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NOTICE

All householders are hereby notified that they are required to thoroughly clean up their premises and remove all rubbish and matter injurious to the public health. Any persons keeping pigs within the limits of the town are notified that they are acting contrary to law and on information being laid will be at once prosecuted. Any person found dumping rubbish in any place other than the town dumping ground at the upper end of Connell Street will be prosecuted. March 29th 4:1
By order of the
BOARD OF HEALTH

T G L KETCHUM
BARRISTER, NOTARY, ETC.
QUEEN STREET, WOODSTOCK

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.
(The 'Evening Post,' New York.)

It seems peculiarly fitting that the greatest tract of the anti-slavery struggle the book which sober historians pronounced the most influential novel ever written, should have come from the pen of a woman. True, the women of the Abolition cause were as devoted and as self-sacrificing as were their husbands and fathers who went forth so freely to face the mobs that denied them the right of free speech. But in such a heroic epoch the horror of slavery was bound to produce an epic, and what more natural than the inspiring of a woman to tell of the sins of bondage, which bore most heavily upon the slave woman, if only in denying her the right to chastity to marriage, and to her children? Certain it is that Mrs Stowe steeped herself in these fearful wrongs until her moral indignation touched as of genius, wrought out a work that not only made her immortal, but, what was of far more importance to her, made converts by the hundred thousand to the cause for which she and all her chivalrous family were ready to perish if need be.

Criticized the book has been. In the South even to-day, among the illiberal and the prejudiced, it is quite customary to denounce Mrs Stowe as the worst of vilifiers and slanderers. The college professor who would praise 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' and declare it a reasonably fair characterization of slavery could not to-day hold his position south of Mason and Dixon's line. Sherman alone is so black a beast. To most of these the historic facts upon which Mrs Stowe built her defence of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' are unknown, as are those 'Testimonies of a Thousand Witnesses' compiled from Southern sources that to-day give slavery so fearful an aspect—as different from the Paradiseal descriptions of the latter-day novelists of the South as the night from the day. That she has made the worst overseer in the book a Northern man, that she had made the good and humane Southern characters the most prominent, went for naught. The unpardonable offence was that there was criticism of the sacred institution. The vehemence of the replies, of course, revealed the force of the blow, and the books immortality is in itself the clearest proof that it was based upon truth; for no book of slander and lies, no unjust condemnation of a great social system affecting millions upon millions, can survive merely by great art. Forty-seven years after its publication, this book, which was said to be a wicked libel, led in popularity all the English fiction in the New York Public Library.

Great art there was not in Mrs Stowe's book, The style, says James Ford Rhodes, is commonplace, the language is often trite and inelegant, sometimes degenerating into slang; and the humor is strained. Yet he records that Macaulay characterized it as the most valuable addition that America has made to English literature, and Lowell described it as genius. It was a rare timing of a book with the precise psychological moment when the conscience and heart of the North were ready to be touched and stirred on the slavery question as they were by no other event prior to the firing on Sumter, save by the hanging of John Brown. Mrs Stowe refuted once for all the Southern defence of slavery on the ground that the negro was only an animal, as predestined to bondage as the ass, the ox, or the horse, because she made the whole world weep over the sufferings of both white and black, and

made it plain to all that when it comes to grief and sorrow there is no color line in the pain and anguish the human heart can endure. The millions who have wept over the deaths of Uncle Tom and Eva, as portrayed by every kind of dramatic company, and thrilled at the escape of Eliza, have doubtless not been severe critics nor proof against mawkish sentiment. But their emotion is explicable on no other ground than that at bottom Mrs Stowe touched with rare dramatic power the underlying human emotions not only of her generation but of many another, and thus proved anew that an appeal in behalf of human rights, made with justice and passion and self-obliterating earnestness, can never fail to bear fruit.

That Mrs Stowe never produced any other book comparable in its success to Uncle Tom's Cabin has often been held up against her. Instead, it is, perhaps, but proof of the way in which she spent herself in this work, giving the best that was in her in order that others might see slavery as she held it. Never was a great book written under more trying domestic conditions; and never did the effect and fame more greatly astound an author. Never was it clearer that here was a compelling message, the telling of which was to be thwarted by no outward circumstances. There was a veil to be torn from before the eyes millions that they might see for themselves what slavery was. Who would not rather write one such book, and render one such service to humanity, than place upon the shelves a dozen volumes to win the approval of literary experts? The colored people do well to celebrate Mrs Stowe's centenary (June 14). No complete history of America can be written that does not take measure of her moulding of her time and credit her with a glorious share in purging the country of a national shame.

VICTORY ALMOST IN SIGHT.

There can be little doubt that next session of the Imperial Parliament will see the parliamentary vote given to Englishwomen qualified under the proposed bill, about a million in all. The Prime Minister and government, a short time since, promised that a week would be given to the bill next session.

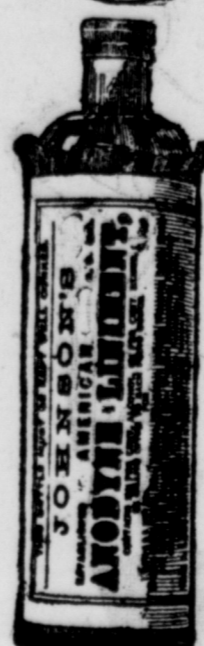
This was felt to be somewhat indefinite, and Lord Lytton wrote to ask for assurances (1) that the facilities offered for next session were intended as an effective opportunity for carrying the bill, and not merely for academic discussion; (2) that the week offered would not be construed rigidly, and also that provided the committee stage were got through in the time, additional days for report and third reading would be forthcoming; and (3) that there would be reasonable opportunities for making use of the closure.

To this Mr Asquith replied that the week offered will be interpreted with reasonable elasticity, that the government will interpose no obstacle to a proper use of the closure, and that if the bill gets through committee in the time proposed, the extra days required for report and third reading would not be refused.

Mr Asquith adds the assurance that the government though divided in opinion on the merits of the bill, are unanimous in their determination to give an effect not only in the letter, but in the spirit to the promise in regard to facilities which I made on their behalf before the last general election.

The Womens Suffrage Societies do
(Continued on page seven)

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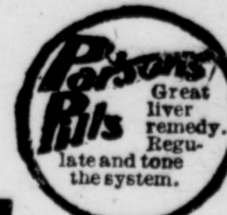


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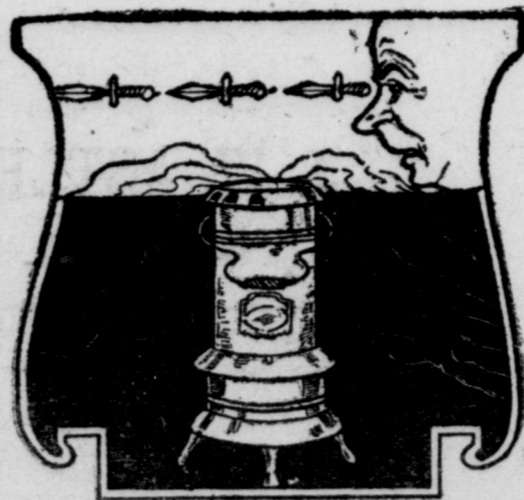
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