so cosmopolitan, things do not develop there by slow growths, they spring up full-edged. To be serious, there are always so many new ideas and schemes and notions and movements on foot, that there is always some one at the flowering stage to claim attention, and you aren't conscious of there ever having been any efforts made to get it rooted.

The thing that I think will interest you most, since you are over on the look out for new openings for women, is a little account of the "New York Ladies' Guide and Chaperon Bureau." This is an institution valuable in every large city, and especially interesting because it helps not alone the public but it offers remunerative employment to a large number of women who must be wholly or in part self-supporting, and yet are unfitted for laborious work, and especially well fitted for employments that require well-bred and refined women.

Here are some of the things this bureau does, following you will see largely in the footsteps of the parent Ladies' Guide Association of London.

The prospectus says: There is no aid or service that one woman may be able or required to render or perform for another that will not be cheerfully undertaken, and the best efforts made by us to give satisfaction.

We have a register of the best boarding houses, with their rooms and prices, and, as we are kept informed of vacancies, applicants (with references) can always be directed to transient or permanent accommodations. We also engage rooms at these places, or at hotels, and we will send carriages, or meet strangers at the stations, if so desired.

Our reliable assistants are ready at short notice to accompany ladies on their shopping expeditions, or to execute almost any commission with despatch. Their information of the stocks and bargains in the various stores will make their assistance of much value to purchasers.

Our guides have a practical knowledge of the different places of interest, prominent buildings, charitable and educational institutions, art galleries, etc. We secure choice seats for the theatre, concert, or lecture, and send chaperons to accompany ladies to entertainments at any time.

Our guides and chaperons are selected with the utmost care and are placed at the disposal of elderly people, of young ladies, (whose mothers or guardians cannot accompany them,) and of children who require to be taken to school, about the city, or to visit friends.

Our tourist department furnishes companions for home and foreign travel, and sends out excursion parties of ladies under the care of experienced lady-guides. We plan routes, secure railway and steamboat tickets, and relieve the cares of the lady tourist by our management of all details. By special arrangement we are enabled to secure at shortest notice the best available berths on all steamers without extra charge.

We provide lady experts to advise or superintend the decorating of interiors, and to select pictures, musical instruments, or books for libraries.

Lady pianists, vocalists and elocutionists will be provided for private entertainments.

Our bureau saves time and money to suburban residents who desire to have their friends escorted from one city station to another. A chaperon will be sent promptly in response to a telephone call.

A parlor and dressing room will be at the disposal of suburban ladies who desire to dress for entertainments.

Ladies will be sent from our bureau to train servants, to read to invalids, or to render almost any assistance that a lady can give.

Mail and parcels may be sent to and will be forwarded from our office. We ask to be tried, and will form new departments to suit new demands.

Our badge and credentials, with which the guides are equipped, insure a cordial recognition everywhere.

And so on, and so on. Lady experts are furnished who will attend to the entire interior decoration of a house; who will search libraries for needed information, in short, as is stated at the beginning, there is nothing that one woman can do for another that this bureau does not undertake to do, and to do well. That is a most important feature. There really never was a woman who could not do some one thing well, and in this bureau each one employed does the thing she can do best, whether it is to "shop" or to chaperone a gay maiden to the symphony concert, or whatever it may be.

The charges are moderate, for some services so much an hour, for others so much a day, etc. By paying a certain sum subscribers can become yearly members, thus securing numerous advantages to themselves.

There have been for some time single women here and there who have acted as guides, and so on, but it is an infinitely more practicable arrangement to have such a central bureau as the one I am talking about, to bring the employer and employed together; and the value of it cannot be over estimated. Take your Helen, for example, a gentle well bred girl. Fancy her by unkind fortune suddenly left alone and self-dependent. There is no one thing perhaps that she can do to earn her living if she must battle alone. She is not a great genius; she is not a tower of physical strength; she has no "influence" to get her this or that position, but here is this bureau for just such gentlewomen's aid. She shows to the managers just what her forte is. Perhaps it is that her former society life has made her just the most capable wedding or dinner "undertaker," that is, she gets well paid now in her pecuniary need to do for Mrs. Culbertson Jones just what that estimable society leader does not want to be troubled to do for herself—to see to the details of various entertainments she may be about to give. Or, Helen, who perhaps paints but indifferently, may have exquisite taste in home decoration and furnishing, and in this she finds her forte. Well, so I might go on, but I have said enough already to indicate to you how important an affair a bureau of this great compass is in a big city. People who patronize it know at the outset that they are to deal with ladies—really