

PRISONERS OF POVERTY. UNDERTAKING A NOBLE CAUSE.

From The Auburn Advertiser.

There is so much to praise in this true showing up of the difference between fact and fancy as applied to workingwomen, "plenty of work" and how the workers are robbed, that we feel as if too great praise cannot be extended THE TRIBUNE for its noble efforts. We assure it that the people in the country appreciate these things. There are almost as many fair-minded men and women among the well-to-do as there are among the poor. And every day we hear expressions of approval applied to THE TRIBUNE and its articles by Mrs. Campbell.

AN ADMIRABLE EXAMPLE.

From The Buffalo Express.

One woman at least has gone back to the old plan of having her garments made at home, buying only the materials. The sewing woman goes to the home of the patron, works amid comfortable surroundings, and receives for her work the full amount which would otherwise be reckoned as the expense of making. The wearer of the articles thus made pays but little more than if she bought them ready-made, and the sewing woman gets her full share of the benefit. The scheme provides an excellent field for the exercise of a practical philanthropy, and is one in which the rich women of the cities can interest themselves with personal satisfaction and to the advantage of the wage-earners of their own sex. It is well worth asking if the generous sentiment which stirs well-to-do humanity at this season may not be turned to so worthy an avenue of practical beneficence.

WOMAN'S WORK.

From The Brooklyn Eagle.

The prescription of Mayor Hewitt and other people—"Go out to domestic service"—is hardly prepared after a thorough diagnosis of this peculiar social disease. Besides, if it were, the women would not take the medicine unless they chose. Here again facts run against theories, and millionaire publicists no more than other persons can escape the catastrophe. Cooking and "upstairs work" are honorable employments—for good cooks and efficient chambermaids. So is the position of a bootblack, or a waiter, or a valet in one in which a man may get through life creditably and respectably. But if men who are not fitted for these occupations, or who think that they can do better, are not forced into them, why should women be urged into corresponding employments as to which they hold like views?

It is a very simple and obvious treatment, if we only choose to adopt it, of this pressing, unavoidable, growing question of women and the work by which they shall make a living. Throw down all artificial obstructions in the way of women in this matter and let natural laws of fitness, capacity, and inclination have free course. Depend upon it, where an artificial rule has to be strenuously enforced there is in operation no natural law corresponding with it. Don't be afraid, brother conservatives, that if this liberal and just policy prevails women will rush to occupy the banks of engine houses and start for the fire at the first alarm, or that they will drive all the roughmen to the police pension list and insist upon doing female parole duty, or that they will mob the ships along the water front and swarm in the suburbs. Natural law may be trusted to regulate all this. On the other hand, it is perfectly useless to try by artificial and arbitrary means, to restrain women from doing anything which they are fitted, naturally and by education, to do. Nature gets the better of artifice always in the end.

TO THE LADY OF THE HOUSE.

From The Herald of Health.

Mrs. Helen Campbell, in the course of a series of able articles published in THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE, has been letting in a flood of light on the miseries of workingwomen in the metropolis. Much sympathy has been developed by her narratives, and the women who are prisoners of misery seem willing to do anything to assist their sisters, who were aptly termed by Mrs. Campbell "Prisoners of Poverty." Many of them have already made the familiar suggestion that "those poor American workingwomen would be very much better off as helpes in the household. Why do they entirely surrender this field to foreigners?" It is not so difficult to answer this question. Foreigners, for the most part, have been accustomed to serve, and for many of the increased wage have are willing to sink individuality and to put up with much that an American girl would rather starve than submit to. When a comfortably furnished, well lighted, well heated and well ventilated sleeping room is provided in every family for the maid-of-all-work the repugnance of the American girl to domestic labor will speedily disappear. Let the "lady of the house" put herself in the place of the drudge and sleep in her poorly appointed room for a few periods and she will be able to appreciate something of the misery which so American girls of average intelligence have to endure in order to see it as a means of escape from the factory.