

compelled them to live like decent and sober parishioners. He made a raid on some of the most hopeless dens of dirt and drunkenness, and carrying with him "the power of the keys," he frightened many of their inmates into sobriety and cleanliness. Women that would have put out their tongues and made faces at any other remonstrants, whether civil or religious, who ventured to interfere with their liberties, were subdued by a power to which Protestantism, at least, makes no pretensions.

One family, whose name happens to be first on a note-book before me, had long been distinguished for vagrancy, drunkenness, and dirt. The children were daily let loose to prey upon the community, and each went armed with a huge basket. The father and mother were both drunkards, and their home was filthy in the extreme. I have often visited it. It had no beds, no chairs, no knives or forks, one old pine table, a few three-legged stools, a broken stove that let the smoke out at every joint, windows filled with rags and old hats, naked children with their dirty little limbs half-way into the oven, or whole way under the stove. This is what I usually saw previous to my last visit. The father generally managed to keep sober enough to work during the day, but the mother was sober only from necessity. On going to enquire for them lately, I was told by one of the boys that the priest had been to see them, and that they "had taken the temperance," and were attending Chapel. I was delighted at the change that had evidently taken place. The children's faces and clothes were actually clean, and the floor showed symptoms of having been scrubbed. The stove was mended, and the rags had disappeared from the windows, and the sunlight of evening was shining in bright and pure through panes of glass. The fact of their not having attended any place of worship for years led many of their neighbours to believe that they were Protestants; and indeed this inference was strongly supported by the well-known strictness of the Roman Catholics in the observance of their religious duties, and the equally well-known carelessness of Protestants. When it became known that the father and mother and six children were included in the twenty-five converts, curiosity addressed itself to the discovery of their previous history. The father, it appears, is an out-and-out Catholic. The mother had been brought up a Protestant, but it was understood she had turned with her husband at the time of their marriage. They had, however, lived beyond the reach of all religious influences, and the children had not been baptized by priest or minister. They may be said to have belonged to that large and consistent body known as Nothingarians. This sect, of course, includes converts from all denominations, and the family referred to might, with almost as much accuracy, be called converts from Hindooism as from Protestantism.

Among the remaining seventeen, two (a young man and a young woman) turned to marry Catholics. I could discover little of their previous history. They had not been in connection with any Protestant denomination, though born of Protestant parents. Those unfortunate marriages are at the root of the evil. If the wife and mother has been a Catholic, the family, in most cases, (at least among the poorer classes,) either go with her, or go nowhere. I have a family whose name figures among the converts in my note-book. The father was (some say is still) a Baptist, and the wife a Catholic. She would not go with him. He did not believe in infant baptism, and she did,—so she just slipped the little ones, as they came, up to the priest, and had them baptised. The father and the rest of the family, numbering (I think) four in all, are included in the twenty-five.

The remaining eleven embraces two families, who for several winters past have been in the habit of disposing of themselves to Protestants and Catholics, according as the charitable finances at the disposal of each preponderated. Last winter we had a charitable association organized and supported entirely by Protestants, and they claimed relief from its funds. This year the associ-