

"CHIPS."

Written for UPS AND DOWNS by Miss J. A. Templeton-Armstrong.

THE story of Elizabeth Fry's gracious and persevering labours among prisoners is, no doubt, well known to the readers of UPS AND DOWNS. It was very beautiful and noble of her to lay aside ease and comfort to do the work of a gaol missionary, but one turns with even more wonder and satisfaction to the life of Sarah Martin, a still earlier missionary, and one who was all her life a poor sempstress, earning her own small living, and devoting every moment she could spare to loving service among the most miserable of her fellow creatures. Sarah Martin was born about a hundred years ago. Her father was a poor labourer and died when she was quite young. As she had the misfortune to lose her mother some years earlier, she was left to the care of her grandmother who was also poor and a widow. Little Sarah went to the village school, such as it was a hundred years ago, and as she was an earnest student, she made the most of her slender opportunities. At the age of fourteen she was sent to learn dressmaking that she might earn her own living. The village where Sarah was born and lived was three miles out of Yarmouth, and so she walked six miles every day to her work. Her walk took her past the gaol, and she often thought of the unhappy inmates. Prisons in those days were a veritable inferno where criminals of all ages and degrees of guilt were herded together like wild animals. There were underground cells so utterly foul as to defy inspection or description, and in them human beings rotted in their wretchedness without pity or aid from any human soul.

In 1819, in the month of August, when the earth was full of beauty, and birds and flowers and murmuring streams made life a delight, a miserable mother was committed to prison for the murder of her child. Her story was well known, and a very sad story it was, and Sarah Martin, then twenty-eight, had followed it with more than common interest. She had thought of the unfortunate inmates for years, but this poor woman's case made her bold to ask permission to read to the prisoners. She was a little woman, slight of build, with tender, brown eyes, and gentle, quiet manners. She would not be called beautiful save in the enduring beauty of the mind and heart which made her face glow with an eager tenderness which few could resist. She made her way to the gaol and astonished the authorities by asking permission to see the unhappy woman under sentence of death. She stood in the dark porch whilst the matter was under consideration, in the midst of chains and fetters that had often clanked on human limbs and that seemed to enter into the very soul of the gentle woman who was begging to be allowed to minister to a sinful and suffering sister. Her request was refused. Official stolidness was unable to comprehend why a good woman should desire to meddle with such a wretched business. Sarah Martin was not wholly discouraged. She applied again, and again, until, by her importunity, she succeeded in obtaining admission. Prison chaplains seem to have been unknown at that time. There was no religious service of any sort, and no attempt made to bring the prisoners under better influences of any sort. This poor woman under sentence was a broken-hearted creature, eager and willing to hear of God's mercy, when all other hope and help was far from her.

Sarah Martin continued her visits to the prison, and, that she might have more time to do so, she gave up one day's work in the week, which was a serious matter for a hard working woman. A few years after, her grandmother died, leaving her a little legacy which came to about twelve pounds a year, a sum which seem-

ed to her wealth, and, on the strength of it, she moved into Yarmouth, and devoted herself more than ever to her work of mercy. Dress-making, however, is a jealous mistress, and she soon lost what little work she had, and had to live on the least amount possible in order to carry on her prison mission. One lady gave her a day's wages that she might give the day to the service of the poor prisoners. So she laboured on—a poor woman, rich in all the noblest qualities of Christian womanhood and Christ-like service. She taught the women to sew and make clothing for themselves. She taught them habits of cleanliness. She taught them the Gospel of the Divine Human Saviour. She taught them to hope, and in God's name to re-build their broken lives, and many of them learned the lesson so well that it became a part of their lives to worship God by serving His creatures. And when they left the prison she found them work and started them in the way of living clean, wholesome, human lives.

Sarah Martin had not learned, or perhaps heard of, the modern "gospel" of "getting on." She thought of *being* good and of *doing* good and it is doubtful if she thought of getting anything except opportunities of service. She did her work, as it came to her, with all her heart, and, although apparently forgotten, she was a link in the chain of circumstances which made Elizabeth Fry's work and Howard's possible, and should be remembered to-day as one of the moral ancestors of the men and women who are carrying on the benevolent work of the world.

Miss Templeton-Armstrong, the writer of the above excellent sketch, has kindly promised that if the girls like this she will contribute more for our magazine. We should be so glad to secure Miss Armstrong's help in our undertaking. She is a great friend of boys and girls, and it is such friends that we feel very thankful to for "joining hands" with us. We think ourselves that it would be a splendid thing to have more papers, something of the same nature as the one already written; the life of a good young woman should prove a powerful stimulus to others. What *has* been done *can* be done; and, though we are not all likely to have just the same sphere of work as Sarah Martin, still we can all in our little measure live to be kindly and helpful to others, and thus shine, "you in your small corner, and I in mine."

But now about reading. I think we must just want to read something really helpful sometimes. We are not going to run down stories; we enjoy a good story ourselves; stories (always provided they are good and healthy) are very good now and then, just as candies (if they are made with wholesome sugar) are very nice occasionally, but it would not do to live *only* on candies, would it? So that we think it would not do to read *only* stories

It just happens in a letter that we have received from Emily Manning (referred to in another place) that she speaks of taking up a reading course this winter. "I find it very interesting, as well as instructive. I think one cannot make better use of their spare time than to read good books to help them."

Now, that we are on the reading question, there is another recommendation about it, and that is that it gives us something good and helpful to talk about, and, perhaps, would keep us from talking too much about our neighbors. Is there not some truth in that?

Shall we take a vote as to whether we would like Miss Templeton-Armstrong to continue her papers? Write and tell us how you feel about it, girls.

OPINIONS OF GIRLS ON "THE PRESS."

"I should have written to you before what I really thought of UPS AND DOWNS. I think the name is very suitable for it; indeed, I was so pleased when the paper was brought to me. I shall look forward for the paper to come; it is very interesting. It is so nice to see some of the girls we know. I wonder what some of the girls in England would think of our friendly paper? I am thinking of keeping all the papers I get and having them made into one."

CISSY WALLACE.

"I often pray for you all and the paper, UPS AND DOWNS, that it may have every success. It will be a comfort to have your paper to read—I often feel like putting "our" paper instead of "your."

MRS. GEORGE SHANNON,
(formerly Susan Howard).

"What a splendid paper it is! I am quite taken up with it. It seems as if we were once more in the Home again. Do you know the very best days of our childhood were spent there? It is very kind of Mr. Owen to give us a corner, therefore I enclose my 25c. for 1896. Like Emily Manning, I am afraid one corner will not be quite enough. That the UPS AND DOWNS may spread and be a great success all over Canada is the great wish of an old 'Trefoil' girl."

SARAH JAKINS.

"I think that the book is just lovely, and that it is worth having. I hope it will be a help to all the girls, and I think that such a book as that ought to encourage us all to be good girls. I like the book because it tells all that is going on in the Home."

LOUISA MAUGHAN.

"It is a grand thing to know that the boys have a monthly paper, and that Mr. Owen is so kind as to give the girls a share in it. I hope it will be a great success and keep growing larger all the time. It is so nice to hear from each other every month."

NELLIE SMITH.

"Thank you so much for letting the girls have a corner in the paper. But, I thank you, oh, so much, for having a corner for puzzles, which is a thing I like doing very much. I should like now and then to send one or two lines with a hidden town or city, if you will let me, and also to answer your puzzles. Indeed, if all the girls felt like Gertie James and I do, you would need to make the book larger. When I read about the girls in UPS AND DOWNS, it saves so much time which I would have to spend in writing and asking about how each one is getting on, especially the ones I know who left about two or three years ago, so I hope many of the girls, as well as boys, will help to keep up the paper."

DAISY BAKER.

"I received the paper and am very pleased with it; it is quite interesting. I shall only be too glad to receive it, so I shall have a paper all to myself now. I am quite interested in anything concerning Dr. Barnardo. If I see anything in the paper about him, I read it over two or three times."

LAURA FITZ.

"I am highly delighted with the last paper, as it told about the girls. I am always pleased to hear how the girls are getting on. I think the UPS AND DOWNS will be a good way to keep us informed of how the girls are getting along."

MELITA BISHOP.

"I am much pleased you sent me a copy of UPS AND DOWNS. I think Mr. Owen must have known what pleased us boys and girls."

Further down Emily, the writer, speaks about her wish to have Dr. Barnardo's picture in the paper:

"I am sure, we would get it framed. I think we should be very grateful to him for all his kindness and help him with other children in the Home, by giving a