

Poetry.

The Hermit Traffic.

BY DR. JAMES BURNS.

This horrid traffic like some stealthy foe,
Goes forth to spread its ravages of woe,
Nor spares its victims, whether sire or child,
But plucks in ruin till our earth's defiled.

This horrid traffic saps a nation's strength,
And scatters sickness through its breadth and length;
Arrays our dwellings with its sable gloom,
And sends vast myriads to an early tomb.

This horrid traffic blights the human mind,
Debiles the heart and withers all that's kind,
Transforms to demons fearful countless crowds—
In dire mad madness maddens crowds.

This horrid traffic fosters vice and crime,
Where'er a lawless, in any land or clime,
Entraps the young, and over age prevails,
And crowds our penitentiaries and jails.

This horrid traffic steals a nation's food,
Perverts the gifts of Providence so good,
And makes of it a burning stream of death,
And quenches fires kindled by its breath.

This horrid traffic, paupers, madmen, makes,
The moral fabric to its centre shakes,
High lies a defiance, ponders to death and hell,
And crowds the abyss where ruin's spirits dwell.

Then bring this horrid traffic to the light,
Let men behold the gory traffic sight,
Let patriots, moralists, and Christians too,
Denounce this source of every crime and woe.

And shall this horrid traffic still survive?
Nay, rather let the good and noble strive
Humanity to bless, exalt, and save,
And doom this DEATH TRAFFIC to an early grave.

Let law and justice smother their spotless throne,
Let government this traffic vilify, disown,
And let the people with united breath
Consign this evil to an endless death.

Little Things.

Do something for each other—
Though small the help may be—
There's comfort oft in little things—
Far more than from great ones—
It takes the sorrow from the eye,
It leaves the world less bare,
If but a friendly hand come nigh,
When friendly hands are rare!
Then cheer the heart which toils each hour,
Yet finds it hard to live—
And though but little in our power,
That little let us give.

We know not what the humblest hand,
If earnest, may achieve;
How many a sad anxiety
A trifle may relieve—
We need not how the aged poor
Drag on from day to day;
When e'en the little that they need
Cost more than they can pay!
Then cheer the heart that toils each hour,
Yet finds it hard to live—
And though but little in our power,
That little let us give.

Manchester, Jan. 15, 1856. CHARLES SWAIN.

Miscellaneous.

I did not think of that.

One day, as Mr. Lawson, a merchant tailor, stood at his cutting board, a poorly dressed woman entered his shop, and approaching him, asked, with some embarrassment and timidity, if he had any work to give out.

"What can you do?" asked the tailor, looking coldly upon his visitor.

"I can make pantaloons and vests," answered the girl.

"Have you ever worked for a merchant tailor?" he asked.

"Yes, sir, I have worked for Mr. Wright," replied the girl.

"Has he nothing for you to do?"

"No, not just now; he has regular hands who always get the preference."

"Did your work suit him?"

"He never found fault with it."

"Where do you live?"

"In Cherry-street, No. —."

Mr. Lawson stood and mused for a short time.

"I have a vest here," he at length said, taking a small bundle from the shelf, "which I want by to-morrow evening, at the latest. If you think you can do it very neatly, and have it done in time, you can take it."

"It shall be done in time," said the young woman, reaching out eagerly for the bundle.

"And remember I shall expect it well made. If I like your work, I will give you more."

"I will endeavour to please you," returned the young girl.

"To-morrow evening, recollect."

"Yes, sir, I will have it done."

The girl turned and went quickly away.

In a back room in the third story of an old house in Cherry-street, was the home of the poor sewing girl. As she entered, she said in a cheerful voice to her sick sister—

"Mary, I have got work; it is a vest, and I must have it done by to-morrow evening."

"Can you finish it in time?" inquired the invalid in a feeble voice.

"Oh yes, easily."

It proved to be white muslin. As soon as the invalid saw this she said—

"I am afraid you will not be able to get it done in time, Ellen; you are not fast with the needle, and besides, you are very far from being well."

"Don't fear in the least, Mary; I will do all I engaged to do."

It was after dark the next night, when Ellen finished the garment. She was weary and faint, having taken no food since morning. The want of everything and particularly for herself and sister, made seventy-five cents, the sum she expected to receive for making the garment, a treasure to her imagination. She hurried off with the vest, the moment it was finished, saying to her sister—

"I will be back as soon as possible, and bring you some cordial, and something for our supper and breakfast."

"Here, it is half-past eight o'clock, and the vest is not yet in," said Mr. Lawson, in a fretful tone. "I had my doubts about the girl when I gave it to her; but she looked so poor, and seemed so earnest about the work, that I was weak enough to trust her with the garment."

At this moment Ellen came in and laid the vest on the counter, where Mr. Lawson was standing. She said nothing neither did he. Taking the vest, he unfolded it in a manner that plainly showed him not to be in a very placid frame of mind.

"Go dress!" he ejaculated, turning over the garment, and looking at the girl.

She shrunk back from the counter, and looked frightened.

"Well this is a pretty job for one to bring in!" said the tailor in an excited tone of voice. "A pretty job indeed!" at the same

time tossing the vest away from him in angry contempt, and walking off to another part of the store.

Ellen remained at the counter. At length he said to her,

"You need not stand there, Miss, thinking I am going to pay you for ruining a job. It is had enough to lose my material and customer. In justice you should pay me for the vest, but there is no hope for that; so take yourself off, and never let me set eyes on you again."

Ellen made no reply; she turned round, raised her hand to her forehead, and bursting into tears walked slowly away.

After Ellen had gone, Mr. Lawson returned to the front part of the store, and taking up the vest brought it back to where an elderly man was sitting, and holding it towards him, said, by way of apology for the part he had taken in the little scene,

"This is a beautiful article for a gentleman to wear, isn't it?"

The man made no reply, and the tailor, after a pause, added:

"I refused to pay her as a matter of principle. She knew she could not make the garment when she took it away. She will be more careful how she tries to impose herself upon customer tailors as a good vest-maker."

"Perhaps," said the elderly gentleman, in a mild way, "necessity drove her to undertake a job that required greater skill than she possessed. She certainly looked very poor."

"It was because she appeared so poor and miserable, that I was weak enough to place the vest in her hands," replied Mr. Lawson, in a less severe tone of voice. "But it is an imposition for her to ask for work she did not know how to make."

"Mr. Lawson," said the old gentleman, who was known as a pious and good man, "we should not blame too much severity, the person who, in extreme want, undertakes to perform a piece of work for which she lacks the skill. The fact that a young girl, like the one who was just here, is willing, in her extreme poverty, to labor, instead of sinking into vice and idleness, shows her to possess true virtue and integrity of character; and that we should be willing to encourage, even at some sacrifice. Work is slack now, as you are aware, and there is but little doubt that she had been to many places seeking employment before she came to you. It may be that she and others are dependent upon the receipt of the money that was expected to be paid for making the vest you hold in your hand. The expression as she turned away, her lingering steps, her drooping form, and her whole demeanor, had in them a language which told me of this, and even more."

A change came over the tailor's countenance. "I didn't think of that," fell in a low tone from his lips.

"I did not think you did, Bro. Lawson," said his monitor; "we are all more apt to think of ourselves than others. The girl promised the vest this evening; and so far as that is concerned, she performed her contract. Is the vest made very badly?"

Mr. Lawson took up the garment and examined it more closely.

"Well, I can't say that it is badly done, but dreadfully soiled and rumpled; and it is not so neat a job as it should be, nor at all such as I wished it."

"All this was very annoying of course; but still we should be willing to make some excuse for the short coming of others. The poor girl may have a sick mother to attend to which constantly interrupted her; and under such circumstances, you could hardly wonder if the garment should be somewhat soiled from under her hands. All this may be the case; and if so, you could not find it in your heart to speak unkindly to the poor creature, much less turn her away angrily, and without the money she toiled for so earnestly."

"I did not think of that," was murmured in a low, suppressed tone of voice.

More influence of Children.

Two men had entered into an agreement to rob one of their neighbours. Everything was planned. They were to enter his house at midnight, break open his chest and drawers, and carry off all the gold and silver they could find.

"He is rich and we are poor," said they to each other, by way of encouragement in the evil they were about to perform. "He will never miss a little gold, while his possession will make us all happy. Besides, what right has one man to all this world's goods?"

Thus they talked together. One of these men had a wife and children, but the other had none in the world to care for but himself. The man who had children went home and joined his family, after agreeing upon a place of meeting with the other at the darkest hour of the coming night.

"Dear father," said one of the young children, climbing upon his knee, "I am so glad you have come home."

The presence of the child troubled the man, and he tried to push him away; but his child clung tightly about his neck, and he laid his face upon his cheek, and said in a sweet and gentle voice—

"I love you, father!"

Involuntarily, the man drew the innocent and loving one to his bosom and kissed him. There were two other children in the man's dwelling, a boy and a girl. They were poor, and these children worked daily to keep up the supply of bread, made deficient more through idleness in the father than lack of employment. These children came home soon after their father's return, and brought him their earnings for the day.

"Oh father," said the boy, "such a dreadful thing has happened! Henry Lee's father was arrested to-day for robbing; they took him out of our shop when Henry was there, and carried him off to prison. I was so sad when I saw Henry weeping. And he hung his head for shame of his own father! Only think of that!"

"Ashamed of his father," thought he. And will my children hang their heads, also, in shame? Oh, no, that shall never be."

At the hour of midnight, the man who had no children to throw around him a sphere of better influence, was sitting at the place of rendezvous for him whose children had saved him. But he waited long in vain. Then he said:

"I will do the deed myself, and take the entire reward."

And he did according to his word. When the other man went forth to his labour on the next day, he learned that his accomplice had been taken in the act of robbery, and was already in prison.

"Thank Heaven for virtuous children!" said he, with fervour. "They have saved me. Never will I do an act that will cause them to blush for their father."

IRRELIGIOUS POPULAR LITERATURE.—Our country is inundated with a tide of publications which tend to undermine, not only the doctrines, but the very facts of Christianity.

The liberalism of our most popular writers, such as Macaulay, Dickens, Thackeray, and Tennyson is one which rejects nearly all faith in dogmas, and preaches up either a "Christ that is to be," or a sentimental philanthropy, in which the name of the world's Redeemer is thrust out and forgotten. The spirit of most of our leading journals, to say nothing of less reputable papers, is precisely of the same character. Our national faith, so far as it is a mere tradition of early education, is like an iceberg melting away under the incessant action of sunbeams and currents, and may some day topple over suddenly when we are least aware, until the spread of vital godliness, and the bold maintenance

of the truth by those who have felt its power, keeps pace with the destructive influences which are ever at work among the great mass of the reading public.—*London Record.*

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