



ANCIENT CANNON AT FAMAGUSTA

the lot of the servants, they are never thought of or regarded as servants, because their position as daughters is too well defined and upheld. And so in families of the same kind where young girls are visiting it may be their schoolfellows, the visitor helps her friend in her household occupations, and does it gladly, without any idea that she is demeaning herself by so doing, or that she will be less highly thought of than if she held aloof, and this from the same reason as before, because her social position in the house is fully recognised, and not because of her being not obliged to work for her living. When, therefore, as daughter or as friend, a young lady can make herself valuable in the household by looking after the nursery, doing a little housemaid's work, or helping to cook the dinner, why cannot she do the same thing when going amongst strangers, and receiving a payment for the work she does? Without accepting it as the exhaustive reason, there is little doubt that the answer, "Because the master and mistress of the house would not treat her as a lady," is not very far from the truth. In a great number of cases amongst the middle classes, the persons employing governesses are neither so gently born nor so well bred as the girls they employ; they have more money, of course, and take their stand upon that, and assert a superiority in consequence, and it is not much to be wondered at if, in such circumstances, the snubbed and slighted girl takes her stand upon her better breeding, and gives herself some airs which in her heart of hearts she despises herself for being guilty of.

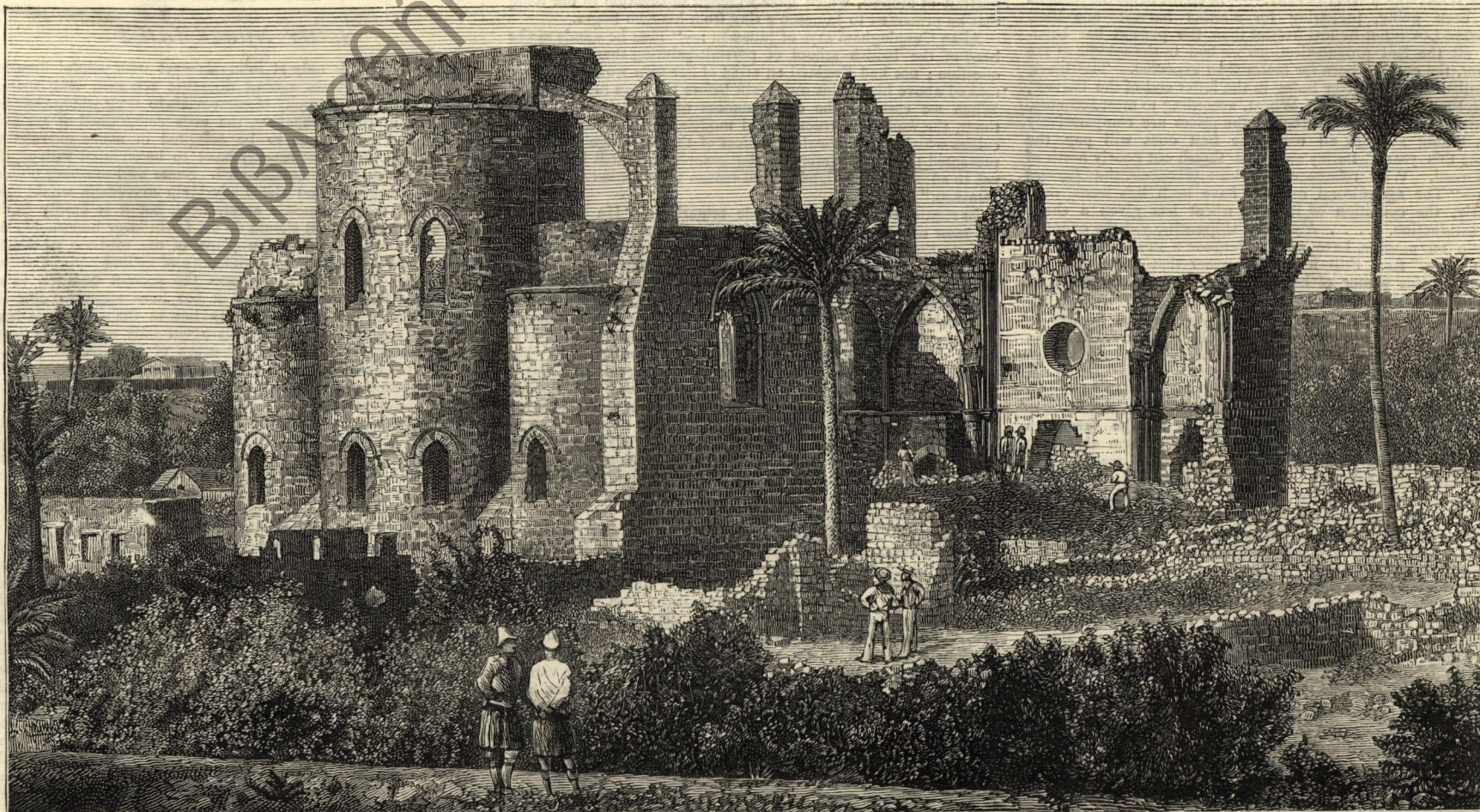
As a rule nursemaids have neither hard work nor dirty work

to do, and a superior nurse is almost as much waited upon as the children under her care; there is no reason, therefore, why a young lady should not undertake such duties as these, and there is still less reason why she should lose caste by so doing; let her position as an equal in the family be entirely admitted and recognised, and all idea of her light duties being menial will at once vanish. There can be no doubt of the advantage to the children in having a nurse who will be like an elder sister, and not like a servant, while all mothers ought to be able to appreciate the gain of having the impertinent vulgarity of the kitchen replaced by the gentle manners and ladylike behaviour of the Lady Nursemaid.

There is no doubt that there are hundreds of young ladies quite willing to undertake nursery work under the conditions just indicated. Not long ago a friend of the present writer's advertised for two servants—one of them a nursemaid; the advertisement appeared six times and in three different papers. To these she only had two replies! She afterwards advertised once for a nursery governess and received forty applications, and many of these applicants were willing to go out for less wages than the dirty sluts of servants she had previously employed had demanded for their precious services. Another friend in reply to two advertisements of a similar character received more than 150 letters, and a large number of the applicants in both cases were willing to act as upper nurses as well as instructors of the children. Their letters suggested a very sad amount of misery and privation amongst

people little used to it; a large proportion of the applicants were daughters of professional men; the father of one had been a physician, several more were daughters of medical men and solicitors, while clergymen's daughters were very numerous, and comparatively few belonged to the trading classes.

With such a state of things existing it would surely be worth while for young ladies to help themselves, by accepting engagements as lady nursemaids, on the assured understanding that they would be treated as ladies and as members of the family. Let them look at the good nursemaids living near them, and they will notice neat and well-dressed girls, a large portion of whose time is spent in the open air, and whose indoor duties do not severely tax their physical strength. Even the wheeling of a perambulator—that apparently necessary evil—is not very arduous work, and in many places mothers occupying good positions in society are not ashamed to be seen taking their children out for an airing in one of these objectionable but convenient machines. In a comfortable home the work would not be more laborious than that of a governess, and such a situation could be accepted by many a girl whose training and temperament did not fit her for more advanced teaching; and, besides finding suitable employment for many who know not where to turn to find work, an extended adoption of the suggestion would set free a large number of domestic servants, which in itself would be no inconsiderable advantage, and might go far to relieve the aggravation of the seemingly insolvable servant question.



CHURCH OF ST. SOPHIA, FAMAGUSTA

THE OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS