

↑ Anna
Denismore
French

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The Revolution.

The very limited check upon the growing crime of infanticide which this small movement would be capable of exercising, must awaken earnest convictions in the heart of every true woman that there is a field of labor opening up to her from which she cannot recede without outraging both conscience and womanhood. When we think of the despair that must sink deep into the soul of an erring woman in her dark hour of trial, as the stern hand fast forces itself with chilling intonality upon her spirit, that the babe she has passed through such overwhelming agony to evolve will be to her but the passport of exclusion from every hearth and home, from every friend, from every social privilege, from every honorable position, we can no longer wonder that the promptings of maternity are sometimes driven back to their source—that the brain reels—that the mother ceases for a time to be human, because of our inhumanity, and that a little life is so often immolated on its shrine. Where lies the deepest blame? We hear it urged that if asylums were erected for the promiscuous admittance of all infants presented, the birth of illegitimate children would be largely increased, that the only effectual check upon its almost overwhelming advance lies in wholesome dread of the penalty—ostracism and lasting disgrace. This may in part be true, but not for the reasons advanced. Women as a class are not so utterly lost to principle and womanly instincts as this assertion implies. More children might for a time be born, but fewer souls would be stained with the crime of abortion, now become one of the most prominent demoralizing features in American life. The poor unfortunate candidate for motherhood nearly always grasp eagerly for this supposed immunity from guilt—in her ignorance thanking God that deliverance from tangible proof of her misfortune or sin came without bloodshed, and that she is free to recommence life without the dreaded millstone about her neck. We believe that the organization of well conducted institutions or the reception of babes born alive would materially lessen the crime of infanticide, by rendering it possible for young mothers out of wedlock to resume their place in society, and to command reputable employment when needed—and all unmarried mothers are not included in the class needing to labor I need not remind you. The most advantageous manner of conducting such institutions is a matter for serious consideration and much deliberate thought, but with a knowledge of the causes that have modified their usefulness in other countries—prominent among which is the too close aggregation of the little beings and a vicious system of wet-nursing—we can scarcely fail to avoid many if not most of their errors. Women in the lowest scale of human life, thoroughly unprincipled and much diseased, not unfrequently act in the capacity of temporary mothers, and thus contaminate every mental, moral, and physical development of the child. In our next report I shall hope to present you a reliable account of the different foundling hospitals in Europe, and the principles upon which they are conducted, together with such plan or plans as the committee as a whole may desire to bring forward with the view of rendering our work thoroughly practical.

I cannot close without saying a single word more on the crime of abortion, now so frightfully prevalent, and to ask you each and severally to stretch out a helping hand in this direction, that its suppression may to some extent at least be accomplished. It is only through ignorance that it has become such a wide-spread evil. But few women, even among the educated and intelligent, realize that the embryo child is imbued with the life element prior to the moment when its physical movements become conscious to her. No greater error exists; if lifeless, it could no more become developed into the hungry, breathing child, than could the lifeless seed of a plant or flower spring up and ultimately bud and blossom. The living principle is there from the first moment of fecundation, and should be fostered and nourished and brought into the world in every instance that conception takes place—at no period can it be interfered with, from the first to the last moment of *extra uterine* life, without tampering with a life that God alone can give.

THE WORLD says: Massachusetts is shamed, if not shocked, at the spread of infanticide in that state, and Dr. Storer and others have done good service in rousing the moral sense of the State to a common crime, which is fast becoming the sole increase in population to the foreign-born and foreign-descended citizens of Massachusetts. Philadelphia is alarmed at the increase of infanticide in that city; the statistics of the year 1868, showing 94 cases of child-murder against 66 in 1867. Of these, the case of alleged infanticide by Hester Vaughan is the only one which attracted public attention, though

the exhibition by the coroner now prompts the Philadelphia papers to urge some legislative action which will tend to lessen the slaughter of children by their mothers.

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE.

MANCHESTER, Dec. 19th, 1868.

THE address to Mr. Gladstone on his rejection by the constituency of south-east Lancashire, which I mentioned last week, was signed by above four thousand women of the country and presented a few days ago.

Mr. J. S. Mill's absence in the new Parliament will be a great loss to our cause in the legislature, but we have his constant counsel and aid in our agitation. In an article in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, on the English elections, a letter from Mr. Mill has been published in which he ascribes his defeat to three circumstances. 1. The greater skill of his opponents, which was only to be expected, since the operations of a business man in his own interests are likely to be better arranged than those of a committee of amateurs. 2. The large amount of money, at the disposal of the Conservatives, while the Liberals were compelled to maintain the most rigid economy. 3. The hostility of the vestrymen and other local notabilities who were displeased by his attempt to reform the municipal government of the metropolis. Mr. Mill adds that he has little cause to lament his defeat, seeing the success of the Liberal party generally. Moreover, it is more to his taste to exercise his influence as a writer than as a member of Parliament.

Miss Carpenter has arrived in Bombay, and a committee of native gentlemen has been appointed to assist her in promoting the education of women. This co-operation of the better class of natives is a very hopeful feature in her enterprise. A relative of Miss Carpenter's, who went to see her off, when she was leaving England, was struck with the number of parties assembled at the railway station for the same object. Some of her first greetings on landing at Bombay were from native gentlemen, and now they are actively assisting her in her work on behalf of their wives and daughters. She has decided on remaining in that city, and the government has gladly accepted an offer she has made of her services in connection with the new Normal Schools for women. The native press has also welcomed her very warmly. She was to explain her views at a large public meeting to be held in Bombay on the afternoon of the day on which the mail left.

You will be pleased to learn that twelve of our new ministers of state, with the Lord Chancellor at the head of them, are favorable to the property rights of married women. Committees in support of Mr. Shaw Lefevre's bill are being formed in the principal towns, and they will set to work next month in readiness for the meeting of Parliament, which is to take place on the 11th of February.

Our new cabinet minister, the Right Honorable John Bright, who is President of the Board of Trade, is such a favorite on your side of the water, that I think you will be interested in the following bits of Windsor gossip, on "the very best authority," respecting him and his "Chief":

The Queen's private reception of her new Prime Minister was so gracious, so kind, even so affectionate was the word used, as to overwhelm him with feelings of the warmest gratitude. Nothing could have more lightened his recent toils, or cheered him more thoroughly in the

happily few difficulties he has had to contend with in forming the administration. We understand that on Mr. Gladstone mentioning to her Majesty that he intended, with her permission, to offer a seat in the cabinet to the member for Birmingham, the Queen said it would afford her the greatest satisfaction if Mr. Bright should consent to serve the crown—that she had read his speeches with great pleasure, and that she was under the greatest obligation to him for the many kind words he had spoken of her, especially for a speech he made about two years ago, in a great meeting in St. James's Hall, when Mr. Ayrton cast some reproach upon her for living so long in retirement and neglecting what he termed her duties to society. Mr. Bright had then warmly vindicated her, and said that "the Queen, who had the humane tenderness to nurture in her breast a noble sorrow, was not the woman to be wanting in regard or affection for her people." When Mr. Bright went to Windsor to take the oaths of office, the Queen showed her delicate consideration for him in a very marked way. She sent Mr. Helps, the Clerk to the Privy Council, to assure him that if it was more agreeable to his feelings to omit the ceremony of kneeling or kissing hands, he was quite at liberty to do so. Mr. Bright availed himself of this permission, and was kindly and cordially received by the Queen who took occasion, in the most marked manner, to express her gratification at meeting him. It was afterwards intimated to Mr. Bright that the Princess Royal of Prussia, who is now on a visit with her mother, had expressed a desire that he should be presented to her. This was done, and the Princess heartily assured Mr. Bright that she greatly desired to be acquainted with him—that she herself and all the members of the royal family were greatly indebted to him for the way in which he had spoken of their mother. She herself, she said, had read all his speeches, and was very much pleased to see him. Mr. Bright replied in very graceful terms, and said if her Royal Highness would permit him, he would tell her what the late Mr. Buchanan, the American Minister, when last in London, said of her to him—"that wherever the Crown Princess went she shed sunshine over all her path." Mr. Bright was much gratified with the cordial reception and the genial greetings he received at Windsor.

The Princess Royal, as they still call her, is, to use a homely phrase, her father's own daughter in her sympathies with liberality and human progress in the highest sense of the term. She is interested in the Woman Question, and has advanced views upon it as well as on social, educational and theological subjects. I may mention, in connection with this last subject, the telegram forwarded lately from Windsor during the centenary celebration of the birth of Schliermacher, which occurred during the present visit of the Crown Princess and her husband to the Queen. In all the capitals and Universities of Germany this birthday, November 21st, has been celebrated by speeches, liturgies and the performances of sacred music. The solemnities originated with the moderate Liberal party. At the Berlin meeting many of the most renowned followers of Schliermacher assembled from all parts of Germany to address a numerous and select audience on the merits of their spiritual predecessor. The following is the telegram sent to the Burgomaster and Town Council of Berlin on the 21st ult.:

"Away from home we desire to give the Burgomaster and Town Council a proof of our sympathy in the cele-

Embryos
Foeticide