



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 beeves 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."