Pages

Chicago

SUNDAY MORNING. AUGUS

CITY SLAVE GIRES.

A "Times" Reporter Gets Into a Paper-Box Manufactory That Puzzles and Bewilders Him.

He Finds Little Children Toiling Away for a Miserable Pittance of \$2 or \$3 a Week.

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The Employers Are Not Altogether to Blame for Having the Unfortunate Youngsters at Work.

A Proposition of Marriage to a Pretty and Brainy Seamstress Is Taken Under Consideration.

Correcting an Erroneous Impression that "Nell Nelson's" Articles Are Not Founded on Fact.

Nothing short of a Philadelphia lawver, a Chicago health officer, a proprietor, or a "devil-chaser" that hits the spot once in a thousand times could without a guide explore the labyrinth that is known as H. Schultz & Co.'s paper-box manufactory, 34 to 38 East Randolph street. If occupies only the three upper floors of a four-story building, but the stairways are so dark and narrow that one must grope his way from somewhere to a supposititious somewhere else. which resembles nowhere when he gets there because the rooms are so overcrowded with material that, one employe cannot in many instances see her nearest neighbor two yards away.

Of the 120 employes ten are mere girls, who get from \$2 to \$3 a week, while the others areceive from \$5 to \$7.50. Each girl keeps her own account-book and at -the request of the proprietor submitted it to inspection. It showed the exact amount the owner had been paid each week for many weeks. One advantage of working in this stuffy place is that there is work the year around.

Mr. Schultz had the usual explanation to make as to the employment of young boys and girls, and no doubt made it truthfully. Their parents needed their assistance and would sign any sort of a certificate as to age, and supplement it with personal solicitation asking employment as a charity. In extreme cases he negotiated a compromise with his judgment, as most manufacturers do, and gave the child employment.

What kind of work do you do?" a group of five boys was asked at the noon hour.

'All but him binds packages; he glues."

"How old are you " > "We's pretty old and gettin' older all de

The closets are separate and fairly decent. The ventilation is bad.

"I am a man of few words and you have no time to lose, so I will proceed direct to business. Do you want to get married?"

The proposition was made by a TIMES reporter to an attractive young woman employed as a seamstress in a custom shop on the fourth floor of S. Nelson's building at the southwest corner of Wesson and Hobbie streets, on the North side.

The reporter had seen the young woman but once before, and after that meeting the following paragraph was printed in THE

Times on Aug. 13: "An intelligent trio, evidently good

and of course the visitor could. "This man is a blonde, tall, somewhat portly, and a widower with three cluldren," he began.

"Can't you make it five? She just dotes on children. If she won't take him I'll be No. 2 and run for the chance. Can't you induce him to call here? We are tailoresses here, but when we appear on the

"Well, what are we then?" asked the girl

with the light hair.
"Why, then—then we are ourselves.
What time is it?"

Seventeen minutes to 1 o'clock."

"Then we have just two minutes to live," and the trio began preparations for renewing their toil after the forty-five minutes allowed for lunch. The author of the letter- might wait a long time before finding a brighter or better head for his household than this girl ancestors worshiped Ther and Woden

"Nell Nelson," in a recent article in THE TIMES, described the trousers manufactory of K. B. Oleson, on Sedgwick street near Diof K. D. Oleson, on series was a sement frame, vision, as a two-story and basement frame, the stories being used for girls and the base-theat for horses. This is true as to the girls, and only the qualifying expression "in part is needed to make it fit the basement, the rear portion of it being used for stabling, with all that the werd implies. Miss Nelson, it will be remembered, worker an afternoon at this place making a pair of trousers for 5 courses and of the stable place making a pair of trousers. for 5 cents, and after relating her experience quoted the words of a young woman who sat at the same table and who complained that the shop was cold.

Of course the girl had no idea that her language was to appear in print and spoke carelessly. But Mr. Oleson was displeased carclessly. But Mr. Oleson was displeased and the girl was promptly discharged from his employ. The Knights of Labor were notified and so was The Times. Yesterday a reporter was instructed to investigate the case and if the facts were as reported to assure the girl, whose name is Mary Kane, that The Times would secure for heganother and better position.

Mr. Oleson was found on the upper floor

of his shop and pretty mad yet, though he had had a week to cool off-in. But he soon quieted down, led the way to the office in the basement, and sent for Foreman Matson. Then THE TIMES article was read and lib-erally commented on. Matson doing most of the talking because he could turn sharp corners in English a trifle more skillfully

than Oleson.

"Mary Kane has left but she awasn't exactly discharged," said Oleson. "If the rooms are cold in winter why didn't she complain to me instead of 'Nell Nelson'?

I know they are cold at times, but not for half a day. I frequently feel chilly myself in the early morning. I know the house is

not a model; it was built directly after the fire and needs many improvements. Why didn't Mary Kane complain to me?"

"She preferred no charges against you. In a casual way she stated to a table-mate that the shop was cold in winter, as you now acknowledge. The situation is this: If you have discharged Mary Kane because of a chance-word The Times will see to it that she immediately secures a situation in some other shop."

After a few moments Mr. Oleson said the girl was one of the best in his employ, that nothing could be said against her work or her character, and he would be willing to,

take her back.

"You may tell Mary Kane she may come
"You may tell she wishes to. I don't want to do anybody any injustice. All I had against her in all the years she worked for me was that remark about my shop being cold."

"But I may not see her, as she is away

from home."
"Well, just go over and tell her mother that it's all right and Mary can go to work when she likes."

It was the work of an hour, but no bull-dozing or pleading was used. The case was

s ench crcaps the twenty-ave girls employed, and is gratuitously distributed among the patrons of the sidewalk above. In every instance The Times has given names and street numbers, so that any person taking an interest in the labor question, and having the slightest doubt as to the truthfulness of the reports could satisfy himself with but little trouble. Of course it must be understood that there is a difference between. is a difference between.

"Sapho at her toilet's greasy task,
And Sapho fragrant at an evening mask."
The shops and factories have been seen by
THE TIMES as they are from day to day. As The Times as they are from day to day. As a result of the inspection hundreds that were in an unsavory condition a monthrago have been placed in a cleanly and fairly sanitary condition. It nothing else should be accomplished by this investigation the results would amply repay the effort to better the condition of the working women. But more marked results are to come. marked results are to come.

marked results are to come.

All laundries are not disagreeable. That of Munger, at 520 West Madison street, is clean, airy, and the employes give evidence of Vidiness and thrift. The women usually start in at about \$4 a week and increase their wages to \$6 and \$8 in a few years. Much of the work is done by the piece. One girl gets 14 cent for starching a man's shirt, another 3s cent for ironing the bosom, another the same price for ironing the body, and still another 1/2 cent for ironing the collar-band and folding. Most of this work is done by machinery run by steam. Closets and yentilation are all that could be asked. At the Oriental laundry, on West Madi-

At the Oriental laundry, on west Manison street, of which E. Jennings is proprietor, there are eighty women and twenty men employed. Quite a number of the women are past their prime, but some are young and looking ahead. One jolly woman of 62, who has worked eighteen years in this establish-ment and earns from \$5 to \$7 a week, said the only way to increase wages was to stop immigration. She was quite a philosopher in her way. The range of wages is from 87½ cents a day to \$5 a week. It is here that the laundering is done for the Pullmary Palace Car company at least 20 000 Pullmarr Palace Car company, at least 20,000 pieces being handled daily. They are returned to the different depots by delivery wagons and in bales. One bale contains 200 sheets, another 900 pillow-ships, and a third 1,400 towels. Most of the curtains for the Pullman cars are made on the upper floor of this busy building the sewing girls averaging about \$7 per week. Everything possible is done by machinery. The star-ways are lighted and ample. There are fire escapes. The closets are separate and in good condition. In short, the establishment is well arranged throughout.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Miss Willard's Views.

Miss Willard's Views.

TO THE EDITOR: The press report of my address before the Knights of Labor in Evanston last evening fails adequately to set forth the plan I have in mind for releving the frightful situation brought to public knowledge through the knadly columns of Trie Thirs and Moil.

My thought is this: By concerted action of the ballot-box such municipal officers can be elected as will adopt and enforce an ordinance for the protection of women and children from the industrial atroctices against which they are poweriess to protect themselves.

Employers can be required to provide suitable.

to protect themselves.

Employers can be required to provide suitable tribet-rooms, lunchrooms, fire-scapes, adequate light and ventilation and "chow-room" for all employer, the hours of work to be franted. Next in order, some legal plan should be devised to scare wages that will rover the cost of board, fuel, and food and clothing and lodging. Such state and numicipal laws should, of course, include the appointment of inspectors to see to their enforcement.

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I be live the "Woman's league" of the city, recently organized and in which about severally societies of women, with an aggregate menters of the city of thousands, have already manifested an interest, would gladly underrake thes work. As the Woman's Christian Temperature muon har been the moving force to provide police matrins at the police headquariers and the Woman's club gave the impetus that resolved in the Protective Agency for Women's glid Children, so this league might bring about this new work of inspection, which under rightness leavened desired.

dep'et the seenes and incidents in these establements where every young voman of great and hands me face; soon learns that her private to toil for barely enough to say sty hungeride, upon her readness to grant/favors to the point to toil for barely enough to say sty hungeride, upon her readness to grant/favors to the point at be. To earn barely enough to feed be must become an expert at her work and their is silence at her highest rate of speed, subjethe time to rules which subtract from her me carnings for the least infraction, while an into tail and often brutalized boss scoles, handle insults, and abuses her at his pleasure.

If you doubt the veracity or accuracy of Nelson turn to the foorth bienmal report of Nelson turn to the foorth bienmal feet of Nelson turn to the foorth foot of the feet of these slave pens, Jepuning who they were their mission, returned them admission to workshops and would nelled, permit them the employers justified themselves for patting got ertain work which required the strength of on account of the cheaper was so for which end outd not. And this was in a cleak manuface rand work, because they could make a per their living upon the strength of and the strength of the foot of the feed of the feed of the foot of the feed of the fe

eyes a little of the glamor of protection to?" an immustries" to dignify and encookie An

labor."

Do you ask why this pittance of yazz slave-like servitude and degradation, is suffer. It is submitted to because the gaunt hunger is gnawing at the vitals. It is suffer and lood, and by the girl because their and lood, and by the girl because desk of her employer is a hongry, stathroug, ravenous for her bread and enterproper is a being of the control of t

THE DOCTORS DISAGREE.

There is a decided difference of op There is a decided difference of of among the physicians at the county is regarding the disease with which A Johnson is afflicted. Dr. Earle is thone who believes it to be leprosy. Dr. mer, who has charge of the case, says his judgment it is an aggravated chipus vulgarus, a skin disease cats into the desh and Johnson leers blotches on the patient's tree and bod dissimilar in appearance and are not it. blotches on the patient's face and bod dissimilar in appearance and are not at lar on the surface, as in typical leprosy Wittmer thought that there might be a bination of loathsome diseases, but it a require some days study of the cond before it could be definitely decided what the matter was

what the matter was, Drs. Wittmer, Earle, Allport,

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The closets are separate and fairly decent. The ventilation is bad.

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"I am a man of few words and you have no time to lose, so I will proceed direct to business. Do you want to get married?

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porter to an attractive young woman employed as a seamstress in a custom shop on the fourth floor of S. Nelson's building at the southwest corner of Wesson and Hobbie streets, on the North side.

The reporter had seen the young woman but once before, and after that meeting the following paragraph was printed in THE Trmes on Aug. 13:

"An intelligent trio, evidently good friends, gathered in a corner and between bites talked freely. One was a thorough American, lided on May street, and walked back and forth from her work, the round distance being fully three miles. Another, whose yellow hair-bespoke an ancestry from the region of the midnight sun, walked about the same distance. Many an avenue belle would give half ber inheritance for the form, face, and figure, to say nothing of the brains, of this every-day sewing girl, wearing out her young life for \$6.a week. But she made no complaints. Independence more than compensated her for the hardships of the weary day.

Usually "popping the question" is a trying ordeal to a man, even when none but the two parties most interested are present. What must it have been in this case when half a-score of pairs of bright eyes were gazing in astonishment and as many ears were trained to catch every syllible? Usually foo, the woman addressed is very much embar-rassed, or seems to be. This one was not. With a musical laugh, followed by an interrogation point, she awaited further developments, Emma, the American girl, rallying her good-naturedly the while.

"You know you want to get married," said Emma. "Why don't you say 'yes?"

Not wishing to prolong the agony beyonda proper limit the reporter produced the following letter:

CHICAGO, Aug. 13,77TO THE EDITOR: One who reads your articles with more than passing interest and who deeply sympathizes with the cause of honest labor has sufficient romance in his "make-up" to perform his part in assisting the young lady of brains referred to, and, if honesty of purpose, good bringing up, etc., accompany the brains the lady can find at the head of an honest, temperate workingman's home a peace and comfort not found in "wearing out her young life" in pursuit of a mere existence. This Is in good faith, and any acknowledgment of it full call forth - confidentially, of course - the

anne and polaress of the writte.

1. 12 was line posting to write the play of the Just cuttosity was uppermost; then came an expression of sadness as the passages expressing sympathy for honest labor were reached, and finally a slight flush and a smile as she read the offering clause.

"Will you accept?"

"Don't you do it at once," said Emma, tantalizingly. "Keep him waiting for a while till he gets real anxious."

"Who is the writer?" asked the girl to whom the letter referred. "He must live where girls are scarce."

"The letter is dated and postmarked Chi-

"Well, I should like to see the writer. - It takes something more than temperance and honesty to make a man. I shall not embrace the present opportunity to answer."
"Nor the man either?"

"Nor the man either," she said with a merry laugh as she caught the gentler force of the play upon the words.

"Will you answer the letter?"

"I will take it under advisement, as poli-

ticians say,"
"If you don't accept turn the letter over to me," chimed in Emma. And then noticing the grounds in her coffee cup she added:

"Can you tell fortunes?" Everybody on THE TIMES tells fortunes, chance word. The Times will see to it that the immediately secures a situation in some

other shop."

After a few moments Mr. Oleson said the girl was one of the best in his employ, that nothing could be said against her work or her character, and he would be willing to,

You may tell Mary Kane she may come to do anybody any injustice. All I had against her in all the years she worked for me was that remark about my shop being cold."

"But I may not see her, as she is away from home.

"Well, just go over and tell her mother that it's all right and Mary can go to work when she likes."

It was the work of an hour, but no bull-dozing or pleading was used. The case was squarely discussed on its merits, and if Mary Kana, whom all the markly as individual. Kane, whom all the neighbors, including Oleson himself, say is a steady, industrious, and thoroughly deserving girl, the shop today she can have herold seat and at the same time the consciousness that she has not compromised fierself or been com-promised in the least. Both Oleson and Matson, will be glad to welcome her back, which is much to their copie.

FACTS NOT FANCIES.

"The Times" City Slave Girl Exposures

"Are not the 'white slave' articles in The Times somewhat sensational?"

The man who asked the question was Charles L. Hutchinson, president of the board of trade and also president of the Corn Exchange bank.: The reporter for THE TIMES, to whom the question was addressed,

answered it in this manner:

"Yesterday, accompanied by an inspector from the health department, I visited and inspected the Doremus laundry at 269 and 271. South Paulina street. The front is a two-story, brick, a new building only partially occupied as yet, but the work-shop is an old three-story frame in the rear. Here about ninety girls and ten men work ten hours a day, and three of the girls are less than 15 years old. Last week 'three of 'the girls succumbed to the heat, one of them being so completely prostrated that she had to be sent home in a carriage. upright box on the second floor, called by courtesy a closet, is disgustingly unclean, but it is a summer resort as compared with the one on the third floor. At the time of my visit not a particle of water flowed? into it, and it could only be flushed and cleaned by means of buckets' full of water, brought by hand and dumped into it. It was nobody's business to bring in this water. Seldom was it fetched at all. Your imagination can supply the rest. On this door are employed some forty women and several men. The city ordi-nance requires that there shall be separate closels and that these shall be at least one

cluster for every twenty employes.

This is enough to be give damp the premises. And there me gives a form and anothems. Back of this horrible hole is a storage room filled with an accumulation of rubbish that would smell to heaven were it not for fact that it is too near hades for aught but a fact that it is too near hades for aught out a cyclone to cover the intervening distance. There is scant room for two persons to pass each other. And yet in this filthy hole the girls remove their street clothes on entering girls remove their street clothes on entering the establishment in the morning, and in this same hole they don them at the end of the day's toil. The least experienced, goes through this ordeal for \$3 a week. Older hands endure it for \$5 \$6, \$8, and in one or two exceptional cases for \$13 a week. I will guarantee to prove every statement I have made to you by the propri-etors themselves. Is there anything sensa-tional in this statement?"

Another sample institution is Loomis' laundry, at 193 and 195 West Monroe street, comprising a one-story and basement shanty. If any man has a particle of doubt as to the truthfulness of The Times' repre-sentations he can visit this or any other establishment that has been inspected and see for himself. In the wash-room in the basement men and women wade around in slops half an inch deep. The only redeem-ing feature of the disgusting premises is that one of the dirtiest of the dirty closets is under the sidewalk, some four feet removed from the windows, so that a part of the l

that attoethes against while a they are power-ess to protect themselves.

Employers can be required to provide suitable tailet-rooms, lunch-rooms, fire-essapes, adequate light and ventilation and "elbow-room" for all employer, the hours of work to be handed. Next in order, some legal plan should be devised to secure wages that will cover the cost of board, red, and food an I-clothing and lodging. Such state and municipal laws should, of course, include the appointment of inspectors to see to their enforcement. pointment of inspectors to see to their enforcement.

I be is ve the "Woman's league" of the diry, recently organized and in which about severaly societies of women, with an aggregate isem tership of thousands, have already main tested an interest, would gladly indemanae this work. As the Woman's Christian Temperation amon hat been the moving force to invoide police matrins at the police headquarters and the Woman's club gave the rappetus that resulted in the Protective Agency for Vomen and Chiddren, so this leaguagnight bring about this new work of inspection, which under rightforus haw would deliver from other present thraftelm the "white slaves" of whose hard lot the average Christian woman has not been litherto aware. Yours to justice, not charty. Frances E. Williard, President Woman's League of Chicago.

Go to Dakota and Get Married.

President Woman's League of Chicago.

Go (o Dakota and Get Married.

The Clitacao Thures is making an expose of the city slave girls' Jenales at work in the factories of Chicago. It shows their lot is hard and much that the' pave to endure. Why do not these girls get away from Chicago? Fargo would gladly welcome to confortable homes at least two hundred girls if they come with knowledge of housekeeping. This number could command good places at from \$2 to \$4 per week, according to proficiency, the year round. A thousand girls could find comfortable places in welst-ode families along the Northern Pacific railroad between Fargo and Sismarck. Why will these "slave girls' persist in wearing their lives away in 30 ventilated rooms among a throng of overworked and poorly paid companions in misery? Come to Dakota, where the life, giving propertice of pure ozone are free for all. The Clitacao Tiaris exhibits commendable enterprise in its expose, but to better the element for yeeks as well as girls is far in excess of the sumply. This is honest every word of it, and the Arms guarantees a home for every honest girl whing to work, not as "salesadies, but honest ow his good families as murse-girls, semistresses, cooks, and housekeepers. There is work for all and good, pay, besides, the head-girling broczes of the boundless prairies gyrantee perjectual youth and permanent bloom. Fargo Argins.

Getting Worse Every Year. Go to Dakota and Get Married,

Getting Worse Every Year,

CHICAGO, Aug. 18.—To THE TOUTOR: If any one will take the trouble to investigate the condi-tion of those who are compelled to work for a invtion of those who are compelled to work for a mying—men.as well as women—they will find that their chances are getting worse every year. Especially is this the cass with those who lack proper education and the necessary desires to promote personal comfort, and it is quite evident that it will grow worse as long as the government allows unrestricted immigration and then allows the shrewd to take advantage of the ignorant and helplesse. It seems to me that if we had a law to fix the maximum amount to be resulted as profit on investments, and, another that would put a proper restraint upon finnigration, the people of this country would soon be in a far better condition than they now are.

A Suit to He Proud Of.

tion than they now are, W. R. HETHAM.

A Suit to Be Proud Of.

The Children Tenes is wrestling with another stander supin the sum of whose of the passent of the manager with the sum of whose of the passent of the manager with the supervisor. The children was a supervisor with the manager with imposing on their gift help. The attorney for the plaintiff says the publication-laws seriously injured his circuit's business. If the publication in The Times was correct, and we believe if was materially so, the business of the Never-Ripe' should be squared. That for is for protection—wants to be projected in the row for protection—wants to be protected is the robbery of its employes and starving them and premaure graves.—Fullon County (IR.) Ledger.

Are They Such?

CHICAGO, Ang. 18:—TO THE EDITOR AS NORMAL writer has said, negro slavery was not him which with the slavery fastened upon the limbs and souls of millions of white men and compared with the slavery fastened upon the limbs and souls of millions of white men and women by the politicians since 1832. And yet well The Times tell us why fineteen twentieths of the ministers who profess to teach the cardinal doc-trines of the great reformer and revolutionist are today champions of these same politicisms, friends of monopolies, trusts, corporations, etc.? B. F. FLOWER.

CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF

PRESS OPINIONS.

The Story Not Overtold.

One page four we give brief extracts from Neil Nelson's white slave labor, as published in The Chicago Times. As the matter in The Times filled quite forty columns, mostly in small type, a summary of it condensed into a column and a laif of the Tribuse must necessarily be of the briefset.

This summary can give you be clear exception of the treatment accorded the farcals employed toiling for a begarily pittance over of their condition, nor of the condition and character of their surroundings, nor of the slave galley rules, regulations, and discipline to which they are compared by dire to easily to submit. Nor large energial of

Dr. Earle Is the Only One Who I Johnson Is a Lepur. There is a decided difference of o among the physicians at the county regarding the disease with which Johnson is afflicted. Dr. Earle is t Johnson is afflicted. Dr. Farle one who believes it to be leprosy, mer, who has charge of the case, ther, who has enarge of the case, say his judgment it is an aggravated lupus vulgarus, a sku disease cats into the flesh and forms ules blotches on the patient oce and i dissimilar in appearance and are not lar on the surface, as in typical larger Wittmer thought that there might be bination of loathsome disease, but it require some days' study of the conbefore it could be definitely decide

before it could be demotely decided what the matter was.

Drs. Wittmer, Earle, Allport, and hish, all internes at the hospital, had a sultation vesterday, but only Dr. would assert postively the opinion Johnson was a leper. The patien photographed yesterday, two good neg of the face and a periaon of the body secured. Johnson shows no peace change from the condition he first previous distribution and table, to make a part of the fact to the sould be desired. when adulitted and is able to move but is not allowed to leave the room where he was first placed is over one thousand feet from of the wards, and fronts on Polk of the wards, and from on form He informed Dr. Wittmer yesterday was treated for fourteen days by Dr. before coming to the hospital, and gr. got worse under his care. Regards got worse under his care, contagious character of the Witimer thought it was more infectio contagious, but in any event there w no chance for either to occur at the la as the man was completely isolated.

Warden Stephens said in regard to ing such a patient, that while it was t hospital did not accept patients will far our diseases, in this instance the came there alone and was in such a la-condition that it would have been in condition that it would have been in to have tuned him away. It was be take him in and attend to him to him run loose among the people of it particularly as Dr. Laria, who was it to see him, said he was a leger. T pital was a charity institution and nothing else but take him in.

THE CASH BOYS DAY OF

Marshal Field's Ariny of Youngsters a Good Time at Washington Pa-In a pretty grove on the borders of a litt In a pretty grove on the borders of a life in Washington parts by store and the act of the crish boys of Manshar 1 AUS are was carried out very starcuser by and a ryoung people given a thoroughly good life two hundred of the youthy of this department of the present parts and the companied by relatives and the class and the crish, and then the people give before the people give the present spatials, were taken one to the people give the present spatials.

and Miss Mary Hollium

ton, S. M. Proceedings to the memory 5t the many be a good portion of the way wither to the process of the proc whom was a clergyman, pulled, and of the murch to the sea went on talk the seast way. Kunese City 1100ca,