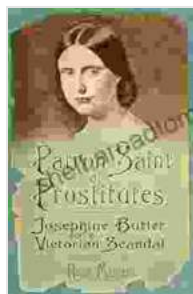


Josephine Butler: Patron Saint of Prostitutes

Josephine Butler was born in 1828 to a wealthy family in Northumberland, England. Her father was a clergyman, and her mother was a devout Christian. Butler was raised in a religious household, and she developed a strong faith at a young age.

In 1852, Butler married George Butler, a clergyman who shared her religious beliefs. The couple had five children together. In 1864, the Butlers moved to Liverpool, where George became the rector of St. Matthew's Church.



Josephine Butler: Patron Saint of Prostitutes by Helen Mathers

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5



It was in Liverpool that Butler first became aware of the plight of prostitutes. She was shocked by the conditions in which they lived and worked, and she was determined to do something to help them. In 1869, Butler founded the Ladies' National Association for the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts. The Acts, which had been passed in 1864 and 1866, allowed the police to arrest and forcibly examine women suspected of being prostitutes.

The women were then detained in lock hospitals, where they were often subjected to abuse and humiliation.

Butler's campaign against the Contagious Diseases Acts was met with fierce opposition from the government and the medical establishment. She was accused of being a radical and a moral degenerate. However, Butler refused to be silenced. She traveled throughout the country, speaking out against the Acts and calling for their repeal.

In 1886, Butler's campaign finally succeeded. The Contagious Diseases Acts were repealed, and Butler was hailed as a hero by the women's rights movement. Butler continued to work for the rights of prostitutes throughout her life. She founded the Josephine Butler Society, which continues to work to combat prostitution and sexual exploitation today.

Josephine Butler was a pioneering social reformer who dedicated her life to fighting for the rights of prostitutes. Her work led to the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts, and she is now considered one of the most important figures in the history of the women's rights movement.

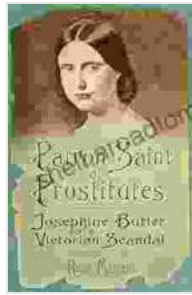
Legacy

Josephine Butler's legacy is still felt today. The Josephine Butler Society continues to work to combat prostitution and sexual exploitation, and her work has inspired other activists around the world. Butler's story is a reminder that one person can make a difference in the world.

Further Reading

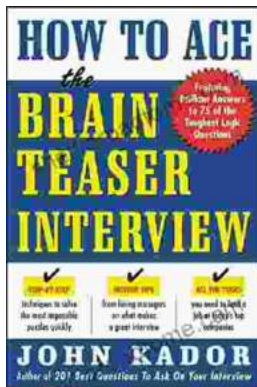
- [The Josephine Butler Society](#)
- [Josephine Butler at the British Library](#)

- Josephine Butler at the National Women's History Museum



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