

LOCK UP.

I REMEMBER visiting the Grotto del Cano near Naples, a natural cavern which is partly charged with a highly poisonous atmosphere. The carbonic acid gas, however, being heavier than common air rests upon the ground, reaching only to a height of about three or four feet; the consequence being that whilst a man may walk upright through the cave uninjured, yet if he stoops or lies down in it, a few seconds will prove fatal. So, if you keep your head up toward heaven, and above the poisonous miasma that surrounds you you may walk uninjured through the world; but if you rest in it, and breathe in it, your life is in peril. I do not say that there is no hope for your soul unless you read a chapter, and kneel down to pray every morning at six or seven and every evening about ten—no; but I do say that it is most important that you should have fixed habits of daily devotion, and not allow anything to interfere with the due culture of your spiritual life.

Teachers should always be pleasant and cheerful, and should never lose their self-possession in the class or among themselves. The temper sometimes gets the better of the judgement, and some hasty words are spoken, or some bad impression is made. Guard against that touchiness which easily takes offence. Keep in restraint the irritableness which often finds occasions for exhibition. Look on the bright side of things. See good in the school. Have a smile for every pupil and associate in work, and especially for the superintendent. Do not resent imaginary slights, or grow moody or sullen if your wish is not always gratified. Make all about you feel the sunshine of your presence and the cheer of your Christ-like spirit.

STAY AT HOME.

This is the advice urged upon girls by a benevolent lady in the *Independent*. For large classes it is most excellent and timely advice:

As long as farmers' daughters crowd into the towns for work, the supply of saleswomen is far beyond the demand. The applicant must take what she can get.

In inferior shops (which make up of course a large majority of the whole) the custom is to keep the doors open for customers as long as they choose to come. I know of large dry goods shops on Eighth street and Ridge avenue, in Philadelphia, which are open every Saturday night, and in the busy seasons every night, until eleven o'clock. The poor white slave behind the counter is busy until midnight putting away the goods, and

then creeps unprotected through the dark streets to such miserable lodging as she can pay for, to be back in her place by half-past seven in the morning. For this service of fifteen hours daily she is paid \$2.50, \$3 or \$4 per week. She cannot threaten to give up the place, for there are crowds of applicants waiting to take it.

Mr. John Wanamaker, who claims to be at the head of the largest retail shop in the country, was asked some time ago to employ such a girl, who had had four years' experience in the sale of hosiery in a country store. He offered her \$3.50 per week. "But you know," said the applicant, "no girl could feed and clothe herself on that in town."

"No," was the reply, "but I am overrun with applications from girls, the daughters of mechanics and laborers in town, who board at home, and who use their wages only for clothes. They set the rate of wages."

Thousands of country girls take the risk, and come at those wages; and what is the result? The houses of ill-fame are recruited from their ranks.

A woman widely known for her philanthropy and experience, and who has now the oversight of more than five hundred women employed in a retail shop, lately made this statement to me: "Girls from the country crowd upon us every spring and fall with applications for places as saleswomen and cash girls. We offer them, if engaged, but \$2.50 and \$3. It is impossible for them to clothe themselves and pay boarding for that sum. Three or four, therefore, join to rent a room, furnished with wretched cuts. Here they sleep, and eat a breakfast and supper of dry bread and tea. The dinner at a cheap lunch counter costs, say, twenty cents. Then life is squalid and miserable beyond words. No wonder they are ready to brighten it. One of these girls makes the acquaintance on the street of a man about town, or a young fellow of her own class, too poor to marry. She has no place in which to receive her "gentleman friend" but this room. Then come the variety theatres, late suppers, a little liquor, a present or two—the end we all know." She added: "I have put these facts before hundreds of innocent country girls when they applied to us, and urged them to go home; but each one fancies that success await, her alone. She will have none of my advice."—Sel.

John Ruskin has nobly said:—"There are a great many things that God will put up with in a human heart; there is one thing He will not put up with—a second place. He who gives God a second place gives Him no place."