

THE MAKING OF MEN.

BY MRS LYNN LINTON.

THE rescue of the submerged tenth seems but a doubtful matter at the best. Men who have grown grey in the art of failure are scarce likely ever to be taught that of success. The heart is taken out of them; their energies are weakened; the joints of their resolve have given way. They have become so disastrously used to humiliation as to be indifferent to the process. Indeed, it is but the portion they expect, and causes no surprise when meted out to them. Disdain, suspicion, denial, come to them as necessary ingredients in their cup of life; and when hope has died out of a man, and self-respect has gone with hope, the grave of his well-doing is dug, and success, to be achieved by his own exertion, is as impossible as the return of spring at the end of autumn.

This is true even where failure has not been caused by overt vice—when it is due simply to that kind of shiftlessness which prevents a man from finding his own prop, or to that flaccid, flabby 'fecklessness' which hinders him from taking firm hold when it is found for him. For, indeed, it is sorrowfully true that most of the failures in life are those

merit; and the terrible truth that Conduct is Fate, that Fortune is but the twin-sister of Law, that, for the most part, a man's portion in life, be it bad or good, is that which he deserves—this truth is disdained in favour of an irresponsible power which hoists the feeble and crushes the strong. This reads like a hard saying, but it is, indeed, the very truth; and on each boy and girl entering life ought to be impressed as in letters of fire, 'Conduct is Fate,' and 'We get what we deserve to have.'

All those high-sounding schemes of rehabilitation, those flourishes of trumpets calling on the country to subscribe to schemes of rescue, which look so well on paper and work so ill in action, are of practically no good whatever when dealing with mature men and women floundering in the bog of failure. When the mainspring is broken how about the time-keeping capacity of the watch? When energy has become blunted by idleness, and disappointment has soared endeavour, can we look for the renewal of those qualities by a species of moral legerdemain akin to that by which a live rabbit is brought out of a penny loaf, or a bucketful of flowers from the lining of a hat? It is impossible. After a certain age men and women are neither plastic nor reformable. If we want to make them different from what they are we shall find ourselves face to face with that 'peristency of type' which, in the moral world as in the physical baffles our attempts at manipulation.

are of active profit to the State and of historic honour to the country.

The Warspite and her sister training ships are not for the criminal young. They are not reformatories; for no lad who has been convicted of theft or who has a bad character is admitted. And if after admission one is found to be of evil influence to the others he is removed and sent home, the same as in all other carefully conducted schools. These training ships are voluntarily supporting schools, where the children of the virtuous poor are saved from possible ruin, and prevented from drifting into submergence. Upwards of 62,000 boys have been trained and sent to sea, etc., in the hundred and odd years that the institution has been in existence. Of these over 27,000 have been drafted into the navy. The reports sent to headquarters of the conduct of the lads in their new employ is almost invariably good. The healthy life and valuable disciplines of those training years tell their own tale; and the recipe for the making of good citizens is evidently one that can scarce be bettered. There is no more encouraging sight than to see these embryo citizens of the great country at their work and drill on board the Warspite. Alert and cheerful, deft, well disciplined, they go through their exercises with the precision required of numbers, yet with the individual pleasure necessary in children. Healthy, well nourished, well conditioned throughout, it is a thought full of more than pleasure to contrast the future of these lads in their two probabilities of then and now. Then, while still in the slack waters of poverty, they might have drifted into ruin; now, they are sure of honourable employment, of sufficiency, of promotion, if they prove themselves fit to grasp what is put into their hands. They look as if they would do so. Among the whole of the 200 boys we saw on the 'prize-day,' not one had a bad countenance, and most looked notably bright, frank, and satisfactory. They did their work with a will; and though there was no shadow of 'larking'—the discipline is too strict and the surveillance is too sharp for that—there was yet that general air of enjoyment in the exercise which approximates the physical training of the young to their darling heaven of play. The ship itself is as clean as the traditional new pin; and the housewife's boast, 'You could eat off the floor,' might be said of the Warspite's spotless boards. The boys were as clean as the brasswork and woodwork, and every part of the ship was as sweet as fresh air and scrubbing-brushes could make it. What a contrast with the dingy courts and alleys, the foul lodging-houses, and insanitary tenements, from which the lads had been taken! As great a contrast as that made by their regular hours, nutritious food, and orderly occupations from the wastrel's life of the streets—that poor little gutter sparrow, unfed, unwashed, unemployed, undisciplined—training so hard for the prison and the sad-eyed cohort of the submerged.

These are the charitable institutions which deserve the support of the public. To begin with the beginning, to undertake the young in the forming time of their lives, promises so much better things than any after-tinkering with the damaged vessels of time and maturity can give. In teaching the young how to gain an honourable livelihood we are raising the character of the nation at large. To create one peaceable, law-abiding, and industrious citizen is therefore to create many; and, 'Lord, we know what we are, but not what we may become' is emphatically true in its best sense of the boys turned out by the Warspite and her sister training ships—those boys who are afterwards to become men, English citizens, and the fathers of families.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW IN REAL LIFE.

Who was it, when I wed my wife,
Wished me a long and happy life,
From trouble free, un vexed by strife?
My mother-in-law.

Who was it taught my wife to bake
A loaf of bread or fancy cake,
And appetising dishes make?
My mother-in-law.

Who gave us counsel when we went,
Housekeeping money freely spent
On things for use and ornament?
My mother-in-law.

Who was it when my wife was ill
Bestowed upon her care and skill,
And saved to me a nurse's bill?
My mother-in-law.

Who then my little ones prepared
Each morn for school, who for them cared
And all their little sorrows shared?
My mother-in-law.

Who was it when their prayers were said
So snugly tucked them into bed
And, till they slept, beside them stayed?
My mother-in-law.

Who of my clothing then took care,
Who overlooked my underwear
And kept each garment in repair?
My mother-in-law.

Who comes the first to soothe my woes?
Who loves my friends and hates my foes?
Who buys my children lots of clothes?
My mother-in-law.

Who oft to me her aid has lent
To buy the coal and pay the rent?
Who'd gladly see me lend her lent?
My mother-in-law.

A loving grandmother is she,
A generous friend she's been to me,
For ever honoured let her be—
My mother-in-law.



BOLLER SKATING IN AUCKLAND.

of men who deserve to fail, either by weakness of will or incapacity of intellect—either by looseness of conduct or inability to stick to hard work. The industrious and resolute, the well-principled and capable, keep what they get, and utilize their chances for more. They go on steadily from start to finish; and if they never rise a step beyond their original position, they never sink a line below it, carrying with them all through the honour due to faithful service and self-respecting endeavour. As mere day-labourers they manage to get along with their poor pay and large families; and even when old age has crept over them, and their day's work is shortened or done with altogether, they keep off the parish. It would be by a strange series of misfortunes should men of this stamp be found among the submerged tenth. Uninstructed and unlearned as they may be, they know how to make for the bank when they chance to be thrown into the stream of disaster, and they contrive somehow to scramble out to some place of independent support. But those of the contrary type, though they are gentlemen's sons, 'Varsity men, well taught and intellectually capable, are sure to come to grief, sinking lower and lower, drifting farther and farther, till at last they are lost in the miserable morass where sprawl the submerged in hopeless incapacity. Then Fortune is arraigned as a partial and unjust jade, making a favourite of one and a victim of another, irrespective of

It is different when we deal with the young. Inherited tendencies, doubtless, go for much; but education, training, early impressions, and discipline—in short, the environment goes for more. The children even of criminals can be made into law-abiding members of society, if taken early enough and put into good conditions; and though there will always be a percentage that 'throws back' to the undesirable ancestry, the larger proportion will be redeemed. The heredity of crime is not all in the blood. It comes about as much from early familiarity with and education in crime as from physiological tendencies. Change the training, and the tendencies can be weakened to the point of absolute annihilation. When we come to the untainted children of the non-criminal poor, the field is free and the outlook one of unmitigated good. Take them from their insufficient surroundings, where, no matter how virtuous they may be, they and their parents are necessarily by their very poverty mixed up with doubtful neighbours; take them from poor food, bad air, ignorance, indiscipline, and criminal companions, and put them into such conditions as we find on the Warspite and kindred training ships, and we have the making of men of a different kind from that famous 'manufactory' in Caledon—the creation of good citizens, who not only save the ratepayers the pecuniary cost of crime and failure, but who