

They are pleading with us to come to the rescue. They are pleading with God to send some influence upon us that will arouse us to action for these little ones. Will we continue to sit here contentedly in our pews, and then go to the judgment and receive our banishment in these words: 'Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not unto these least, ye did it not unto me?' Sophistry cannot avail then. Trembling before the righteous Judge who has given the fatherless to our keeping, we shall look back to this time of our opportunities and recall, by gleams more vivid than lightning, the influence of every word and deed in this great struggle with the powers of darkness. Remembering the words of the Law-giver that 'wine is a mocker,' we will not plead that, because Christ made wine, our consciences compelled us to discriminate in its favor, and advise the use of what the Word of God condemns. Beholding the countless hosts of children who have suffered needlessly, we will find no voice to condemn the 'unreasonable shibboleth' of fanatics who advocated total abstinence. Oh! then it will be glorious to have been a fanatic! In the company of Jesus of Nazareth, and the apostles, and prophets, and martyrs, and the reformers of the centuries, and the Abolitionists, and the Prohibitionists! Even educated men will be glad to be identified with all these extremists who have labored with zeal to fulfil the Law and the Gospel.

"I thank God this morning for every charity. I thank him that He has put it into your hearts to open your doors to these children. May he deepen the sense of their needy condition and your own ability to help them until all realize that the charity of prohibiting the liquor traffic is the roof from which will grow happiness and plenty for tens of thousands of these little ones.

"May we no longer look to the secular press as better authority for the times than the Bible, but come to this blessed Book and learn with humility what are the commands given to us. The Christian way of working is to prevent hunger, and cold, and sickness, and crime. We are to drive out the evil that tempts us; we are to make no covenant with it lest it prove a snare. Prohibition at this hour is the broadest charity; it is the fullest opportunity this age will present to us to express our public obedience to the commands of God."

Walking homeward, Mr. Thompson overtook Mrs. Moore, one of the temperance fanatics. Mr. Thompson did not believe in prohibiting the liquor traffic; he had some vague theories floating in his mind as to the proper way to treat the temperance question, and he expressed himself as an egotistical theorist would.

"I've found places for six more children, Mr. Thompson," said Mrs. Moore, with enthusiasm. "So remember that I take charge of twelve. Oh, if we could only make their whole lives happy! What an earnest sermon! If prohibition cannot save the present generation of children from poverty may it the next. We must all work for it. We are all ready to do anything for the children."

When the children came Mr. Thompson took four of them.

Little Addie Lee appealed directly to his heart, but she was very shy, particularly toward him. She watched him closely whenever he came into the house. She seemed to have something on her mind in regard to him. One day he bought her a doll. In her delight she forgot to thank him. The next day she approached him timidly, with her doll in her arms, and said, sweetly:

"I thank you very much, sir, for this beautiful dolly."

"Come and sit on my lap and tell me what you will name it." Mr. Thompson held out his arms to her.

Addie hesitated, but finally approached. Mr. Thompson talked to her about the doll, and chickens, and pussy until the restraint wore away. She laughed and seemed to like her position.

"Don't you never get drunk?" she asked, looking up into his face in a wonderful way.

"No, never," he said.

"Oh! how nice!" The little girl gave a sigh of relief and nestled closely to him.

Mr. Thompson passed one hand over his eyes. Addie's voice and manner more than her words touched him deeply. One day she told him as a great secret that "she loved mamma best, but she wished he was her papa."

Thinking of the matter later he found his heart burning with indignation that this lovely, innocent little creature should be compelled to pass her childhood in poverty, sorrow and shame, and from that hour he began to understand the fanaticism of Prohibition.

And now the minister himself is not a more earnest advocate of this radical adjunct of the "Fresh Air Fund."—*Selected.*

Ladies' Department.

FEMALE CLERKSHIPS IN THE POST OFFICE, LONDON, ENGLAND.

The recently expressed intention of the Postmaster-General to extend the employment of female clerks in the Savings Bank Department of the General Post Office has evoked some criticism as to the wisdom of the policy which was initiated by Lord John

Manners. The feeling displayed by some of the critics can only be compared to that which was shown by some members of the medical profession when it was first proposed to allow ladies to qualify as medical practitioners. To judge by the opinions expressed and the fears which are entertained in some quarters, one might suppose that to be of the gentler sex was a disqualification for all employment requiring an ordinary amount of common sense. One journal devoted to the interests of the Civil Service states that when Female Clerks were first appointed to the Savings Bank Department, "The susceptibilities of the male clerks were soothed by official assurances that it was only intended to employ them on mechanical work," and complains that this understanding was not adhered to, and that important work in this department has since been entrusted to females. We are unable to see on what ground females should only be entrusted with mechanical duties, unless it be the exploded idea that they are incapable of performing higher work. We believe that the steps taken by the Postmaster-General will meet with general approval, and that the verdict of the public would be in favor of throwing open some of the posts in other offices also to the competition of ladies, where a similar experience might be tried with an equal prospect of success.

A short account of the progress of the movement since its introduction, and the existing regulations as to appointments, will be of interest to many of our readers. In the early part of 1881, the Postmaster-General determined, with the assent of the Lords of the Treasury, to throw open these appointments in the Savings Bank Department to public competition. Previously to this date, for all female appointments in the Post Office, only candidates were admitted to compete, who had been "nominated" by the Postmaster-General, and such nomination could only be obtained by those candidates who possessed influence, direct or indirect, in the right quarter. Under this system of limited competition, only a few candidates were allowed to compete for each post, and the ordeal was thus less difficult, and reserved only for favored competitors. For clerkships in the Savings Bank Department, however, the competition is open to all subjects of Her Majesty who comply with the following conditions:—(a) that their age on the first day of their competitive examination is not less than 18 nor more than 20 years; (b) that they are unmarried or widows; (c) that they are duly qualified in respect of health and character; and (d) that they have passed a preliminary test examination.

The preliminary examination is intended to ascertain that the candidate possesses a fair knowledge of Handwriting, Spelling, and Arithmetic (including Vulgar and Decimal Fractions). For the convenience of candidates, it is usually held in London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Liverpool, Bristol, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Hull, Leeds, Birmingham, Norwich, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Swansea, Belfast and Aberdeen. Before candidates can be admitted to this examination, applications must be made to the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Cannon-row, Westminster, S. W.; by whom an order for admission is forwarded. In due course, the candidate is informed whether she has successfully passed the first examination; and full instructions are then given to those who are admitted to the severer contest. That the preliminary examination is not child's play at all, it may be mentioned that at the first open competition held in Sept 1881, out of 747 candidates, 525, or 70 per cent., failed to pass this test, the remaining 222 competing for the 76 appointments which were to be made.

The competitive examinations are held only at London, Edinburgh and Dublin.

The salary of a female clerk on appointment to the Savings Bank Department is £65 per annum, rising by £3 per annum to £80. Promotion to vacancies of a higher class depends on merit. The following statement (which is taken from the Parliamentary Estimates for the current year) shows the proportion of higher appointments:—

1 Superintendent. Salary £180, rising to £300.

48 Principal Clerks. Salary £120, rising to \$170.

17 First Class Clerks. Salary £85, rising to £110.

138 Second Class Clerks. Salary £65, rising to £80.

Every effort appears to be made by the Post Office authorities to provide proper accommodation for the ladies in their employment, and the fact that it is intended shortly to increase their number, shows that the Government are satisfied with the success of the experiment, and that the ladies employed have made good their claim to the possession of the requisite ability.—*The Girls' Own Paper.*