

THE SECRET

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The Secret.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

The publishers of the SECRET are *in no degree* responsible for any matter that may appear in its columns from time to time, and all business connected with the paper *must be transacted* with the editors and proprietors.

Our Efforts and how They have been Received by the Public.

It is often very amusing to hear the criticisms and censures that have been bestowed upon us during the short time that the SECRET has been in existence. Many of them, and we might say nearly all of them, are unjust in the extreme. Like all objects having a laudable end in view, our enterprise has not met with that appreciation that it deserves, but we do not feel in the slightest degree discouraged, but intend to pursue the even tenor of our way in the face of all obstacles, however stupendous. The majority of our readers appear to have run off with the idea that our paper was started solely in the interests of scandal, and when our first number made its appearance, were rather agreeably surprised to find that they were wrong in their impressions. But there are others, and a great many of them, too, who do not possess sufficient shrewdness or penetration to pierce through the outer

shell of the nut, and obtain the good fruit hidden beneath, but content themselves in running their eye carelessly over our pages, without discovering or making any effort to discover, the aim that we have in view. Our purpose in instituting the SECRET was not to diffuse scandal—heaven knows that nothing else was required in that direction—but to expose the follies and foibles of our common humanity, to secure a higher standard of morality, and to rescue those who may be unwittingly allowing themselves to be drawn into the hideous vortex of vice, from which, when too late, they cannot extricate themselves. It shall be our aim to assist as far as in our power all worthy objects, and we will not tolerate for one moment anything that we think may be in opposition to the best interests of the people. Of course, there are persons who are so wise in their own conceit, who think themselves incapable of doing wrong, but these are the ones who require our greatest attention. Blinded with that all-pervading feeling of self-sufficiency, they rush into the path of vice, imagining, like a great many before them, that they will come out of the fire unscathed. Then, if in our humble opinion, we consider that it would be beneficial that their faults should be exposed, ere it becomes too late to remedy them, what is the result? Abuse and threats of all descriptions are hurled at us, but like a ball thrown against a wall forcibly, they rebound with just as much force upon the heads of those who threw them, leaving us unharmed. With such noble objects in view, we feel confident that our efforts will, before long, be recognized and appreciated at their true worth, but until then we expect to be made the butt of derision and abuse.

Although but a few weeks in existence, the amount of good that we have done is something incalculable. How many persons, through fear of being exposed before

their friends, shun evil companions and evil ways and cling to their homes; how many young men, and young women, too, under the influence of temporary excitement, and when away from the protecting shadows of the paternal roof, behave themselves in a manner calculated to estrange not only their own respect for themselves but the respect that their friends formerly held for them. This latter class we have taken under our especial care, and intend, if possible at all, to show them the errors of their ways ere it becomes too late. No doubt, the feelings of many may, and have been, wounded by remarks that have appeared in our columns censuring their conduct, but it has been in their own interest that we have done it. It is difficult to make an irate brother or lover believe this, but if they would but stop and consider for a moment, we think that their opinions concerning us and our intentions would undergo quite a change, and instead of threatening us with all manner of horrible tortures (for which we do not care one straw) they would tender us their heartiest thanks for having performed for them an action which would have more effect for good than all the threatenings and scoldings of a parent.

Then, how many sordid hearts that have been closed to the appeals of their suffering brethren, have been opened, through our instrumentality, causing the milk of human kindness and charity to flow down like streams of water, and the hard-hearted landlord, through fear of being made the butt of derision, has changed his ways and instead of making his tenants as uncomfortable as possible, are doing all in their power to make them happy and comfortable. We gave an instance of this last week.

Even the Chief of Police and his men have become more circumspect in their actions and are exercising greater vigil-