

# Laundrying for Women

Two women of social prominence in London have decided to open a laundry. Lady Essex, one of the leaders of the smartest set in the English capital, is said to be at the head of the enterprise, and associated with her is Mrs. Williams, who is also conspicuous socially.

This is one branch of business which women both in this country and abroad have fought shy of. They have become milliners, florists, dress-makers and restaurant keepers, but the idea of washing and ironing for a living has deterred even the most courageous of the sex from attempting to conduct what might be called a society laundry, to be patronized exclusively by the wealthy and offering first-class work at rates more than double those usually charged.

One New York woman, it is true, engaged in a scheme somewhat similar about fifteen years ago, beginning in a small way and by degrees enlarging her establishment until she is today the proprietor of one of the most successful establishments of the sort in the country.

Women take up all sorts of money-making schemes with the idea of earning a living, from the culture of violets and the raising of pigs and chickens to more important endeavors, but the aesthetic vocations appeal to them more strongly than practical enterprises, in which they could undoubtedly obtain more pecuniary success.

In laundry work the chances of accumulating a competency are far greater than in the overcrowded professions, in china painting or violet growing. Laundry work is a necessity and good laundry work is scarce the world over. Even in Paris, famous for its laundries, there are loud complaints of late on account of the increase of machine laundries.

Intelligence is about the only quality necessary to begin this work. The one successful woman proprietor of a large laundry in New York admits that she made her beginning with one servant and did not even understand how the work was done. She had a determination to succeed, however, and today she lives in a handsome residence of her own in one of the fashionable uptown blocks, is associated with various social charities and clubs and her children are finishing their education in first-class schools.

"I prefer to keep my connection with my laundry work a secret, at present," she said, "that is, from the general public. I am not in the least ashamed of the fact that I embarked in such a business, for, in the first place, I have made a success of it, and then I have never had any idea that manual work is degrading. Good work is something to be proud of rather than to conceal."

"But my children are at school and growing up among their young companions, who do not always share the ideas of older people. All my own friends know, however, of the small way in which my present business enterprise was begun. Indeed, they helped me to my first success, although they have always said that I gave them more than they agreed to pay for when I started out."

"Still, I doubt very much if I should ever had pluck enough to start were it not for their encouragement and the promise of their patronage. For, of course, the idea of taking in washing for a living does not sound alluring, does it?"

"Every woman has the same idea about this branch of domestic service. It is considered the most menial task and only the very poorest and, unfortunately, the least worthy sort of women go out to do laundry work or take it in, as general thing. The result is that it is never rated as among the possible vocations for women."

"In the first place, the girl who is growing up at home in the ordinary family may be taught to sew and to sweep, to dust and to cook, but the washing is given out, or else done by servants."

"This very fact makes the field an open one for women anxious to embark in an original enterprise. Every one knows how difficult it is to get good work in the usual public laundry. Acids are used, the drying is imperfectly done and clothes come home worn out and discolored, while the garments and laces are ruined very often."

"I know all this now, but I did not when I began. It all just happened, as the children say. I was left a widow with three little children to support as well as myself. I had no business ability and no means except the very barest which would enable me to live until I obtained employment."

"I had the usual accomplishments and thought of music, teaching and of school teaching and of sewing as a means of gaining a livelihood. But

first I had to dispose of my household belongings which were too fine for my new circumstances.

"I had a good stock of fine table linen and bed linen, the old-fashioned kind that is not common today and my own personal friends purchased this and went in raptures over the perfect way in which it was done up. The color was perfect, the folding neat and exact and the gloss on the linen was the kind that adds so much to the appearance of good linen."

"I explained that this was the work of the colored servant who had lived with me from my marriage and who had lived with my mother before me. She was a strong middle-aged woman, a perfect cook and laundress."

"It occurred then to one of my purchasing friends that she would like this woman to take a place with her as laundress, for she had a very large weekly wash and had incompetent help in this particular."

"I promised to look up the woman in her southern home, to which she had returned with all the regret of an old and faithful servant when I was obliged to part with her."

"In the meantime, another friend of mine with a business turn of mind suggested that I take back the woman and advertise for high-class laundry work, for which I could charge a reasonable price and which I could have done in my own kitchen."

"I went about and talked up the idea and gained the promises of my friends to send me all their fine washing. I felt the task a little bit, but not much, for I had the children to think of, and then everyone was very kind to me."

"The woman, Martha, was only too glad to return to the city and I made a bargain with her to pay her more as the work increased. In fact she really did share my profits during the first year. I had just sold out my home furnishings and now I was obliged to get another home much smaller, and with as cheap a rent as I could find."

"Martha and I together selected a small flat away uptown, with a good-sized kitchen and splendid facilities for drying on the old-fashioned pulley lines. It was considered very far up in Harlem in those days, but it is not now, and I often go back just to look at the old flat; the good drying space of which is now crowded full of other newer flat buildings."

"The woman was entirely in my confidence and she worked with a will. I can never forget her faithful, untiring care and economy. There was not such very hard work at first, but the service she gave me then money could never pay for."

"Most of the first work was sent to the house and sent for when finished, for you see, as I say, people were disposed to be kind. Then they were so delighted at the work which we turned out that they wanted to increase the prices they paid. Just imagine that!"

"Now when I look back to those days I realize that I must have been brave. But somehow I did not realize it at the time. I just felt thankful that I had been able to make out and I spent no time in repining over changed conditions."

"On the contrary I can say with truth that I found that work one of the greatest antidotes for my sorrows. When people come to me who are in trouble now-a-days I always advise them to get at work at something that will interest them. Even when they complain of ill health, sometimes, I advise them to find occupation which may keep their minds off the trouble."

"Sometimes, they do not understand, for they have not had my experience; but I know that I should have been overwhelmed if I had not just forgotten everything in the task I had in hand."

"By degrees I went into the kitchen and studied the manner in which Martha did her work, for I confess I knew nothing of the practical side of it."

"I did make the things look pretty by trying them in separate bundles with dainty ribbon and pulling out fine lace so the pattern showed and all this proved an excellent advertisement and made me many new customers. No one objected to paying more for good work of this kind."

"Then Martha had a method of doing up fine handkerchiefs, dipping them in very thin, cold starch before ironing, which made them look like new handkerchiefs each time they were washed. Soon we found ourselves famous in a small and select circle of customers, too famous, as it proved, for we encountered our first difficulty, that of obtaining trustworthy help to meet the increased work."

"After a year we moved and had a

real laundry fitted up, and three years later we could have chosen associates from any number of people anxious to put money in the venture. So it has grown, and Martha is dead now, and I never go to the laundries at all for I have managers and hundreds of employees.

"But I often wonder why more women do not take up the work in this high-class way, of course, making it, so to speak, a society laundry."—New York Sun.

**Miss Haggood's Ghost Story**

Miss Isabel Haggood told a ghost story that is strictly up to date at the last meeting of the Nineteenth Century Club.

"I should like to know what it all means," she said. "I live in a boarding house in which there lived for some time in one room a man whom I knew for years. I didn't like him. I tell this to eliminate myself from any connection with the supposed psychic influences involved."

"He was taken suddenly ill and died. He was seized with pneumonia and in twenty-four hours was dead."

"That was in November. The room in which he died was fumigated, papered, painted, refurbished, and in fact in almost every way renovated thoroughly."

"Some time later a woman came to live in the house and got that room. She is not a sentimentalist or a psychic or a clairvoyant or a medium or a professed believer in spiritualism. She is just a plain business woman."

"One day in January she came to me—she happens to sit next to me at table—and said:

"Do you know I believe some one must have died in the room I occupy?"

"I asked her why, and she replied: 'Well, my mother, who is dead, has sometimes appeared to me, and she never comes except when something dreadful is going to happen—a loss of money or something else bad. But last night after I had gone to bed and was resting, but hadn't gone to sleep, I suddenly saw a man at the foot of my bed. I thought right away I had forgotten to lock my door and I got up. I went to the door and found that I had not forgotten; it was locked. The man vanished.'

"I asked her to describe the man. She did so minutely, and every detail of his appearance answered the description of the former occupant of the room who had died there. The man I knew, except one."

"How was he dressed?" I asked.

"He was in his nightgown," said she, "and at this even the seated members of the club laughed."

"Had he appeared to me I believe he would have been clothed otherwise," said Miss Haggood quickly, "but even to the gray lock she told his every likeness. Now I would like to have you explain that."

Miss Haggood addressed her request for information to a lecturer who had been speaking to the club on the subject "Progress in Psychological Research." But she didn't get an explanation of the incident she had related.—New York Sun.

**Filled in.**

The prayer meeting was held at good Brother W's house on the hill. The meeting had progressed, and remarks and prayer and hymns had occupied the time. The hour of closing had almost arrived. The good dominie, in a low voice, said: "Now there is just a moment left, isn't there some one would like to fill in that moment before we close?" Dead silence, when, in the twinkling of an eye, the door of the clock flew open, and out popped the head of a little bird, which said: "Cuckoo."—Ex.

**Two Mates Punished**

San Francisco, May 8.—Capt. O. F. Holles and John W. Gulger punished two mates today, whom they found guilty of carelessness and negligence in navigating the steamers Noyo and San Pedro. The steamers collided at 1 o'clock in the morning on April 18, thirty miles northwest of Point Reyes. The Noyo was damaged to the extent of \$4,000 and the San Pedro \$5,000. The lumber cargo was damaged to the extent of \$2,000. The inspectors revoked the license of E. Anderson, chief mate of the Noyo. The license of Peter Hedweil, second mate of the San Pedro, was suspended for thirty days.

**Portage Project Indorsed**

Portland, Or., May 8.—The directors of the Columbia river basin board of trade this afternoon indorsed The Dalles Portage railroad project. A committee was appointed to complete the organization of the railroad company and to secure the indorsement of the project by different commercial organizations outside of Portland.

**First Spike Driven**

Anthony, Kan., May 8.—The first spike of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway in the United States, was driven here today. The roadbed is graded from here to a point 100 miles southwest. Officers of the road here estimate that in eighteen months or two years the road will be completed to the coast.

**The Great Northern**  
**"FLYER"**  
 LEAVES SEATTLE FOR ST. PAUL EVERY DAY  
 AT 8:00 P. M.  
 A Solid Vestibule Train With All Modern Equipments.  
 For further particulars and folders address the GENERAL OFFICE - SEATTLE, WASH.

**\$3.00 Will Do It!**

Keep posted on local and foreign events. You can do this by subscribing for the

**DAILY NUGGET**

The Nugget has the best telegraph service and the most complete local news gathering system of any Dawson paper, and will be delivered to any address in the city for

**\$3.00 Per Month!**

**Japan American Line**  
 Carrying U. S. Mails to Oriental Ports.  
**Steamer Every 2 Weeks**  
 For Japan, China and All Asiatic Ports.  
 Ticket Office - 612 First Avenue, Seattle

**Pacific Packing and Navigation Co.**  
 Successors to Pacific Steam Whaling Co.  
**Copper River and Cook's Inlet**  
 YAKUTAT, ORCA, VALDEZ, HOMER.  
 FOR ALL PORTS in Western Alaska Steamer Newport  
 OFFICES: SEATTLE, 109 First Ave. and Yeager Way. SAN FRANCISCO, No. 20 California Street.

**Burlington Route**  
 No matter to what eastern point you may be destined, your ticket should read  
**Via the Burlington.**  
 PUGET SOUND AGENT  
 M. P. BENTON, 109 Pioneer Square, SEATTLE, WN.

**Did It Catch Your Eye?**

*A Little Printer's Ink, if Judiciously Used, Will Do It Every Time.*

Speaking of Printer's Ink, we have barrels of it, all colors; also the most complete line of Job Stock ever brought to Dawson.

**How Are You Fixed**

If you need anything in the Printing Line give us a call, we can supply you with anything from a calling card to a blank book.

*Remember, Rush Jobs Are Our Delight!*  
*Jobs Promised Tomorrow Delivered Yesterday.*

**The Nugget Printery**

COMPANY  
 Light Prices.  
 KING, King Street.  
 CO., Ltd.  
 5:30 a. m.  
 5:20 a. m.  
 Service  
 9 a. m. and 2 p. m.  
 PHONE 5.  
 e  
 gation Co.  
 "Canadian"  
 Freight Steamers.  
 on 1902, connecting  
 emers have all been  
 ion. Table service  
 the best of fruits and  
 points Reservations  
 Lee, Traffic Manager,  
 Seattle and Skagway.  
 SALOON  
 LLOON.  
 Prop.  
 and Cigars  
 QUEEN ST.  
 CIGARS  
 NELS, PROP.  
 pp. White Pass Dock  
 Bonanza  
 Saloon  
 We have a com-  
 sion cigars in-  
 will be given  
**Rose**  
 EEK....  
 ats  
**CTOR**  
 2nd  
 Apply  
 -Y. T. Dock  
 utton, Poultry.  
 & Co.  
 CO. Day and  
 Night Service.  
 y 20, 1902.  
 5:30 a. m. and 2 p. m.  
 OFFICE, N. C. BUILDING