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DEACON.

LILLIPUTIA.

Recollections of General Tom Thumb's Daily Life and Household.

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Stratton market and Lilliputia, as Tom's place is called nowadays, is situated, lay in Middleborough, a little more than three miles west of Plymouth Rock. As the Mediterranean was our only highway, and Plymouth, and Middleborough, as its name suggests, was once the center of the United States. Intellectually, the Middleborough of Stratton's day was a little more than Middleborough is in a constant whirl of excitement. One day a month, perhaps, a pitchfork was in one side of his bull, and left the pair of steel horns sticking there as a lesson. The next, some school boy would have a blackeet of all blacks with a small b, to the denial of his personality and the substantial of the Pyrenees. The third day, the Selectmen have cut down the two finest trees in town, to make a shed for the Sunday meetings that before. Within a week you hear that some one has made an offer for the Nemasket waterfall.

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THE OLD FIELDS OF LABOR OVERCROWDED

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Not our Madame Nellsons; nor our Mary Andersons; not our Bessie Brambles nor Margie Minchells; not one beauty or authoress; not any of these, but those without talent, without beauty, without money.

What shall we do with them?

The Christian father still wants to know what to do with his five daughters. Well indeed may he inquire and wonder. Girls, since the existence of Eve, have been a source of worriment, to themselves as well as to their parents, as to what shall be done with them. They cannot, or will not, as the case may be, all marry. Few, very few, possess the mighty pen of the late Jane Grey Swisshelm, and even writers, lecturers, doctors, preachers and editors must have money as well as ability to fit them to be such. What is to be done with the poor old ones?

The schools are overpm with teachers, the stores with clerks, the factories with employes. There are more cooks, chambermaids and washerwomen than can find employment. In fact, all places that are filled by women are overrun, and still there are idle women. Our girls are a source of anxiety, depending on them. We cannot let them starve, and they that have full and plenty of the world's goods realize what it is to be a poor working woman, abiding in one or two bare rooms, hoping, and trying to keep warm, while her threadbare clothes refuse to protect her from the wind and cold, and she cannot procure food enough to keep her little ones may not go hungry; fearing the landlord's frown and threat to put out and sell her little goods, if she has, begging for employment and anything to do, and yet, being too proud to pay for the bare rooms she calls home, no one to speak kindly to or encourage her, debts shall be paid, "I'll starve first!" if sin in the form of man comes forward with a kind word and says "fear no more, your debts shall be paid," and the poor little ones' children freeze or starve, and so falls. Well, what shall we do with them? Will it do to say, a comfortable home, a loving husband, sturdy, healthy children, fond friends—shall you marry the first man? It must be so, or surely it would not be cast by one simingly fortunate. Not only the widow, but the poor maiden needs employment. Perhaps father is dead and mother helpless, or just the reverse; or may be have no depending on her exertions, or an orphan entirely, as the case may be.

GIRLS POORLY PAID.

What is she to do? Perhaps she hait not the advantage of a good education, consequently cannot teach; or, providing she is capable, the girl cannot get paid as much, but has the influential friends, gets the preference, and is a successful business clerk. The salary given would not pay for food, without counting rent and clothing. Or her pay is little, she can pay rent, if some instances be better, but from 7 A. M. until 6 P. M., except for 30 minutes at noon, she is shut up in a noisy, unwholesome place. When duties are over for the day, she returns, with aching head, she hastens sadly to a cheerless home. How eagerly she looks forward to pay day, for that little money means so much to her. The next day after day, week after week, slic or well, she depends on that weekly pay. What think you of this, butterflies of fashions, ladies of leisure? The poor girl does not complain, she cannot, she is independent, she does not beg and kiss a pug dog nor judge people by their clothes and grammar; and seem, perfect ladies, but perhaps, more so than many who have had every advantage.

Some say: "Well, such people are used to such things and do not mind it." Ah, yes, Heaven pity them, they are in most cases used to it. Poor little ones put in factories while yet not in their teens so they can assist a sickly mother, or perhaps father is a drunkard or has run away; well they are used to it, but they mind it. They will very quickly see the difference between what they may not touch it; they will very quickly hear your boys and girls talking among about their exquisite taste in dress, and they mind it as much as you would, perhaps more. Let the rich and poor, just think of what that vast sum would have done for the poor little factory girl, but bought mother a new dress, shoes for the little ones, and imagine how nice it would be could they have the best food and a home for your favorite pup, or the case and kindness that is bestowed upon it.

But what is to be done with the girls? Mr. Quiet Observations says: "In China they kill girl babies, but we, in this, our Christian country may have to resort to this alternative." Would it not be well, as in some cases it would save a life of misery and sin and many a lost soul?

IF GIRLS WERE BOYS

quickly would the question of them where they will, they can, if ambitious, win a name and fortune. How many wealthy and great men could be pointed out who started in the depths; but where are the poor girls? Not a youth start as errand boy and he will work his way up to the top of the firm. Girls are just as smart, a great deal quicker to learn; why then, not they have the same? As all occupations for women are filled why not start some new ones. Instead of putting girls into factories let them be employed in the capacity of messengers boys or office boys. It would be healthier. They would be taught to learn; their ideas would become broadened and they would make as good, if not better, women in the end. It is asserted by storekeepers that women make the best clerks. Why not employ them at summer travelers? They can talk as well its men—at least, men claim that it is a noted fact that they talk a great deal more and faster. If their ability at home for selling exceeds a man's why not employ them abroad? Their lives would be brighter, their health better, their pocketbooks fuller, unless their employers would give them half as much salary as they would give men.

We have in mind an incident that happened in a city not a thousand miles off. A position that had always been occupied by men, paid for the sum of $18 a day. Her employer stated that he never had anyone in the same position that was as accurate, quick and thoroughly satisfactory in the position; however, as she was "just a girl" he gave her $5 00 a week. Some call this inequality.

The position of conductor on the Pullman Palace cars is a very clean and good paying business. Why not put girls at it? They do many things that is more difficult and more responsible than that of the banks, where so many young men are employed.

GIVE THE GIRLS A CHANCE.

They can do all that men can, and, as a gentleman remarked, "It would have a purifying effect on the conversation." Some people claim that it would be a great blessing, where she will not be protected. In being a merchant traveler or filling similar positions a true woman would be safer if anywhere, as easily on the road as behind the counter, as easily on the road as behind the desk in office or factory. In such positions, receiving men's wages, she would feel independent, in comfortable rooms, no more pinching and starving, no more hard work for little pay, in short, she would be a woman and would pay for her table to forget the duty she owed to her own true womanhood as one pinched by poverty and without means of support, would be glad to accept a field for believers in women's rights. Let them forego their lecturing and writing and go to work; more work and less talk. Take some girls that have the ability, progress for them situations, start them on their way, and by so doing accomplish more than by years of talking. Instead of gathering up the weak-minded young men, rather let the real smart girls, pull them out of the mire, give them a shove up the ladder of life, and be amply repaid both by their success and unforgetfulness of those that held out the helping hand.

However visionary this may sound, those interested in the subject and wonder what to do with the girls might try it. George M. Pullman has tried and succeeded in bettering this poorer class. Some of the purse-filled citizens might try it by way of variety, for, as some one says: "Variety is the spice of life. It is the salt of the vipids of life;" we long for it, except when it comes in the form of a dish of hot potatoes on dinner table. We shall talk of amusements for our girls after we find them employment.

OLIVAN GIRL.

PITTSBURG FREIGHTS.

Statements of New York Merchants About the Delay in Shipments to This Point and Vicinity.

NEW YORK, January 24.—When the Railroad Commission gave a hearing in this city to merchants and railroad officials relative to the diversion of outgoing freight by roads in the pools, the commissioners gave the merchants two weeks of time in which to submit supplementary statements in support of their charges against the roads. The merchants intimated their intentions to a committee, who met to-day as agreed upon to file supplementary report to the commission.

The report calls attention to the sworn statement of John H. Hillman, who looks after shipments for the firm of Ball, Black & Claflin & Co., which is submitted in refutation of the claim made before the commission by the representatives of the railroads that all losses and damages were prompt and full, and also as evidence of the injurious annoyances and delays attending shipments by reason of insufficient facilities at the point of shipment.

The statement of Mr. Hillman says his duties bring him in contact with the agents of the different freight lines, and he thinks their method of business as well as he is acquainted with the delay of shipments, amounts, in consequent to the diversion of freight. He stated that, in addition, there were other causes, which have led to the great lack of attention to tracing goods reported not received—months passing in many instances before the goods are found, and, to a great delay in the settlement of just claims, Hillman furnished instances.

The report goes on to say: Commissioner Fink stated at the hearing that the diversion of freight from the pools and other diversions complained of from lines having direct routes, had been stopped. Exhibits were submitted showing that goods actually shipped by the Star Union line January 3, 1885, to Pittsburg and diverted by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, had not arrived up to the 17th inst. Another exhibit showed that merchandise shipped January 10 by the Star Union line to Massillon, O., and diverted to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, had not arrived January 17, and that goods to Bellefontaine, Ohio, September 30, 1884, by Star Union line, Pittsburg line were never received by the consignee, and the loss to January 15 was unsettled. In view of these facts the report says there can be no question of the existence of serious grievances of which the merchants of New York complain, of the fact of the importance of a complete remedy. The shippers select a transportation line for the advantages it claims over others, and diversions therefrom should be prohibited. Bills of lading should definitely fix the responsibility for loss or damage. If the pooling system cannot be conducted without diversions, uncertain liabilities and other iniquities which it now characterize it, it should be abandoned; and if the rights of shippers cannot be conserved, and their wrongs redressed under the existing laws other should be enacted.

MRS. JESSIE FRAZEN, wife of Professor John S. Frazer, at one time professor of English literature in Western University, will present a prospector in the Chicago Athenaeum, on the 29th of January, on the evil of alcoholic habitual intemperance and non-support.

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