

to the poor suffering children who would be consigned there to their care, and also to lighten the burden of those little ones who were afflicted with blindness. A few days ago the whole world was disturbed from its lethargy by the reports published in the public press regarding that hero of charity who had just attained his reward in the island of Molokai. The hero priest of the leper establishment of Molokai, whose death had caused so deep a sensation throughout the whole world, was a noble example of the spirit of self-sacrifice which characterised the sons and daughters of the Church who consecrated their lives to the mission of mercy and charity in its sublimest form. For sixteen years that holy man laboured in what might fittingly be called a valley of death, among perhaps the most afflicted and desolate of God's creatures, and so silently and meekly did he carry on the self-imposed task, which demanded the daily exercise of the highest heroism of Christian charity, that for thirteen years his name and his work were unknown save to those among whom he lived, and among whom he finally died a martyr to duty. Apart from his daily ministrations to the poor lepers, attending with unsurpassable zeal and devotedness to their physical as well as their spiritual necessities, this brave Belgian priest, Father Damien, built a Hospital, an orphanage, and a church, and in connection with the building of the church, which was a house of prayer not only for Catholics but for the lepers of all religions—and he embraced them all in his loving care—the circumstance had come to light that his chief assistant was a white leper, an Irishman, who, being a mason, would seem to have been sent by Providence to second the efforts of the saintly chaplain of the settlement. The Sisters were like that hero of charity at Molokai. He had no question to ask as to whether the sufferers were Catholics or Protestants. About half the number of lepers were Catholics; the others belonged to various denominations. Father Damien was the only minister of religion there, and he ministered to all. The late Father Damien was, in his heroism, but a type of the spirit of self-sacrifice which animated those who put on the garb of the Church with the vow to dedicate themselves heart and soul, mind and body, to the service of God. When eight nuns were wanted some time ago as Nurses for the leper house of the Havannahs, there were no less than eighty of the Sisters of the convent in Syracuse volunteered, and a difficulty was experienced in deciding among the Sisters who were to be privileged to spend their lives among the lepers. It was the same spirit that prompted the Nursing Sisters to found their Hospital for children; and, like the hero of Molokai, the Sisters

would ask no questions as to class or creed, the only passports to the Institution being suffering and distress. He was sorry to say that in some Institutions in the colony, and in some subsidized by the State, this spirit did not prevail. Some days ago, during the storm which raged over the city, a good Catholic woman, who was once in prosperous circumstances, but was now poor, presented herself at one of the night asylums. After resting awhile she was summoned to attend Protestant night prayers. Her objection to join in the prayers on the ground that, being a Catholic, she could not conscientiously do so, was met with the reply that if she would not join in the prayers the door was open to her to go out. Nothing remained but to sacrifice her religious convictions or face the pitiless storm; and the good old lady, rather than remain under such conditions, left the Institution. Another instance he might refer to was the case of an inmate in an institution called the Children's Home. A woman was anxious to have the ministrations of a priest, and on communicating her wish was met with refusal. Upon renewing her application the woman received an official reply, in which she was distinctly told that the majority of the ladies of the committee had decided to make it a rule that no priest should be admitted. He (the Cardinal) trusted that nothing of that kind would ever happen in any Catholic institution; that no such bigotry should be shown. The Catholic community cherished none but kindly and grateful feelings towards their non-Catholic fellow-citizens, many of whom were among the most generous supporters of Catholic charitable institutions, and so far from entertaining any feeling of revenge towards those who permitted themselves to be led into acts of bigotry, he was sure the only desire of the Catholic people was to return good for evil, and to extend to them, if ever occasion offered, the charity and the Christian consideration which they denied to others in distress." THE JUNIOR HOUSE SURGEON.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

THE remarks I made in last week's issue, respecting Mrs. Millicent Garrett Fawcett's crusade against theatrical children, has drawn down upon my shoulders a large number of letters respecting my opinions expressed thereon. The majority of them, however, I must confess are favourable to my views; a few—four, I believe—are against me.

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Now I don't wish to pose as an absolute authority upon the subject, because there are thousands of others more familiar with the true facts of the

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