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## **The traffic in girls: white slavery as now practiced in America, including detailed descriptions of the customs and manners of the white women slaves. 1941**

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# TRAFFIC IN GIRLS

OR

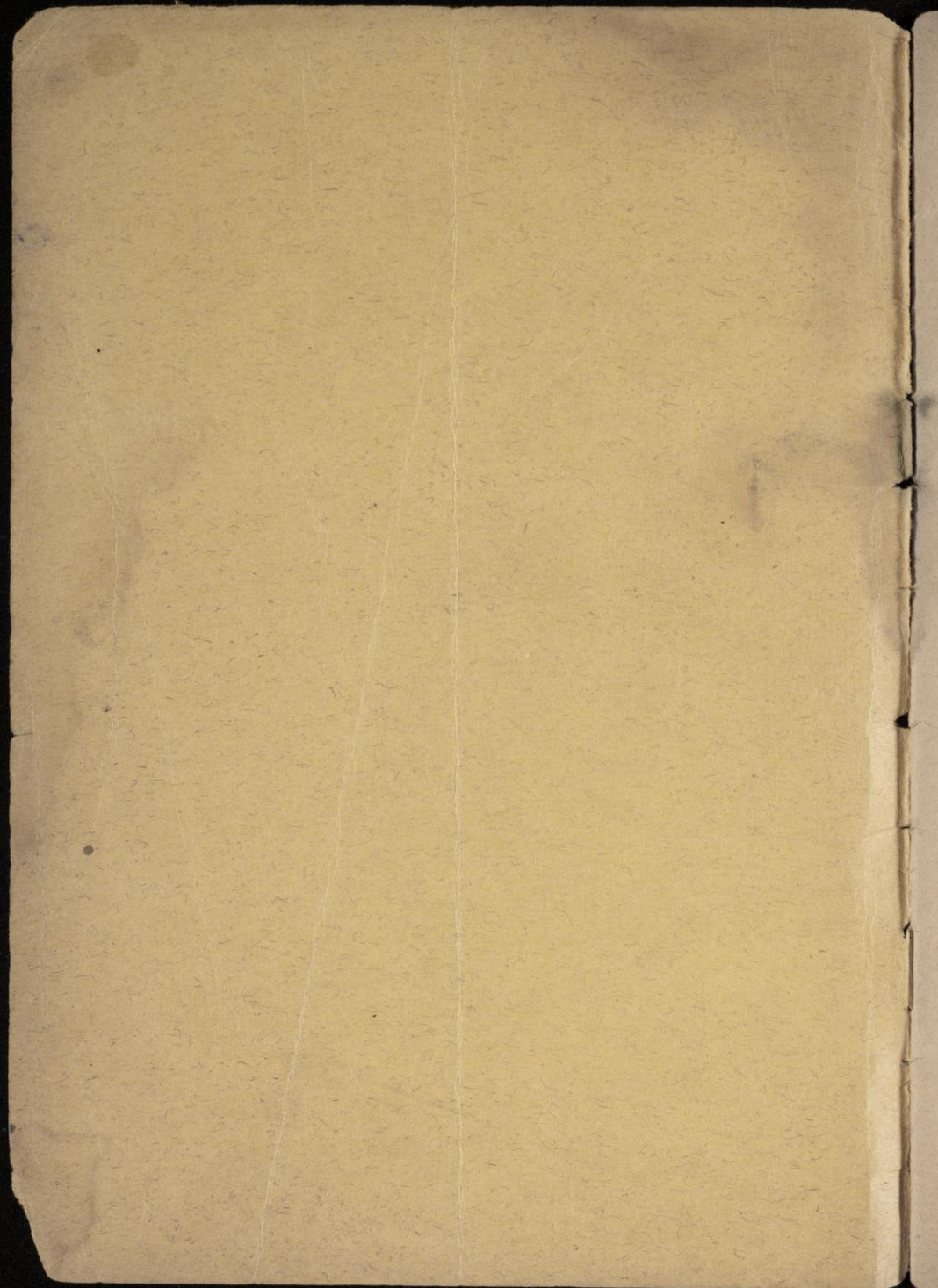
THE SYSTEM OF THE UNDERWORLD



EXPOSING THE  
WHITE SLAVE  
TRAFFIC

PRICE 50 CENTS





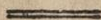






**The**  
**in**

**Traffic**  
**Girls**



**WHITE SLAVERY**

**AS NOW PRACTICED IN AMERICA, INCLUDING  
DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF THE  
CUSTOMS AND MANNERS OF THE  
WHITE WOMEN SLAVES**







## PREFACE

Thousands of young, innocent girls are trapped each year and sold like cattle to the highest bidder, and by promises of good positions, misrepresentation, cajolery, threats, fake marriages, coercion, persuasion, drugging, gentle means, and brutal force, lured into a life of shame. They are guarded, watched, beaten, threatened, ruined, robbed, and they are driven into an early age. Hundreds of fiends in the form of men are engaged in this form of work. They have their organizations, rules, prices, trade secrets, secret codes, and carry on their work in a businesslike manner. In this book we aim to tell the terrible story in plain English.

It is not a literary effort, but a book of plain facts.





However unwilling we may be to admit facts so shameful, undeniable truth is established beyond dispute that a prodigious and appalling commerce in girls is a part of the colossal business enterprise of our great modern cities. The most hopeful present sign in the war on the White Slave trade is the sense of shame that honest business men feel over the criminal use of capital and business methods to exploit the young of this and other nations.

The red-light districts, like a lake of fire, are constantly engulfing unwary and unprotected girls and boys, along with the wilfully depraved. The fires of these burning maelstroms, the illegal vice districts, are kept up in an enterprising and systematic way by the business ability of the monstrous men who keep the houses of shame. No store on our principal streets is better arranged to attract purchasers than the criminal resorts are arranged to attract victims of both sexes. Until recently, business men and the plain people generally could not believe that systematic commerce in women and girls existed. Missionaries and prosecutors who sounded the alarm were thought to be suffering from an overheated imagination or possibly seeking notoriety and free advertising. Business men and editors of great newspapers asked for facts—plain, hard facts, without exaggeration or rhetoric.

Unhappily, it has been all too easy to bring forward the frightful facts by the hundreds, demonstrating to every inquirer the existence of a white slave market, immense and horrible. Earnest, shrewd men of affairs,



## 8 THE BLACK 'TRAFFIC IN WHITE GIRLS

bankers, merchants, lawyers, judges, men who never allow their own imaginations or the imaginations of other men to carry them away, now know all too well for their peace of mind that our country is the great stamping-ground of the most infamous traffic in the world.

However eager the missionaries may be to make an end of sin, the lawyers and business men who are opposing the white slave trade have no illusions about the speedy annihilation of vice, however desirable such annihilation undoubtedly is. What these business men do seek to accomplish is to expose and as far as possible destroy the commercial exploitation of the youth of both sexes to their destruction. The criminal use of capital, real estate, business ability and methods in order to spread ruin and pestilence broadcast through city and country can be checked and largely crushed if a few hundred capable, decent men will invest time and money in the righteous cause.

It is no impossible task to drag a thousand dive-keepers, procurers, renting agents and grafting officials before the bar of justice, and put enough of them in cells to terrify the whole infernal brood, making cell-mates of all grafters and dive-keepers.

It is not enough to punish the small fry. Unless the wholesaler and principals are crushed, we are trifling with horrible trade. The whole iniquity of giving a permit to those brutes to make commerce of girls is monstrous. The dive breeds the procurers and breeds the grafters. This is the historic fact. We are not in earnest till we strike hard and often at the principals in the hideous business.

It is quite within the power of a few dozen prominent

## THE BLACK TRAFFIC IN WHITE GIRLS ●

men and a few great newspapers to inform all as to the exact facts of the white slave trade and to expose every person profiting by these crimes, including those wealthy hypocrites who live in the exclusive residence districts on the earnings of ruined girls in the under-world.

It is almost easy to alarm the plain people as to the hideous consequences in the way of diseases that attend the traffic in girls. A hundred thousand dollars in the right hands would make known to our adult citizens that one-fourth of the blind are blind because of the sins of their fathers; that one-fourth of the women undergoing surgical operations suffer thus because of the sins of their husbands; that about one-fourth of the insane would be sane if this pestilent vice were abolished.

In India, the government pays a bounty to anyone who brings proof of having killed a man-eating tiger or a deadly serpent. Let our law provide a bounty of a thousand dollars a head to be paid to anyone who will cage up permanently the wild beasts, the dive-keepers who devour girls and young men, and with them the slimy snakes that those crafty scoundrels send through the land to charm silly canaries to feed to the cats and dogs to live on girls.







## OUR WHITE SLAVES MUST BE FREE

America now stands forth as the scene of the greatest battle of the world between the forces for good and the white slavers. It is doubtful if ever in the history of civilization was waged such a fight as is being fought to-day for the preservation of the country's good name and against the unspeakable traffic in girls, known as White Slavery.

The people are aroused; their sensibilities have at last been touched. For the first time since the beginning of anti-vice crusades the decent forces of the community, from the government officials to private citizens, from specific reform associations to church bodies, have risen in response to the signal of alarm sounded by leaders. The total reform force of the community has been set in motion. America has awakened. The knell has been sounded, and the infamous white slaver, canker sore on the face of modern civilization, is to be hunted, and fought, and prosecuted to his death.

Not alone for the sake of the white slaves themselves, but for the sake of civilization, is the mottoes of the new crusaders, and this is the motto that has been adopted by the varied but consolidated army that will fight shoulder to shoulder until white slaving is a thing of the past.

The forces that make up the army are as representative for good as could be gathered together throughout the United States, not counting the hundreds of private citizens who have volunteered to act as detectives in running down white slavery.

Arrayed against them in sullen battle, foully fighting



for continuance of the terrible conditions that make their existence possible, are the white slavers, the "owners" and sellers of the unfortunate enslaved girls, the keepers of unnameable resorts, proprietors of tough saloons, the boss politicians to whom these people and places are a power in time of election and a source of rich graft the year around, and lastly the unspeakable male vermin who hang around the fringes of the Red Lights and live on the pitiful pittances that fall from the table of unfortunate women. It is a fight between the decent element and the foul beings who squirm and toss in the slime of the under-world. It is a fight between the good and the unspeakably bad. For once the good starts out with the determination to stay in the fight until the evil is wiped from the face of the earth.





## SLAVES BOUGHT AND SOLD HERE

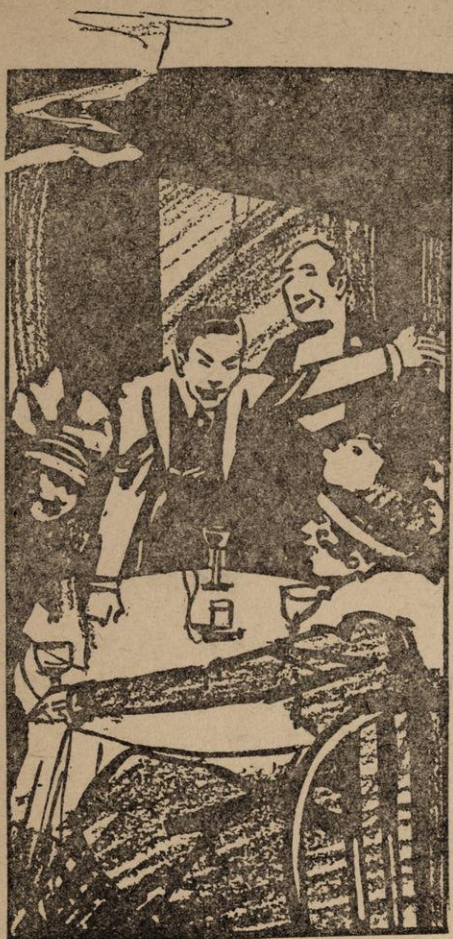
"It means simply this," said one of the principal prosecutors, "at last the people have waked to a realization of the fact that actual slavery, that deals in human flesh and blood as a marketable commodity, exists in terrible magnitude to-day.

"It is slavery, real slavery, that we are fighting. The term white slave isn't a misnomer or a sensational term conjured up by sensational newspapers. The words describe what they stand for. The white slave now is a slave as much as the negro was before the Civil War, as the African is in the Belgian districts of the Congo, as much as any people are slaves who are owned, flesh and bone, body and soul, by another person, and who can be sold at any time and place, and for any price, at that person's will; that is what slavery is, and that is the condition of hundreds—yes, of thousands—of girls at present.

"It seems preposterous to think of girls—young, innocent girls—girls of any kind—to be bought and sold like cattle in the city, but it is too late to regard the matter in a skeptical light. The thing exists. The trade in girls is as firmly established in its own dark underground way as the trade in bees at any stock yards. One thousand women annually are needed to supply the demands of one large city.

"A part of these come through the natural channels of misfortunes that have produced their kind since the world began, but a great part are put into the life through the terrible slavery.







"A syndicate for the procuring and enslaving and sale of young girls exists, with scores of slaves in its toils, as helpless as the slaves in Africa. There are scores of independent slavers, unspeakable beings who own outright a woman and live on her earnings. They sell her when, where and how they please. They own her. Can anything more horrible be imagined?

"These are the conditions that the present crusade is organized to fight. It will not be a spasmodic crusade. It has been planned for a long time, and organized along the lines that experience has taught us will bring the results desired. These results are nothing more or less than to put every white slaver in prison, to rescue the hundreds of poor girls whose slavery is a disgrace to the community and to civilization, and to make it impossible for pandering and white slaving to exist so far as America is concerned, at least.

"It will be a long fight and a hard one. By virtue of power over his subjects, and his inhuman treatment of them, the white slaver is a hard man to find, and harder to convict. His victim often is so ignorant as not to be aware that her slavery is illegal. Sometimes she is loath to have the life she is leading exposed. And always she fears the brute who brought her to her awful condition. But now that the people are being awakened, the task is easier. An adequate pandering law gives us a weapon. We will have the aid of hundreds of good citizens who will furnish evidence, besides our own corps of secret-service men, who will work from our office, and the courts will assist us to the limit of their ability. The doom of the white slaver has been sounded, and with his going we will rid ourselves of a foul sore that has shamed reputation."





## **"WHITE SLAVERY" INTOLERABLE TO CIVILIZATION**

The magnitude of this evil, and the realization that the term "White Slavery" actually means flesh-and-blood slavery of womankind, comes as a shock to the average citizen. Slavery is considered an attribute to the dark ages. Modern enlightenment has no room for it in its economy. This country could not bear the spectacle of black folk enslaved in the South, and the most terrible civil war in all history was the result. And yet here the good citizen, his wife, and his sons and daughters, ride the cars with never a thought of the fact that ere he reaches town his way will take him within pistol shot of dens where women, white of skin and civilized of mind, are kept in slavery under conditions much worse than that of the slave quarters before the war.

Not nice, is it? Apt to make one sniff and turn to subjects more pleasing? Quite true. But it is this disposition of the public to turn from the subject with disgust, to refuse to dirty its well-kept fingers with so foul a problem, even though it flourishes in our back yards, that has made it possible for the horrible traffic in woman-flesh to exist and to grow and flourish.

"This office," said the United States District Attorney, "has always known that white slavery existed. It is slavery. It is a plain case of women being bought and sold and held in captivity and slavery. For a long time, however, so little has been said of the problem, that it has been impossible to bring the public to realize the proportions of this terrible disgrace. What we have said about slavery has been disbelieved or discountenanced on





many grounds. But even if the innocence of a white slave herself is not established, the law holds guilty the person who holds her in captivity.

"Even admitting that a woman goes into this life of her own will, the time comes when she wishes to leave it, or wishes to go to another resort. But under the white-slave regime she is held in one place—held by force, beaten and threatened with death if she continues in her rebellion. She is told that she is in debt to the house. If she insists in her rebellion, she may be sold bodily to another resort. The unfortunate victims of white slavery are passing from one owner to another for cash considerations, exactly as were the black slaves of the South. She is a human chattel. It is a true condition, too foul for words.

Can it be true? asks the citizen who is wont to regard all America as pretty much civilized.

It can. Give heed to the story of one Catherina B——, a nineteen-year-old Italian girl, who came to visit Chicago as the guest of a Mrs. Santina T——, a country-woman of the girl's, residing in lower State street. Mrs. P—— advanced the girl \$100 to pay for her transportation to the city, and in New York she was met at the dock by two men, who informed her, as a guarantee of her safe arrival at her destination. Six months later, the United States District Attorney ordered a house raided, and found Miss B—— as an inmate, suffering from long razor cuts on her face and neck. The story that the girl told in the attorney's office subsequently almost passes belief.



"all yuh gotta do is to keep still"



## GIRL HELD IN ABSOLUTE SLAVERY

Her slavery began in New York, where the men placed her in a house of bondage and kept her for a while. In a few weeks she was taken to Chicago under guard and placed in a cheap resort for negroes and Italians. Here she was held in absolute slavery, under unprintable conditions. She begged for her release, and was informed that she was in debt four hundred dollars to Mrs. P——. The girl worked until this was paid. Then she was told bluntly that she was a slave; that she would be held as such until the end.

Then the B—— girl tried to run away. She was caught at the door by one of the male attaches of the place, knocked down like a steer in the pen, and while she lay helpless she was slashed about the head with a razor, one cut being ten inches long, and destroying one of her eyelids. After thus having convinced her that it was dangerous and impossible to escape once she was in the slaver's clutches, the girl was carried upstairs, her wounds roughly sewed up, and after that she went to the County Hospital for care, being threatened before going that if she did not explain to the authorities that she had got her injuries in an accident she would be killed.

The girl got well. She was turned out of the hospital as recovered. At the door two men were waiting for her. She was not to gain her freedom. They carried her back to the resort, from the hospital to a place of prostitution, and there she remained until the District Attorney's raiders found her. But for the raid this girl still would be a slave if she were alive.





## A TYPICAL CASE OF "OWNER AND SLAVE"

Take the case of the infamous Joseph O——, a typical case of an "owner" of a slave who was exposed and caught. There are thousands of such in the country, men who "own" a woman, who place her where they please, and live off her earnings.

Joseph O—— was a German who had learned this unprintable trade in the old country. The trade was ruining and selling girls. In appearance he was a stolid, respectable German citizen of the middle class; in reality he was a fiend. In time the Berlin police grew suspicious of him and his activities, and it was hinted to him that he had better leave the country. He left, but before going he managed to insinuate himself into the affections of a young girl of good family, and in the end he persuaded her to elope with him, on the promise that they would be married as soon as they reached America.

They went to South Chicago. There O——, with a brutality seldom equaled even in his own class, at once took the trusting and innocent girl to one of the lowest resorts in the Strand district, removed her clothes, locked her in a room, and calmly informed her that she was his slave, that she must stay in the resort until he saw fit to remove her, and that all her earnings were to go to him.

In that resort the girl was kept in absolute slavery. She was not allowed to leave the house, to write or receive a letter, or to have any communication with the outer world. For months she remained thus enslaved;





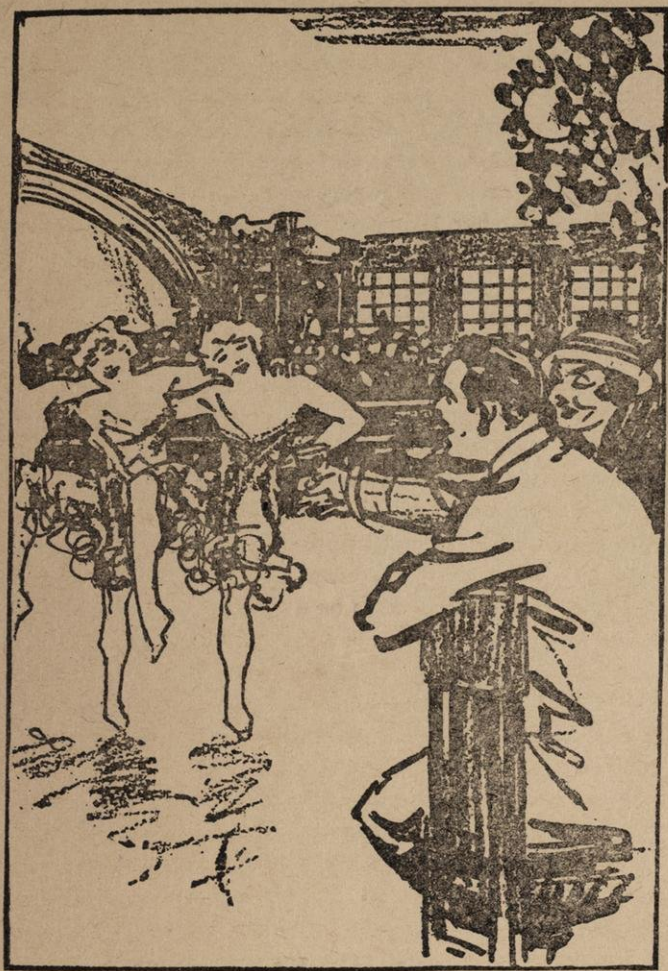
## **A TYPICAL CASE OF "OWNER AND SLAVE" 27**

then she managed to have a letter mailed to her parents in Germany; the authorities of this country were informed, and the result was her release and the arrest and conviction of the infamous O——.

"Get rid of the parasite, the creature who places young girls in resorts," says one of the most prominent of the fighters; "place him or her in prison, and the root of the white-slave evil will have been destroyed."

But do these parasites prey on our own girls—on the girls born and brought up here? asks the skeptical citizen.

They do. The number of the young girls who have been trapped and doomed to a living death is appalling. One case may suffice to illustrate the methods of a parasite "cutting out" a slave for himself. The case still is fresh in the public mind.





## PITFALLS FOR "THE INNOCENT"

Mary McC——, aged sixteen, met a good-looking, well dressed young man, named J——, at an amusement park. The young man conducted himself with great propriety, paid for rides and other amusements, and at the end of the evening begged for permission to call on the girl at her home. Permission was granted, and when J—— came he brought with him a friend. To complete the party, Miss McC—— called in a girl friend of her own age, and introduced her to J——'s friend. A few nights later the party of four went out for an evening's amusement. Then the young men announced that they were desperately in love with the girls, that they were rich, and that they wanted to marry them.

The girls, young, inexperienced, and, like most children of their age, untaught by their parents in the pitfalls of the city, were overwhelmed at the thought of marrying money, and accompanied the two slavers to where the marriage was to be performed. But here the dream ended. Instead of a minister, the party was met at the train by the keeper of a resort, and his house-keeper. The girls were taken to the resort; they were imprisoned, their clothes stolen, and by brute force they were driven into the dismal life of a white slave.

Their eventual escape brought about the arrest of the two young men and the keeper, all three of whom were put into jail awaiting trial. This is just one instance. Such men as these prowl the cities from end to end. No young girl not absolutely sheltered by home and home influences is safe from them. The shop girl on





starvation wages, the factory girl on the same, are their especial victims. Every day the parasites infest the city districts; during the summer time the amusement park is their stamping ground; and the harvest they reap is plentiful both in numbers and damnation.

This is what the present crusade is planned to end. As one procurer of women wrote to a friend in Paris:

"America is cursed with reform. There is no place for us here. We are being forced out of business. It is accursed by reformers."

There have been other crusades against the evil. The evil still exists, but here is a crusade that will not cease crusading until the last white slaver has been driven from here and the last unfortunate slave given the chance to accept the tradition that this is "the land of the Free."

