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The Working Girl Problem

An editorial in The Sunday World of two or three weeks ago entitled, "Do Not Deserve Pity," has aroused some discussion. It dealt with young women who are resorting to a kind of charity search instead of going into household service where good wages are to be earned. A reader, who apparently has not grasped the full purpose and basis of our remarks, has written the following letter to the editor on the subject:

"Editor Sunday World: When my eyes fell on the article entitled 'Do Not Deserve Pity,' my heart went out in sympathy for the girls who have been so rudely misjudged, because the present hard times have deprived them of their work. Now, Mr. Editor, I would like to say a few words in their behalf

"In the cities and towns of this fair Dominion, there are dozens of homes where the only bread-winners are a couple of good, honest girls. girls who perhaps have been going to that shop or factory since they left school at the age of fourteen or fifteen. They have never had chance nor time to learn domestic work. There they toil from seven in the morning until six at night, week in and week out, year after year, whilst others have been deprived of their parents at an early age and have had to join the great ranks. Some are too weak and delicate to do housework and therefore try to earn their living at something easier. One thing is certain, no one is willing to pay high wages to an incompetent person.

THE TORONTO WORLD MR. BULL'S AWKWARD POSITION. A great strain on the old gentleman

The Moral Taint

A perusal of our criminal records year after year arouses the antagonism of good people must forever bear brings forcibly to our minds the significance of moral taint. in some degree the results of that course. The thief of It makes us wonder why, in view of the stigma it places on yesterday may be given the glad hand of welcome and those found guilty, others are not deterred by shame from helped to a place of honor and rectitude with the most sincere enthusiasm and faith by his fellowmen, but this falling into illegal acts. A poet of fugitive fame has introduced into some of does not give back to that theif what he had before he first

his verses a line that has philosophy as well as poetry to stole.

recommend it. Discussing in fine phrase the principle that Apart from whether we believe the reformed grafter, the evil men do lives longer than the moment of its com- politician for pelf and unscrupulous leader is sincere in a

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slums, and places of power. When yo men, they praising would be have a q such a po of science as the lat problem in a man as So in t tions answ greatest i speaking the flowe heart," an nowledgen el by thy questions. And Wi "My grou humanity Tissot, t a vision life and where he welous ma "Holy fi

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What Little Things Mean

Here is a world around you. You see it. You understand itlittle. You comprehend it-partly. You estimate its time by years and months and seconds, and its space by miles and inches. The universe is the largest thing we can think of, and an atom is the smallest.

The books used to teach us that an atom was a particle of matter m small that it could not be divided any further. Modern science admits that this is a mistake. It knows that atoms are made up of smaller parts a hydrogen atom of perhaps 800 parts, a mercury atom of 160,000, and an atom of radium of more than 200,000 parts1

These parts are widely separated, too-not as we think of distance but tremendously far apart for them. Compared with the size of the atom, they are like so many grains of dust in a gigantic football, Si Oliver Lorge likened them to mice in a cathedral.

Science admits that, if you were small enough, you could walk thru a brick wall or even put your finger into an armor plate, and never touch anything! More than that, you would scarcely see any of the particles in the wall or the armor plate except as far-distant suns or planets.

Still, all these 200,000 parts make the atom, and they are held in place as they whirl and circle by forces which must be something like those which hold our earth and planets together, making our universe.

Here is a part of the tremendous thought-our universe is only one of an endless chain of universes! The atom has its universe, which science calls the infra-world. It has its proportionate time and space, and its suns and planets which revolve, for the atomic universe, quite as majestically as ours do for us; only a thousand million of its years, or perhaps a thousand billion of them, make probably about one second of our time.

While you glance once at an atom, countless of its solar systems are born and swept away, perhaps with worlds and kingdoms and dynasties and races.

Then there is also the supra-world, the next largest universe to ours, of which we are an atom. One of its days is a trillion of our years. A hundred billion of our years are less than a second in this next large universe.

And that isn't nearly all. There is the infra-infra world, and the supra-supra world, and innumerable universes still smaller and still larger -a chain wherein the suns of one are the atoms of the next.

After this comes the greatest part of the tremendous thought-all these universes are related.

Every one depends upon the others. A single movement of one of the infinitesimally small portions of any one of the 200,000 corpuscles which make up an atom of radium-that has its effect upon the hugest central sun of the greatest universe of all!

The fruit of the smallest act lives forever. Everything is of infinite and eternal consequence.

Call this fancy, if you like, but it makes us think, doesn't it?-one ugly thought going out to do harm everywhere and as long as time continues, and one kiss which a mother gives her boy has an eternal and omnipresent influence for holiness !- Toledo News-Bee.

Democracy in Monarchs

"You Christian men who have given your employes starvation wages, and if they rebelled were ready to turn them into the street, now is your chance to stretch out your hand and help those who have perhaps given the best of their lives to your work. But no, instead it is, "No more work at present, times too hard; after a little I may want you again; in a few months when times are better." My imagination can follow that poor girl home. I know it all. I can and do pity her from my heart. No money, no profits for her.

Thank God, there is a brighter side. Let us remember there is an eye that ever sees, there is an ear that ever hears and a hand in which a balance is held. A voice says: "With what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again." Reader, if misfortune has deprived these girls of their work, and some of their true friends have extended a helping hand to them, don't ridicule, don't judge, I beseech you, for certainly they deserve our pity. Yours in the work. I.N

"Lindsay.

A thoughtful, impartial study of the real facts will prove that the use of the words "rudely misjudged" is unjustifiable. The correspondent, perhaps, has not lived in large cities of Canada and the United States sufficiently long to see every side of social and economic conditions, to become fully acquainted with the false pride which exists amongst a multitude of our young, and to understand how difficult/it is to obtain reliable help in the home at any price. But leaving this phase of the problem aside. the statements in the above letter simply bear out what the editorial contained. There is no doubt that there are dozens of homes in the Dominion in which the only bread winners are girls "who have been going to shop or factory since they left school at the age of fourteen or fifteen." say "they have never had a chance or time to learn domestic work" is reflecting on their industry and worth. There are few girls who have not more knowledge of housework at fifteen than they have of the work which they are required to do in shops and factories. Those who know nothing of domestic duties are indeed to be pitied, for their brothers are familiar enough with ordinary tasks around a home to do them if necessary.

When a girl goes out to work in shop or factory she has to apply herself. She has to learn how to perform certain labor. Her employers do not pay her to sit in a chair with her hands folded. Hence she begins at something of which she knows nothing, and by application and instruction she learns. After a while her wage is increased, until she can eke out a living.

Does our correspondent suggest that the average Canadian girl knows less than nothing about housework? It is surely impossible, ridiculous, to suppose that she cannot inside of a week learn enough from her mother or her mistress to perform reasonable service in a home.

Any girl who has spent fifteen years of her life under her mother has had a chance to grasp at least the rudiments of domestic work.

To contend that some are too weak and delicate to do housework is to say that it is easier for them to toil from nine to ten hours a day in the unhealthy atmosphere of shops and factories, or stand from eight to ten hours on their feet in crowded stores. This seems preposterous. It might be true if girls were called upon to do drudgery in homes. They often are, but what we maintain was that there are hundreds of homes where no neavy labor is asked. These places are seeking help; they are willing to pay well for it, but rather than enter such service girls accept monetary assistance from friends.

The wail of the girl who will not work because she cannot find employment in shop, factory or office, may be pitiful, but its source is wrong.

Social life to-day is to be blamed for this state of affairs. It has given girls the views they now hold. It has created in them a dislike for the broom and dishpan. It has brought girls to a spirit of rebellion when they are entreated to accept employment as maids. It has even given them the opinion that up to fifteen they should not even look at housework lest they learn it. How else could they arrive at that age and be ignorant of it. as "L. N." states?

We fail to see wherein our Lindsay reader has offered any argument, which, in all fairness, should be accepted as against the facts we have.

mission, the poet declared: The bird with a broken pinion Never flies so high again.

who has deliberately pursued a course that weakens confidence in his or her integrity alienates the respect and

sudden announcement in favor of all the ngs he has hitherto despised and defied, there is a deeper law of being that leaves him the burden of his past as an unescapable Stripped of all poetic verbiage, this couplet involves a weight upon his future. The man who has been bad thru world-old truth, and its application is as pertinent in con- a long and active career can never again, no matter how sidering the reform promises of an aspiring politician as much he may reform or how sincere that reform may be, it is in anathematizing the soft and slushy sentiment that be the man he was previous to his evil life, and in-so-far is disposed at times to canonize the principals and asso- as this is true he must always suffer from a "broken ciates in certain social crimes. It is the mark of broad pinion." So with the moral taint that fastens itself upon and generous humanity to forgive and as far as possible men and women who prostitute their lives to a pursuit of to forget the seemingly repented of evil in the lives of pleasure that leads to crime. We may gush sympathetically over the young woman or the young man who others. It is said that the angels could do nothing more; is the victim of crime committed in the course of a life and the sinner who repents and turns from his sins is pre- devoted to evil associates and pleasure hunting vanity. We sented as one of the most beautiful pictures in the economy may forgive, and our laws may wipe out all legal guilt, of human redemption thru the mediation of a Saviour. All but the lives of these unhappy people can never again this is true as regards the attitude of man to man on its rise to a level higher than the memories and stains of that this is true as regards the attitude of man to man on its sentimental and fraternal side. It is all very beautiful very nature of our being, individual and social. Wrongand inspiring, but the cold, deliberate facts of human doing leaves a mark upon the life that lessens the possiscience and philosophy are unescapable so long as we are bilities of achievement, cripples the strength for highe members of the present social order. These facts sub- living and clouds the confidence of the world in all our stantiate the utterance of the poet and add the elaboration future aims and professions. We may "live down" a of reason to the sorrow of regret. The man or woman past, and all aid and succor possible should be extended the man or woman who is trying to do this, but-

The bird with a broken pinion Never flies so high again.

What 'A Good Man' Means.

The answers received by the editor of a well-known tom and usage, aloof from the tumult of politics, brave nagazine of the United States in reply to the question, but not adventurous, punctual in some form of religious "What Constitutes a Good Man?" are both varied and exercise, devoted to wife and children and kind without interesting. extravagance to all men."

It might seem at first glance that an answer would be Mr. Wells has much else to say in addition to this, and very easy to give. After reading the views of eminent in a more terse, epigrammatic style. Thomas W. Lawson men we are not so sure and are inclined to wonder not a practically agrees with Mr. Wells as to the ideal citizen, httle at the various standards by which the goodness of with the exception that he believes in the fighting spirit as men is judged.

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Archbishop Ireland seemed to believe that love for God and man was the greatest virtue-the supreme test: while the prime minister of Japan believed that "he is of the highest type of good men who subordinates himself to the good of society, and, never departing from the principle, spends his life in constant and ceaseless exertion for the attainment of his ideal."

The prime minister spoke learnedly, but there seems to be no clearness to his statement. He is not definite estimate of a good man. The ideal which each strives

H. G. Wells, famous English novelist, avoided the theological ground altogether on which Archbishop Ire- own dominant characteristics, and thus very few persons land stands so firmly and would make a man's conduct will hold the same views regarding the virtues that conthe test of his moral worth. "He will be a very different stitute the good man. Perhaps this is a wise provision of creature from that indifferent, well-behaved business man who passes for a good citizen to-day," wrote Mr. Wells. should an men reach a similar outside the same ideas, the same pas-"He is to be a clean, able-bodied person, who does not sions, the same ideals in every respect, they would become tell lies, temperate, honest, law-abiding, respectful to cus- afflicted with mental rust and life would lose its interest.

a virtue, and says that "a rattling good man counters the command, 'Turn the other cheek,' with 'An eye for an

Prof. Edward A. Ross of the University of Wis consin was quite radical, and maintained that "your saint, without an enemy in the world, is of less worth than the stalwart knight of conscience," and asserts that "the be ginning of goodness is to stand on one's own feet."

This discussion is particularly interesting, as one ob serves in reading these various replies to the question asked, in that the personality of each writer enters into his to attain is reflected in his answer, and this ideal varies according to his mental attitude and his temperament.

As will be seen, an ideal man has something of our Providence after all, as variety is the spice of life, and should all men reach a similar standard of excellence,

In shaking hands with three leaders of a band of stonecutters who attempted tot mob him, King Emmanuel of Italy exemplified democracy is a way which monarchs rarely adopt.

The men were out of work, and they thought by mobbing him they would get a chance of expressing their grievances directly to the sovereign. The king sent for three of the principals, had an hour's talk with them in the quirinal, promised to see they were no longer idle and shook hands heartily with them on parting.

It is very rare that a monarch comes so closely in touch with those of his subjects who are workingmen. He is guarded by ministers and court attendants from everything of a common nature. This shuts him away from the real wants and needs of his people. He often does not know the actual conditions prevailing in the country over which he sways a sceptre.

When, however, he does get an opportunity of speaking man to man with the working class it is a manifestation of greatest kingship for him to avail himself of it.

This act of King Emmanuel will do much to endear him to his countrymen by whom he is already beloved.

