

A HOPELESS CASE.

He was just a common sinner,
But he'd buy a tramp a dinner,
An' he'd sort o' try to put him on his feet;
An' a feller might be needy,
An' his raiment worn and seedy,
Yet he'd stop an' visit with him in the street.

He made no ado about it—
Wouldn't brag around ner shout it,
Yet he did a heap to help his fellowmen;
When he'd find a fallen brother
In some easy way er other,
He would make him organize himself again.

He had money an' he spent it,
Er he give away er lent it;
Seemed ez if the more he lost the more he got.
Made all sorts of big donations,
Helped support his poor relations,
An' he bought a orphan school a house an' lot.

Never heard o' him a-shoutin'
Ner a-settin' 'round a-spoutin'
'Bout the everlastin' wickedness o' things;
But he just went on a-findin'
Deeds to do, an' never mindin'
Much about a crown er harp with golden strings.

Yet the deacon's folks (it's very
Hard to say it), they was merry
When at last death came an' caught him in the
lurch.

For they knowed the devil got 'im,
An' it served 'im right, dod rot 'im!
For he never had united with the church.
—Nixon Waterman in *L.A.W. Bulletin*.

THE POTATO PLANTING SCHEME AND THE BUFFALO THEOSOPHISTS.

A visit paid to Buffalo towards the end of August by some of the Beaver members, revealed a solidity of basis in the Buffalo branch and a practical activity which must insure the most desirable kind of success. The potato-planting scheme, which has been rather bungled in Toronto, has been practically in charge of the Buffalo theosophists in their city, and with astonishing results. Mr. Stevens, the branch president, who has charge of the potato-planting charity, drove the Toronto visitors over his "farm," which consists of about two hundred and fifty acres in lots of various sizes from one or two to thirty or forty acres in extent, situated in various parts of the city, and all lent free of charge by owners for the purposes of the charity. Two thousand dollars were raised in the face of all the usual objections in such cases,—imagine the remarks of an enlightened Toronto press and public upon a similar proposal emanating from Toronto theosophists, but

the opposition yielded before earnest and persistent work, and the sum collected was expended in ploughing, harrowing and seeding. The city supplied an overseer in the person of a patrolman, an ex-farmer, who, with the experience he possessed, was of the greatest assistance in directing the efforts of the amateur agriculturists. The land was divided into half-acre lots and apportioned among some six hundred families taken from the charity lists of the city. The lowest estimate of the value of the crop thus raised is \$15,000, and a week or two ago a market gardener made a *bona fide* offer of \$2,000 for the produce of one ten acre patch. Potatoes are the main crop, but each family was allowed to raise whatever it pleased. The German element naturally favoured cabbage for sauer kraut, but vast quantities of beans, corn, onions, celery, lettuce, etc., were also in sight and beyond any question the experiment has been an immense success, and this is so generally admitted that an application for \$5,000 of the \$85,000 apportioned annually by Buffalo for charity will, it is expected, be readily granted next year. The relief to local charities is perhaps not the most important result attained by this successful experiment. The object lesson rendered to every family assisted in the demonstration of the possibilities existing in garden farming must undoubtedly lead to the adoption of a rural life by many of these city toilers. On five acres a family may live in comparative luxury by efforts which cannot be either exerted or even utilized in other directions in the city.

The Buffalo theosophists are winning public respect by their identification with work of this nature. Another activity of theirs to which the *Enquirer* of the 7th inst., devotes over a column is the "Way-fare," a home for women of education and refinement who may meet with sudden and temporary misfortune, who are for the time being objects of charity, and who must suffer, in the absence of any institution specially devoted to them, being classed with the pauper or criminal. Over eighty a month on an average have been received and cared for at the "Way-fare" since its inauguration, and in such a large railway centre as Buffalo it is easily understood how many belated travellers turn up. The police render