

# Gov. Butler's Insults to Women.

*To the Editor of the Republican:—*

There are too many mouths of officers, too many officers that do nothing, too many matrons just out of school, and only fit to ride out with Charles Marsh or with Tom in the afternoon. Call that little chit a matron! And pay her from the State Treasury as a matron! She is hardly out of her leading-strings, only a few months out of school when she was appointed. Give us ladies advanced in life. You want them to look after this little critter who can do no good among all the old men, except to excite their passions.—*Governor Butler's Tewksbury Argument.*

The young lady (for she is one in the true sense) of whom these vile words were spoken, and who was so unfortunate as to be obliged to appear as a witness, where the prosecuting officer had no sense of decency,—as well as no regard for truth,—has given no reason for such treatment. Her only fault is that she is young and a pretty woman. She has been an attendant (she is not even called a matron in the annual report of the State almshouse) for four years, in which she has done faithful and efficient service in care of the female insane. She has assisted a middle-aged married woman in her department, giving satisfaction and conducting herself with entire propriety. She is old enough to do her work properly, which is merely to overlook the dressing, undressing, feeding, bathing, and employment of demented women. Many such young women may be found doing like service in the lunatic hospitals, primary school, women's prison, and other institutions with entire satisfaction. If the governor had struck her a blow with his fist during the hearing before the committee, probably even such men as applauded his remarks would have been outraged, perhaps even some one might have been found with sufficient spirit to knock down the miscreant. A blow with the fist to a pure woman is a less offence than such a spoken libel as this, which makes every woman a partaker in the insult to the sex. May not a woman be useful, even when young and comely? And are we sunk so low in our Commonwealth that such words as these shall go unrebuked?

This outraged woman is of Irish parentage, and, we presume, a Catholic. When, at the instance of Father Gigault, of Lowell, two young Catholic women were hired as attendants on the insane, they consulted this lady as to the nature and severity of her duties. Probably if they had then realized to what she was exposed in the public service from the ribald tongue of the "chief executive magistrate," they would have shrunk from the encounter. How long will Irishmen continue to lick the hand which smites them in so many directions,—starvation prices for care of their Irish poor, insults to unoffending women, and removing from office their distinguished countryman, that able lawyer, devout Catholic, and benefactor of the poor, C. F. Donnelly, merely because he did not vote for General Butler. Miss Hannah O'Connell, the attendant above referred to, was not the only sufferer at the hands of Governor Butler in unprovoked insult. He said at one hearing that "not one of the matrons were fit to take care of a hog!" It is unfortunate that the voters of the State cannot know what class of women are serving as matrons and attendants at Tewksbury. They are respectable, intelligent women, every one of them, fit to be received on equal terms in any private family. Forced by necessity to earn their living, and performing daily the most disagreeable duties for sick and insane persons,—many with loathsome diseases,—they have lately been subjected not only to these grossly abusive words spoken of them, but to cross-examination, where questions were asked which implied things most revolting to a pure woman. If Butler's administration is to be extended over another year, which God forbid, it will be hard for decent men to take office, and well-nigh impossible for decent women to serve the State.

X.