

**THE ENGLISH CHURCHMAN'S  
LIBRARY. OUR WORKING-GIRLS  
AND HOW TO HELP THEM, WITH  
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CLUBS  
AND CLASSES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649527069

The English Churchman's Library. Our Working-Girls and How to Help Them, with Special Reference to Clubs and Classes by Flora Lucy Freeman

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**FLORA LUCY FREEMAN**

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The English Churchman's Library

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OUR WORKING-GIRLS AND  
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FLORA LUCY FREEMAN

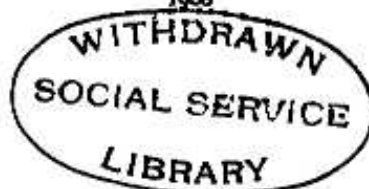
AUTHOR OF "POLLY," "A CHAIN OF THOUGHT FOR THE CHURCH'S  
YEAR," "THE PATIENCE OF PEARLA"

A. R. MOWBRAY & CO., LTD.

LONDON: 34 Great Castle Street, Oxford Circus, W.

OXFORD: 9 High Street

1908



DEDICATED TO THE  
REV. JOHN ELTON HALLIWELL,  
VICAR OF ST. PAUL'S, BRIGHTON  
IN DEEP GRATITUDE FOR HIS EXAMPLE  
AND COUNSEL.

## P R E F A C E

SINCE writing my first book about Clubs I have had seven years more experience in this particular branch of work. During this time I have learnt many things, had many encouragements, and also many disappointments.

I suppose that, after long years of experience in any work, it is impossible to be as optimistic as when we were just beginning it. Our outlook becomes much wider as we grow older, and where we saw only one side to a question we now see many. We see, too, more clearly the possible abuse of many things that in themselves are excellent.

This book will, I hope, answer some of the many questions which I am continually being asked by unknown correspondents about the various difficulties they encounter in the course of their work.

The reader will find little in this book about "Visiting" or "Institutions connected with the Club," because these subjects have already been dealt with in detail in *Religious and Social Work amongst Girls*.\*

\* Published by Skeffington & Son. 2s. net.

We shall undoubtedly find great difficulties and discouragements in work of this kind, but do not let us be tempted to relax our efforts on account of them, or to lose our faith in human nature.

When obstacles and trials seem  
Like prison-walls to be,  
I do the little I can do,  
And leave the rest to Thee.

If everything connected with our work should apparently go wrong, we may be quite sure that, if only it is done in union with God, in the end all the evil will work out for good.

F. L. F.



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# Our Working Girls

## CHAPTER I

### THE NEEDS OF THE WORKING-GIRL

"Where is Abel thy brother?' is the first question that will meet every one of us before the throne of God."

THE working-girl needs especial help and guidance at the time when her life as a wage-earner begins. At fourteen she is not much more than a child, her character is still unformed, and her temptations are very great. How can we best help her? Surely by providing her with some place where she can find good influence, sympathy, amusement, and instruction. All these she should find in a properly worked Girls' Club. Although there is still prejudice in some quarters against these most useful institutions, they have at last won an honoured place in the field of philanthropic work.

Of course nothing is free from the danger of