

# THE SENTINEL:

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

DEVOTED TO THE EXPOSITION AND ADVANCEMENT OF PUBLIC MORALITY  
AND TO THE SUPPRESSION OF VICE.

## CONTENTS:

A NEEDED AWAKENING.

THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF GIRLS. By MRS. PERCY W. BUNTING AND  
MISS A. E. N. BEWICKE.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, AND THE BISHOPS OF LONDON,  
ROCHESTER, ST. ALBAN'S, AND BEDFORD, ON THE LEGAL  
PROTECTION OF GIRLS.

THE "WHITE CROSS ARMY" FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL  
PURITY.

SERJEANT BALLANTINE AND THE STATE OF OUR STREETS. By  
MRS. STEWARD, OF ONGAR.

A POLICY OF DESPAIR.

THE SOCIAL PURITY MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE STATE REGULATION OF VICE.  
FORTHCOMING CONGRESS AT THE HAGUE.

OCCASIONAL NOTES—

THE MORAL EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG. VISIT TO ENGLAND OF THE HON.  
JOHN COLTON, M.P., LATE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND PRESIDENT OF  
THE SOUTH AUSTRALIA SOCIAL PURITY SOCIETY. INFLUENTIAL MEETING AT  
BRIGHTON. THE RESULT OF LECTURES AT ST. LEONARDS AND HASTINGS. AN  
INSTRUCTIVE INCIDENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON APRIL 20TH. IMPORTANT  
DEPUTATION TO LORD DERBY. THE CHAMBERLAIN OF LONDON ON THE RELATIVE  
MORAL CONDITION OF LONDON AND CONTINENTAL CITIES. THE PETITIONING OF  
PARLIAMENT FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF YOUNG GIRLS.

CORRESPONDENCE :—THE MORAL EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG.

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## THE SENTINEL.

### "THE SENTINEL."

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# THE SENTINEL.

## A NEEDED AWAKENING.



THE subject of the legal protection of the chastity of girlhood is at length attracting in Great Britain an amount of attention somewhat commensurate with its importance. It may well be a matter of incredulity to a future age that up to the year 1875 a child of twelve was considered by English law to have reached womanhood so far as regarded the disposal of her purity, and no legal punishment could be meted out to the scoundrel who took advantage of her innocence. But after great exertions on the part of philanthropic persons, the age was raised in that year to thirteen. The revelations of the foreign traffic in English girls followed in 1880, proving that the United Kingdom, on account of the defective state of our law relating to the protection of girlhood, was the favourite hunting ground of procurers for foreign licensed dens of infamy. Then followed the Select Committee of the House of Lords, under the Chairmanship of that Christian nobleman, Earl Cairns, whose Report, issued in July, 1882, contained, amongst other recommendations, one that the age of legal consent should be raised from thirteen to sixteen years.

The added publicity given to the subject by that Report has now enlisted the sympathy of a host of earnest men and women, many of them already distinguished by their philanthropic work; and a society has recently been formed for the special object of agitating for the legal protection of girlhood from the arts of the seducer up to the age of eighteen. The Christian public of the country, in their demand for the amendment of the law, go beyond the recommendation of the Lords' Committee; and we also go with them. Thankful as we are for the step forward which the Lords suggest, we consider it inadequate, and hope that the country will speak out in such terms in the interest of its daughters that the Legislature will not be able to decide upon any lower age than the highest we have mentioned.

As the subject of the protection of girls is expected to occupy the immediate attention of Parliament, we need not make any apology for the space which we give to it this month, in contributions from the pens of those who are entitled to be heard upon it.

## THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF GIRLS.

I.

There is a very sad development of vice which we are told is much on the increase both here and abroad, and which we cannot but think of with the deepest anxiety while we are striving to stir up the public conscience on the terrible subject of the State regulation of vice. We are told that in our streets the number of children who are falling into evil is noticeably increasing, and that there are houses where young ones are immured of 12, 13, and 14 years of age. This information is confirmed by the Police, who yet state that they are powerless to do anything. I am told that scarcely a stone's throw from where I live, and facing one of the largest and best-attended churches in London, is such a house, and behind its darkened windows are children sitting in the shadow of death who have been lured into this den by those who pander to the tastes of the abandoned men who remorselessly devour and destroy these young ones. Their helplessness cries to us, "Is it nothing to you all ye that pass by?" And as we sit in our church listening to words of life and hope, dare we take comfort to ourselves so long as "the blood of the souls of the innocents" cries out from the ground? We dare not push from us this whole subject because it is painful, or because we are afraid of what those round us will say. In the words of the weeping prophet may those children say, "Our eyes as yet failed for our vain help. In our watching we have watched for a nation that could not save us. They hunt our steps that we cannot go in our streets, our end is near. . . . The joy of our heart is ceased." Can we sit still and know that these iniquities go on, and that as our law at present stands there is practically no punishment for those who thus lure girls into evil. Some time ago we were all shocked and startled to hear of the traffic going on in girls between this country and Belgium and France. Good men and women went over to Brussels and investigated the matter, and by their untiring efforts some of the people who had enticed away, with their fraudulent representations, young, and in many cases innocent girls from their own country, were brought to justice. But whose law was it? Were we not twitted at the time with the retort that we had no law that could protect our own girls—that English law is powerless to touch these



traders in human flesh, still less to touch those for whose tastes these wretched traders pander.

After these revelations the House of Lords were so far stirred up that they sat in Committee on the foreign traffic in girls, and also on the question of raising the age of their protection. At present the law considers an orphan and penniless girl able to take care of herself from the age of 13. If a man injures her, unless violence be proved, her consent is assumed, and the man gets no punishment. A young girl we knew was thus injured by her master when she was under 14. In horror and fright she ran home to her step-mother. The case was taken up, and every effort was made to get the man punished. But no, this ignorant child received a life-long injury, and the man knew all the time we could do nothing to him.

If a girl have parents then she has some protection up to the age of 16, as a father may claim compensation for the loss of her wage-earning power. Some time ago a case of this sort occurred. The man was taken up, and he got off finally because he proved that he believed her to be an orphan, and, therefore, there was no protector whose rights he was infringing.

Of course if a girl holds property then the law makes every provision for taking care of her. She can be made a Ward in Chancery, and a man who even marries her honourably can be punished if he has done so contrary to the permission of the Court. But if she have neither parents nor money, who is there in the wide world to be champion for her, to protect the rights of her weakness and childhood? Even could she find in this selfish world such a champion who, for the love of God and humanity would take up her cause, to what law can he appeal? At present to none. But we are glad to know that a Bill is likely to be brought before the House of Lords this session which proposes to deal with this question of raising the age of protection, and also of procuring due punishment for those who lure young girls to their destruction by persuading them either to enter on an evil life here, or to go to foreign countries where they undergo still viler abominations. For do not think this trade in girls has ceased. We have not heard so much about it lately, but those who have inquired most into it assure us that this trade has been discovered to be going on secretly in one country after another, and that many poor European girls have been found in India, sold into the vilest slavery because a fancy has taken rich natives as well as European "gentlemen" with whom the traders are in communication. Let us then by petitions, memorials, or whatever is most effective, show the Lords and Commons that we are watching their Bill with the deepest sympathy and interest, and that we keep a jealous and vigilant eye on any tendency to pare down its provisions. We want minors, both male and female, protected up to the age of 18 at least. If we show

that we care, *they* must care. I think there is no doubt that the many Preventive and Rescue Societies of all sorts that have come into existence the last few years have paved the way for the enlightenment of conscience which has been the prompter of this proposed legislation.

Petitions are now ready for signature, and may be obtained on application to the Reformatory and Refuge Union, 32, Charing Cross, S.W., Arthur Maddison, Esq., Secretary; to the Female Preventive Society, 200, Euston Road, N.W., E. Thomas, Esq., Secretary; to Mrs. Mitchell, 41, Addison Gardens North, Kensington, W.; or to Miss Lydia M. Webb, 18, Hilldrop Road, London, N.

It is earnestly hoped that all who are able will obtain as many signatures as possible, and will try to stir up the various churches and communities to which they may belong to take interest in this matter.

Law is rather a clumsy instrument, yet a just and righteous law does tend to the rise of the moral standard of a nation, just as unjust and degrading laws, like the infamous Acts for the regulation of vice, of which many of us so bitterly complain, debase the general stand-point of morality. But while we are earnest to get good laws made for the Protection of girls, and to get wicked laws which are insulting to *all* women done away, let us remember that this is only a first step in our duty. We are bound *personally* to care for the weak, the unprotected, the tempted. Some of us have not opportunity to do much, but if we all did as much as we have opportunity for, by maintaining a high standard, by giving thoughtful advice to those rising up into youth, by kind and sympathetic words and letters to those who are friendless, in some cases by giving timely shelter and help with money, and by other ways too many to enumerate, but which will soon occur to those whose hearts and thoughts are once set in this direction, this would be a different world, and we might begin to see the answer of our oft-repeated prayer, "Thy kingdom come."

M. H. L. BUNTING.

## II.

The Industrial Schools Act Amendment Act, 1880, empowers magistrates to commit to a certified Industrial School any child apparently under the age of fourteen years "That is lodging, living, or residing with common or reputed prostitutes, or in a house resided or frequented by prostitutes for the purpose of prostitution; that frequents the company of prostitutes." This, as far as it goes, may be good, but it does not attempt to touch the criminal, the man who degrades the little girl, and himself. It only attempts to deal with his victim. In the Recommendations of the Committee of the House of Lords on the Protection of Young Girls, dated July 10th, 1882, it is advised that the law should



rather deal with the criminal, the man. But the Lords only recommend that this should be the case till the girl has reached sixteen. This will never satisfy women who have once given serious attention to the subject, although to men it may seem a great step. I have often moved a Resolution in accordance with this recommendation of the Lords, but I have never yet succeeded in carrying it in an assembly of women. Some mother has invariably moved the amendment that the age should be eighteen or twenty-one, and this amendment has been invariably carried unanimously. This is the more noteworthy because women, with their little experience of public meetings, very rarely move amendments.

The Lords also recommend "That a Police Magistrate shall have power on application of a Police Inspector, and on his affidavit that he has reason to believe that some girl has been so received, and is then in such house or premises, to grant a warrant to such Inspector to search the house or premises, and to bring before him any person offending as aforesaid, and also the girl, and if the magistrate shall commit any person to trial for such offence, he may also bind over the girl to appear as a witness on such trial." Would it not be better steadily to proceed against the keepers of disorderly houses, and possibly to render their owners responsible as under the Sanitary Act, and in closing each house to fine the persons found on the premises, as is done in the case of gambling houses, and only then to remove the children found there to Industrial Homes? The plan recommended by the Lords has a dangerous appearance of tacitly sanctioning disorderly houses where children are not.

There is another recommendation of the Lords which, if really carried out, would probably do as much for the protection of little girls as anything else, although much importance has not yet been given to it. It is "That the soliciting of prostitution in the public streets be made an offence, and the police authorised (query, ordered) to act accordingly, without proof that it is done 'to the annoyance of inhabitants or passengers.'" If this be intended, as the words would appear to imply, to soliciting on the part of men as well as women, which last has hitherto alone been contrary to law, the protection it might be made to afford to young women, and especially to little girls would be incalculable. Few people ever seem to consider the amount of solicitation practised by men, which probably, in any given twenty-four hours, greatly exceeds that practised by women. It is not only that little girls and young women are in the first instance led astray by offers of money, which to them seems enormous, and by kindly sounding merry words so rare in their hard young lives. For the first leading astray of both boys and girls it is probable that members of their own sex are mainly responsible. But the trade in vice is made such a peculiarly easy one, and earning

bread honestly very difficult for women, from the fact that men are now, and always have been, allowed to solicit women and girls, just as much as they feel inclined to do, wherever they come across them unprotected, law affording women and girls no protection whatsoever against this constant annoyance and source of temptation, which as much enters into the profit and loss calculations of the traders in young girls as any other trade incident.

With regard to these recommendations, and the present state of the question, let me recommend the following form of Petition, when there is nothing better to hand.

A. E. N. BEWICKE.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORDS SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE UNDERSIGNED  
SHEWETH:

That your Petitioners are greatly concerned at recent disclosures relative to the appalling increase of prostitution among young girls.

They therefore humbly beg that the corruption of girls under eighteen be made an indictable offence; that it shall be a misdemeanour for any person to receive into any house, or into or on any premises occupied or possessed by him or her, and of which he or she has the management or control, any girl under the age of eighteen years for the purpose of her having unlawful sexual intercourse with any person, whether such intercourse is intended with any particular man or generally; that the laws which authorise the suppression of disorderly houses be rigidly and impartially enforced, and that those persons found resorting there for immoral purposes be made amenable to the law; that the soliciting of prostitution by persons of either sex in the public streets be made an offence, and the police authorised to act accordingly without proof that it is done to the annoyance of inhabitants or passengers.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the law as at present in force may be altered in accordance with the terms of this Petition.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, etc.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, AND  
THE BISHOPS OF LONDON, ROCHESTER,  
ST. ALBANS, AND BEDFORD, ON THE  
LEGAL PROTECTION OF GIRLS.

The following are extracts from recent letters.—

The Archbishop of Canterbury writes:—"I readily promise my support to the Bill, which I hope may soon be introduced into Parliament, to extend the age for the protection of young women from degradation."

The Bishop of London writes:—"You have my ready permission to refer to me as anxious for legislation for the better protection of girls and young women. It is a matter of pressing importance, though in the midst of measures of political and party interest it is very difficult to secure the attention of the Legislature."

The Bishop of Rochester writes:—"My best help will be given towards any legislative measure likely



to be efficient in better protecting women and children; and all efforts in this direction have my sympathy."

The Bishop of St. Albans writes:—"The work in which you are engaged cannot fail to command universal sympathy. In other dioceses besides those you have named (Exeter and Durham) it is being taken up, and I shall use my best endeavours to promote it in my own. I pray that God's blessing may rest upon you and all others who have taken up the cause."

The Bishop of Bedford writes:—"No one can have had even a short experience of work in East London without being convinced how pressing the necessity is for increased safeguards and more effectual legislative action for the protection of the young. You have my hearty sympathy in your efforts."

#### THE WHITE CROSS ARMY.

A Diocesan Committee has been formed at Durham for the purpose of encouraging the formation of parochial branches of "The White Cross Army" for the promotion of social purity, as recommended by the Bishop of Durham in the letter which we published last month. The following rules are recommended by the Diocesan Committee:—

1. That this association be called "The Branch of the White Cross Army."
2. That the object of the association be to promote personal purity among its members, and to raise the tone of public opinion upon the subject.
3. That the management of the branch be intrusted to a committee, consisting of a president, who shall be the incumbent of the parish, a secretary, a treasurer, and other members, who shall be elected at each annual meeting; members of the committee to form a quorum.
4. That no person be admitted a member who is under the age of seventeen years.
5. That members be admitted after being proposed and seconded by members of the branch, and approved by the committee. That every person so admitted, on signing his name, receive a copy of the rules, and at the general meeting next after his admission receive a card of membership, after having made a declaration before such meeting of his intention to adhere to the rules of the branch.
6. That the committee have full power to dismiss from the branch any member, for reasons which shall appear to them sufficient, and to erase his name from the books.
7. That the work of the branch, owing to its delicate nature, be carried on under the direct guidance of the committee, who shall act in union with the diocesan committee, upon the following lines:—The arranging of suitable lectures and addresses to be delivered at general meetings of the branch; the promoting petitions to Parliament on

questions of legislation affecting the morality of the country, when suggested by the diocesan committee; the stimulating, or, if necessary, the undertaking the prosecution of offenders against public morality; and the adoption of any other means approved by the committee.

8. That the expenses be defrayed by a voluntary subscription.

9. That general meetings of the branch be held quarterly, or at such other intervals as may be deemed expedient, and that as many members as possible attend the annual diocesan service.

10. That all meetings held in connection with the branch be opened and closed with prayer.

Each member of the Army makes the following profession before admission:—

I, ———, promise by the help of God—

1. To treat all women with respect, and endeavour to protect them from wrong and degradation.
2. To endeavour to put down all indecent language and coarse jests.
3. To maintain the law of purity as equally binding on men and women.
4. To endeavour to spread these principles among my companions, and to try and help my younger brothers.
5. To use every possible means to fulfil the command, "Keep thyself pure."

Admitted by ———, President. , 188 .

#### SERGEANT BALLANTINE ON THE STATE OF OUR STREETS.

Possibly the following extracts from the life of Serjeant Ballantine, just published, may throw some light on the scandalous state of our streets, and the aid to be expected from the police.

"Not a great many years ago Regent Street and the surrounding localities were frequented by women carrying on a miserable calling. The Quadrant, especially, was rendered almost impassable for decent people. The shopkeepers were up in arms, and bitter complaints were raised against the negligence of the officers. The enquiries, however, set on foot fully explained the reason of this. The constables upon the beat were in the pay of the worst and most troublesome of those who infested the streets, in consideration for which they allowed them to annoy the passengers with impunity; whilst those who were quiet and inoffensive had black mail levied upon them by the most tyrannical and cruel means. If they refused to pay, they were taken into custody, had to pass the night in a wretched cell, were the next morning charged with annoying people and obstructing the footway, and although I know that Mr. Knox, having grave suspicions of the motives of the officers, threw what protection he could over the accused, a fine was often imposed, and further



imprisonment followed in consequence of its non-payment. The wretched victims learned prudence and obtained the necessary license to pursue their unhappy trade. I have seen upon several occasions a female, of the class alluded to, place upon a post or window-sill, a piece of money, and a policeman come up and remove it. At last the scandal attained such large dimensions that it became necessary to transplant the entire division to some other district. I have no means of following their career. They had probably to bemoan among the savages of the East the halcyon days they had enjoyed in the advanced civilization of their former service."

Three pages further on we read as follows:—

"The following is an instance of the somewhat high-handed proceedings of the Home Office in the early days after the institution of the new police. There was a very worthy but not very wise magistrate who presided at Bow Street. He had been guilty of many eccentricities but had escaped censure. It so happened that a constable was charged before him with taking bribes from the keepers of disorderly houses to induce him to suppress warrants entrusted to him to serve. I was instructed by the parish authorities to prosecute. There never was a clearer case, and as it was stated that it was by no means an isolated one the sentence of a month's imprisonment was by no means too severe. Long, however, before this term had expired, the officer was performing his duties as usual, and the magistrate received an intimation that his retirement would be accepted, and his valuable services rewarded with a pension."

Surely such revelations teach us how little reliance can be placed on *police* help in maintaining even outward decency, and the story is emphasised a thousand times in foreign cities. There, as everywhere, whenever the experiment is tried, the police are in the pay of the people they are employed to control. In France and in Brussels they help the licensed keepers to maintain order amongst their slaves, and return to her bondage any poor wretch who tries to escape. In London they levy black mail alike on the girls and the keepers. A moment's reflection teaches us that it must be so. These women, flush of cash and ready in parting with it, will have no difficulty with the police. Men are much belied if they, too, do not take precisely the same method of procuring immunity when (through high spirits, let us hope), they get involved in some unseemly broil.

If gentlemen are really in earnest, let a few of them be sworn in as special constables and see after the matter themselves. Then the police might find it necessary to be vigilant, and, for a time at least, the outside of the cup and platter would be clean. But, after all, is it not the *SIN* that we should seek to abate, and not alone its outward manifestation?

M. STEWARD.

## A POLICY OF DESPAIR.

A Conference of delegates of municipalities has been held at Brisbane, the utterances at which should be a warning to those who think that Law should come to any compromise with licentiousness, or assume towards it any other attitude than that of repression. The speakers pictured in the darkest terms the moral state of Brisbane and other Queensland towns. The Mayor of Brisbane said:—"It was a very humiliating thing to have to acknowledge that this evil was so largely increasing, without their being able to check it. He could remember the time when he had no hesitation in bringing his wife and daughters into Queen Street at nights, but he could not do it now. If the evil continued to grow as it had done, he did not know what would become of the city. It would be worse than the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah."

What action in regard to this condition of things will our readers suppose was suggested and supported by the Conference? Not more summary powers for the suppression of dens of infamy and of solicitation in the streets either by men or women, and severer penalties against the corrupters of youth, but—powers for the *regulation* of houses of ill-fame.

The Mayor of Brisbane's reference to Sodom and Gomorrah reminds us of our painful investigations in the capital of Belgium, as we penetrated in search of perishing English girls beneath the veneered surface of society into "regulated" hells, and came into contact with the hideous moral corruption produced by the abandonment of all idea of the possibility of chastity; a corruption which pervades every class, and of the appalling and hideous nature of which the English mind has no conception except from the hints of the Old Testament Scriptures. Having abandoned the policy of repression (the only legitimate attitude for authority to assume towards immorality) the municipality of Brussels has descended step by step, until by an ordinance with which we will not pollute these pages, it has come to teach women that purity is no more expected of them than of men.

The programme of the Brisbane Municipal Conference, although the delegates to it may not at present be well-informed enough to see it, tends in a similar direction. That programme is a not unnatural sequence of permitting a Contagious Diseases Act to exist in the Colony. The Christian people of Queensland will do well to bestir themselves, and to recognize the vast importance to their future, of the Social Evil being treated on the lines of repression and not of regulation; on lines that will enforce the obligation, the possibility and the benefits of chastity, instead of the degrading regulationist doctrine of despair—the blasphemous doctrine of the necessity of vice.



### THE SOCIAL PURITY MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA.

The Rev. J. C. Kirby, of Adelaide, South Australia, writes :—

"A deputation from the New South Wales Social Purity Society waited upon the Hon. W. B. Dalley, the Attorney-General, suggesting that in the Criminal Law Consolidation Act, now going through the Legislature, the seduction of a female by her employer should be made a misdemeanour, and that the age at which a female may consent should be raised to 16 years. Mr. Dalley promised favourable consideration, and that what amendments could be made should be. The new Act already makes seduction by a teacher or tutor a misdemeanour. This is a gain on the old law.

"Nothing has been said in the new parliament *re* the C. D. Acts. I think the Social Purity movement has given it an effectual quietus. Dr. Jackson's lecture, the distribution of the literature sent by friends from England, and discussion in the press have awakened intense popular objection. Moreover, the new premier, Sir Alex. Stuart, is as much opposed to the C. D. Acts as Sir H. Parkes.

"It appears that some time ago, without the knowledge of the general public, the Victoria Legislature passed a Contagious Diseases Act, but fearful of popular anger, the Government has never attempted to put it in force. The Morality Society of Victoria are now looking up evidence on this matter, and are preparing to demand amended legislation for the protection of young girls and the improvement of morals. The Secretary of the Victorian Morality Society is Mr. J. H. Maddock; the office is at 70, Queen Street, Melbourne.

"A branch of the Victorian Society has formed itself into an independent association to improve the back slums of Melbourne, and as a means to that end will move to have the Licensing and Local Government Acts amended; by their means the Melbourne Town Council have been led to make a special grant of a thousand pounds to cleanse these places.

"This society has written to the Town Clerks of Glasgow and Edinburgh for particulars of the reforms effected in those cities, and for copies of their Acts and regulations.

"In South Australia the Social Purity Society has resolved upon a petition to be signed on separate sheets by adult males and married women, praying the Legislature to amend the laws so as the better to protect the virtue of young girls. It is proposed to have this signed throughout the colony. The petition is now in preparation.

"Mr. B. Scott, the Chamberlain of London, has sent a very valuable letter on the C. D. Acts, which has been copied and sent to the Sydney and Melbourne Societies."

### THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE STATE REGULATION OF VICE.

Our readers will have learnt from the daily press that the motion of the Right Honourable James Stansfeld, M.P., adverse to the Contagious Diseases Acts, was carried on April 20th, in the House of Commons by a majority of 182 to 110. In the majority were nine members of the Government, and a phalanx of unofficial members distinguished for their high personal character, Christian statesmanship, and philanthropy, among whom were the Right Honourable John Bright, the Right Honourable W. E. Forster, Alderman R. N. Fowler, Mr. Samuel Morley, Sir William McArthur and Mr. Alexander McArthur, Mr. J. P. Thomasson, Sir Wilfred Lawson, Mr. S. D. Waddy, Q.C., Mr. Henry Richard, Mr. William Fowler, Mr. Samuel Smith, Sir J. W. Pease, Mr. Arthur Pease, and many others. The Prime Minister was absent from the division, but his two sons, Mr. W. H. and Mr. Herbert Gladstone, voted for the motion.

But although the London morning newspapers of the following day gave the result of the proceedings, it was not possible for any reader to obtain from their columns an adequate idea of the nature of the debate in the House. Indeed, no doubt that many of their readers will wonder why so many capable and distinguished men voted for the motion, when, according to the reports of the speeches, all the facts and conclusive arguments were against it. If debates on Irish subjects are reported with a similar degree of unfairness, it cannot be a matter of surprise if the injustice is keenly resented. But happily the movement for the abolition of the State regulation of vice is not dependent upon the London morning press as a means to carry on its propaganda.

One of the results of this division in the House of Commons will be to charge the air with proposals of compromise. This iniquitous, corrupt and corrupting system will die hard. But on this subject, compromise is impossible. What it is wrong to do, it cannot be right to regulate. What the Divine Law forbids, it is not permissible for human law to sanction by its toleration and supervision. Proposals for compromise will come, but the partisans of regulated licentiousness live in a fools' paradise if they suppose that this question will ever be settled until the abominable laws against which the New Abolitionists contend are utterly swept from the Statute Book of Great Britain.

### FORTHCOMING CONGRESS AT THE HAGUE.

The third Triennial Congress of the British and Continental Federation for the abolition of the State Regulation of Vice, will be held at the Hague from September 17th to 22nd. Many of our readers may wish to attend, and we therefore give this early intimation, in order to facilitate their plans.



## OCCASIONAL NOTES.

We learn that considerable difference of opinion exists among our readers concerning the article which appeared in our last issue on the moral education of the young. Some warmly commend, and some blame us for publishing it. No one denies that it deals with a grave evil. The difference of opinion relates to the desirability or otherwise of thus referring to the subject in these pages. In inserting the article we were aware that we were treading on delicate ground, and the decision to find space for it was come to only after considerable thought, and under a sense of duty. We asked ourselves—as we would ask our readers—“If this serious moral evil is not to be mentioned in *The Sentinel*, where is it to be mentioned?” Without dogmatizing on the subject, we desired to call the attention of parents and educators of youth to it. That having been done, it is not our intention to discuss the matter any further now.

The Hon. John Colton, M.P., and late Premier of the Colony of South Australia, sailed on Friday, 20th April, after a very short stay in London. A President of the Social Purity League in South Australia, friends in London offered him such courtesies as the shortness of his visit permitted. He was entertained by Sir Wm. McArthur, K.C.M.G., and by Mr. Chamberlain Scott, and met at their houses some of the leading friends of the cause of Social Purity in this country. The Lord Mayor also courteously invited him to the Mansion House. It was gratifying to hear from Mr. Colton that the Colony of South Australia is quite aware of the character of our Contagious Disease legislation, so-called; and that there is little probability of the Legislature at Port Adelaide being cajoled into passing the Bill prepared for that Colony. He spoke hopefully of the prospects of Repeal in the Colony of Queensland.

One of the most influential meetings that has taken place for some time at Brighton (says *The Brighton Gazette*) was held at the Masonic Rooms, Pavilion, on April 4th. The meeting was for gentlemen only. It was convened by a private circular signed by the Earl of Chichester; the Venerable Archdeacon Hannah, Vicar of Brighton, and others, and was attended by about 150 of the leading citizens of the town. After an address by Miss Ellice Hopkins, it was unanimously resolved “That in view of the importance of combating by systematic measures the practice of immorality resulting in the moral degradation of women and children, a local association be formed for that purpose.”

As the outcome of four lectures on Christian morality, recently delivered at St. Leonard's and Hastings, at the instance of the local Society for the

Protection of the Young, a Conference has been held at the Town Hall, at which it was resolved to form an Association for the advancement of Social Purity. The lectures referred to were given by (1) the Rev. H. R. Baker, M.A., Vicar of St. Michael and All Angels, Woolwich, (on The duty of Christian Churches in relation to Social Purity; (2) The Rev. H. P. Hughes, M.A., of Oxford (on Immorality *versus* Christianity); (3) Mr. James Ockenden, of London (on Morality and Temperance, a ratepayer's question); and (4) Mr. Henry Varley, one of the editors of *The Christian Commonwealth*, to men only, (on The Advantage and Obligation of Chastity). We understand that one of the things which the Association for the Advancement of Social Purity will insist upon is that personal character should be considered an essential qualification for municipal office.

In the debate on the Rt. Hon. James Stansfeld's Motion in the House of Commons, on April 20th, some incidents took place characteristic of the subject. Mr. Cavendish Bentinck, Ex-Judge Advocate General, and a prominent partizan of the system of protected debauchery for men on the recent Select Committee, declared to the House that “he did not profess to be a moral man,” a statement which was loudly cheered, as an indication, we presume, that he had uttered one fact that no one who knew him would be inclined to dispute. The statement was superfluous so far as the House of Commons was concerned, but it is well that the country should know from his own lips the moral character of one of the chief apostles of these abominable laws. Mr. Bentinck, in his speech, also made a brutal attempt to sully the fair fame of the virgin whom the Government prostitution doctors at Chatham starved into submission to surgical violation (*vide* the sworn declaration of the outraged girl before a Kentish magistrate; the evidence of Mr. Frederic Wheeler, a member of the Society of Friends, before the Select Committee; and the after admissions of the doctors).

On April the 17th, an influential deputation, introduced by the Right Honourable James Stansfeld, M.P., waited upon Earl Derby at the Colonial Office, to protest against, and to ask his intervention to put an end to the licensing of immorality and of houses of ill-fame in the British Colony of Hong Kong. The memorial read to his Lordship reminded him that “The Contagious Diseases Ordinance in that Colony provides for the issue of licenses on payment of four dollars per month to the Colonial Treasury, to carry on with the sanction of law, the vile traffic of prostitution. The houses thus licensed by our Government are forced to distinguish themselves by lamps of a well understood character placed outside their doors. This outrage upon public decency has been a scandal to our professed Christianity, and a bar to



the success of those who endeavour to make the Gospel known to the Chinese."

Among those who spoke in support of the memorial were the Rev. Canon Butler, of Winchester; Dr. Whittle, representing the National Medical Association for the repeal of the C. D. Acts; Mr. George Gillett, Hon. Secretary of the Friends' Association for abolishing the State Regulation of Vice; Rev. Mr. Piper, who had been for six years a missionary in connection with the Church Missionary Society in Hong Kong; Mr. Samuel Smith, M.P., and Mr. Theodore Fry, M.P. There were also among the large deputation Sir Wilfred Lawson, M.P., and Mr. F. Pennington, M.P.

Lord Derby, in reply, said that the objections of the deputation had not so much a local as a general application; their remedy was to convince the House of Commons of the impolicy of the Regulation of Vice. With characteristic common sense he thus recognised the oneness of the system as it exists in Hong Kong and in the British Isles. It is the same system in both places, although in different stages of development. In Hong Kong, where there is no Christian public opinion to be considered, it has been carried to its logical conclusion in the unblushing licensing of dens of licentiousness, and of the women who live in them. We are sorry that Lord Derby, as Colonial Secretary, is content to be a party to such an infamous compact, when it is within his power to put a veto on the system in Hong Kong, whatever may be the policy of the House of Commons in regard to it in Great Britain.

In order to meet constantly recurring applications, the Chamberlain of London has had published in a small pamphlet the article which he contributed to *The Sentinel* of October, 1881 (now out of print), on the relative moral condition of the metropolis and of Continental cities where the system of licensed impurity is enforced. The comparison is greatly in favour of London, where the Chamberlain's experience extends over half a century. The pamphlet may be obtained from the office of *The Sentinel*, post-free, for 1½d., within the United Kingdom or the Postal Union.

Petitions have been signed in all the churches of the Romish Archbishopric diocese of Westminster, by desire of Cardinal Manning, declaring that the laws relating to the protection of young girls are inadequate, and urgently need amendment, particularly in the case of those who are without property, or parents and guardians. The petition urges that the age of protection, now fixed at thirteen years, should be raised in all cases to eighteen years, that it should be made a distinct offence to receive any minor into any house, or upon any premises, for an immoral purpose, or otherwise to promote immoral relations with any minor under the age of twenty-one years,

and asks that the law may be altered for those purposes in the present session of Parliament.

An article, by Miss A. E. N. Bewicke, on the legal protection of young girls, which appeared in *The Sentinel* for June, 1881, has been reprinted (together with the article by her contained in our present number, and the form of petition) to aid in the work of petitioning for an amendment of the law. Copies can be had of Messrs. Dyer Brothers, at the rate of 3s. 6d. per 100, or 8d. per dozen.

## MORAL EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG.

*To the Editor of "The Sentinel."*

Sir,

Having seen in the April No. of *The Sentinel* that a copy of *The Sentinel* for October, 1881, is wanted, I send the No., as requested, to the publishers.

I take this opportunity to state that I have read attentively the article in the April No. headed "The Moral Education of the Young." In reprinting an article from an American periodical you very judiciously guard yourself against "endorsing every expression,"—your purpose being to invite the attention of all having the care of children to the necessity of warning them against evils that they may fall into from ignorance;—but I cannot but think that something more than not endorsing every expression contained in the reprint was demanded, in regard to the enthusiastic lady scientist, who trained her little pupils to dissect, perhaps to vivisect, beetles, humming-birds, squirrels, fish, etc. Surely if it is desirable to instruct a class of children in matters relating to the transmission of life, it would be well for the teacher to avoid practices which will almost inevitably turn the pupils into vivisectors, instead of their becoming such students and observers of Nature as were White, Waterton, Kingsley, etc. If among the many who regularly receive *The Sentinel* there are some, who like myself, are interested in the prevention of cruelty to animals, whether scientific or in so-called sport, I think they will regret, as I do, the countenance apparently afforded by your valuable periodical to a system of instruction which, to say the least, has a tendency to harden the hearts of children, too heavy a price to pay for an early introduction to physiology.

I remain, Sir, faithfully yours,

MARY J. MARTIN.

April 5th, 1883, Rathmines, Co. Dublin.

[We utterly disapprove of operations upon living creatures, and of any practice that would tend to make the human heart callous to suffering.—Ed. of *The Sentinel*.]



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