

A TRAINING-SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

BY FULLER-WALKER, M. D.

A training-school for girls has been opened on East Tenth street, New York, near Mr. Stewart's great up-town store, which is well worth telling the world about, since it promises to solve one of our most serious domestic problems. The object of the school is to teach girls how to do housework, and any respectable girl of any nationality or religion, can go to the school free of expense. Indeed, the arrangements are such that most of the girls can support themselves while they are being educated, since they are enabled to earn considerable money in the school. The idea of originating this school started with a wealthy and benevolent lady, Mrs. Hodges, who has a large house on Fifth Avenue, in the same block with Rutgers College. At first she only thought to teach girls how to work on the sewing machine, and for this purpose took them into her own house, where she had several large and unused rooms. Some of her friends told her the experiment was a dangerous one, that the girls would prove dishonest, ungrateful, etc. A trial showed that these fears were groundless. The girls were only too glad of an opportunity to learn, and were as kind, grateful, and polite as women in any class of society. The same warm heart and tender impulses were found beneath the dress of calico as the robes of purple and fine linen.

Coming in contact with the girls, and having them talk over their troubles, Mrs. Hodges came to know the wants of her sex better than she otherwise would have done. Her school for sewing rapidly increased, and in a short time she felt obliged to rent a large room on Broadway, where she soon had sixty sewing machines running. Then it was that the discovery was made that a girl cannot earn enough money on a sewing machine, in New York city, to give her a comfortable and honorable support. After a hard week's work had been done, and the wages divided among the girls, each received about \$3.25. Mrs. Hodges was surprised at this result, and made inquiries of the manufacturers, to learn if they paid her their usual prices. Learning that they did, that the sewing market is glutted, and the needle is no longer woman's best weapon, she determined to seek other fields of labor for the girls. The truth is, that in New York a large number of Germans, Hebrews, Bohemians, and Irish work on the sewing machine, both men and women, and they keep these instruments in constant motion, day and night, Sunday and all. The whole family is busy, and a visitor to a large tenement house in New York will find it buzzing like a beehive, from cellar to roof, with the whirl of sewing machines, driven by stout men and boys. How can a poor girl hope to compete with such a tide of opposition?

Knowing the difficulty which exists among housekeepers in obtaining good servants Mrs. Hodges finally resolved to teach such girls as came to her how to cook, to wash, iron, and do dining-room work. To this list of practical accomplishments she added penmanship, bookkeeping enough to enable girls to become clerks in stores, and phonography. To this end the whole of a large house on East Tenth street was rented, and fitted into a training school for girls. A range was put into the kitchen, large enough for a family of two hundred, and a French gentleman was employed to instruct the girls. He has had a large experience as head cook at one of the most aristocratic hotels in New York. The education of the girls in cookery is not confined to fancy French dishes, but rather to those plain, wholesome and palatable dishes common upon the tables of most well-to-do Americans. All the dishes are prepared in the presence of the girls, and frequent lectures are given on the nature of foods, and the best methods of compounding and working them. The girls work in the kitchen as well as in the tea-room or restaurant, which is connected with the school. No special time is required before a girl can graduate, each learning according to her capability. As a rule, from three weeks to a month is spent in the kitchen. And as fast as the girls are educated places can be found for them. The coun-

try sends to New York for domestic servants; but, as a rule, girls decline to live in the country, preferring New York with all of its attractions and disadvantages.

In the laundry department of the training school, a week or ten days suffices to teach those willing to learn the mysteries of washing and ironing. Good laundresses are in constant demand in New York, at wages as high as \$1.25 a day. Frequently an order is sent to the school for a dozen girls capable of washing and ironing. We have inspected the work done by these girls, and know it to be of a quality to gladden the eyes of all neat housekeepers who love to see spotless linen. Already this school has enabled from four to five thousand girls to earn a livelihood, thus removing them from the temptations which beset the poor and friendless. The best thing a girl can have in New York is a comfortable home, with plenty of work and good wages.

Girls of all nationalities and religions, so they are respectable, are admitted to the school. We saw Americans, English, Swedes, Germans, Bohemians and Irish working side by side. The friends of many German and other foreign girls arriving in America frequently take them directly from Castle Garden to the school, that they may learn at once the American method of keeping house. But for this opportunity they might seek in vain for the instruction needed, being compelled to occupy inferior and poor paying positions for years, because ignorant of American cookery. Thus it will be seen that this school is a blessing in more ways than one. It is doing a great missionary work in saving girls. All the influences and surroundings of the school are refined and gentle. The parlors are neatly fitted up, and in the library there is a good collection of books, with most of the magazines and religious papers on file. Many ladies of high positions in New York are taking a personal interest in this school, while ladies in Philadelphia, Savannah and other cities propose to inaugurate similar institutions. All the cities in the country need schools which shall accomplish the same ends, where both housekeepers and servants can be properly educated. With an improvement in American cooking and housekeeping we expect to see an increase of health and happiness in all circles. We wish a God-speed to every institution which enables men or women to work out their own salvation—physical or spiritual.—*Christian Union*.

Death of a Celebrity.

"General Dot," a celebrated American dwarf, on exhibition in Paris, died recently at the Hotel Des Etrangers, 81 Puebla street, in that city; he was buried on the 11th of November, in the cemetery of Cayenne.

The coffin of an infant was too large for the poor little General; a cigar box would have been amply sufficient. His funeral was attended by the generality of the living phenomena which are exhibited at the local festivities of the towns in the vicinity of Paris.

A giant, seven feet four inches high, the most intimate friend of the deceased, was the bearer of his coffin, which he carried delicately in the right hand, weeping bitterly. Then walked a showman, an American by the name of Gibbs; then an individual well known by the denomination of the "sugar-loaf fellow," whose long tapering head delights the spectators at all the fairs; then the "skeleton man," and a woman with three arms, and last of all four or five learned dogs, the great favorites of the General, and which, as well as poor Dot, were exhibited by Mr. Gibbs.

This singular funeral procession walked, leaped, hobbled and trotted through the streets with a very sorry deportment, to the great amazement of the passers-by; and on their return from the cemetery they were ordered by the police to disperse, an order which was immediately obeyed.

LOUIS A. BERTRAND.

The World calls attention to the predictions of Disraeli as to the gathering of politico-religious storms in Europe, and expresses its belief in the certain coming of widespread revolution that will involve Russia in the strife. It sees

black clouds rising over Madrid, Paris, and even Berlin where the prizes of Alsace and Lorraine fail to bring peace to perturbed Germany, which, divided against itself on the anti-Papal war which Bismarck openly declares to be exterminating, only lends fuel to the rising flame that threatens general revolution and ruin.

A warrant was lately issued at Peekskill, N.Y., for the arrest of Herman Summers, teacher of a young ladies' private school there, on account of his having violently bitten the ear of Miss Arminda Mason, by way of punishment. Summers is a young man on the right side of thirty, with a picturesque, dark moustache and side whiskers, and has taught in the academy for five years. He has been in the habit, during all that time, of biting girls' ears after scolding them, but in Miss Mason's case blood was drawn. If remonstrated with, he would laugh and say that he would as soon eat a good square meal of girls' ears as of anything else. In most other respects he is said to be a good teacher.

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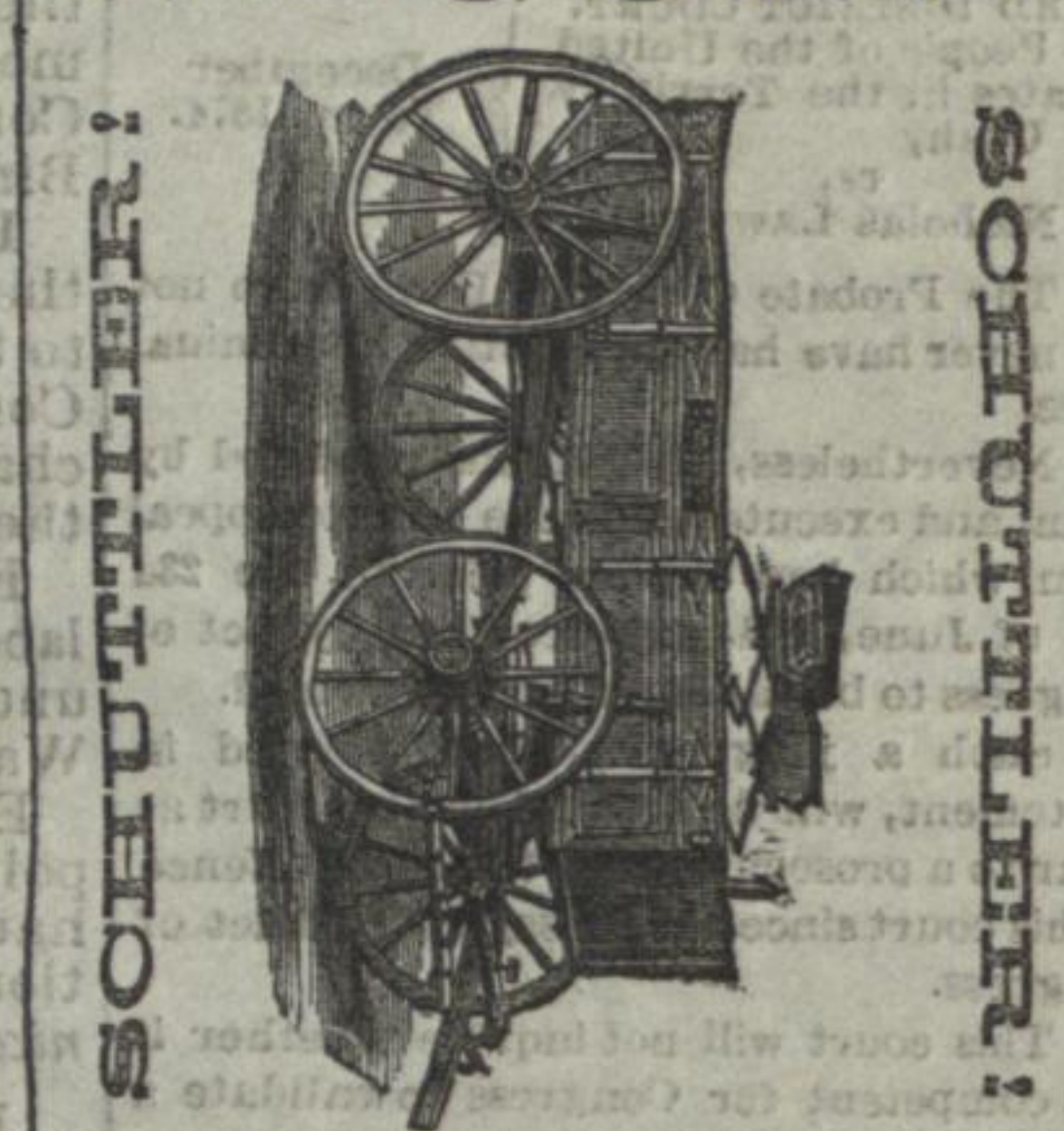
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