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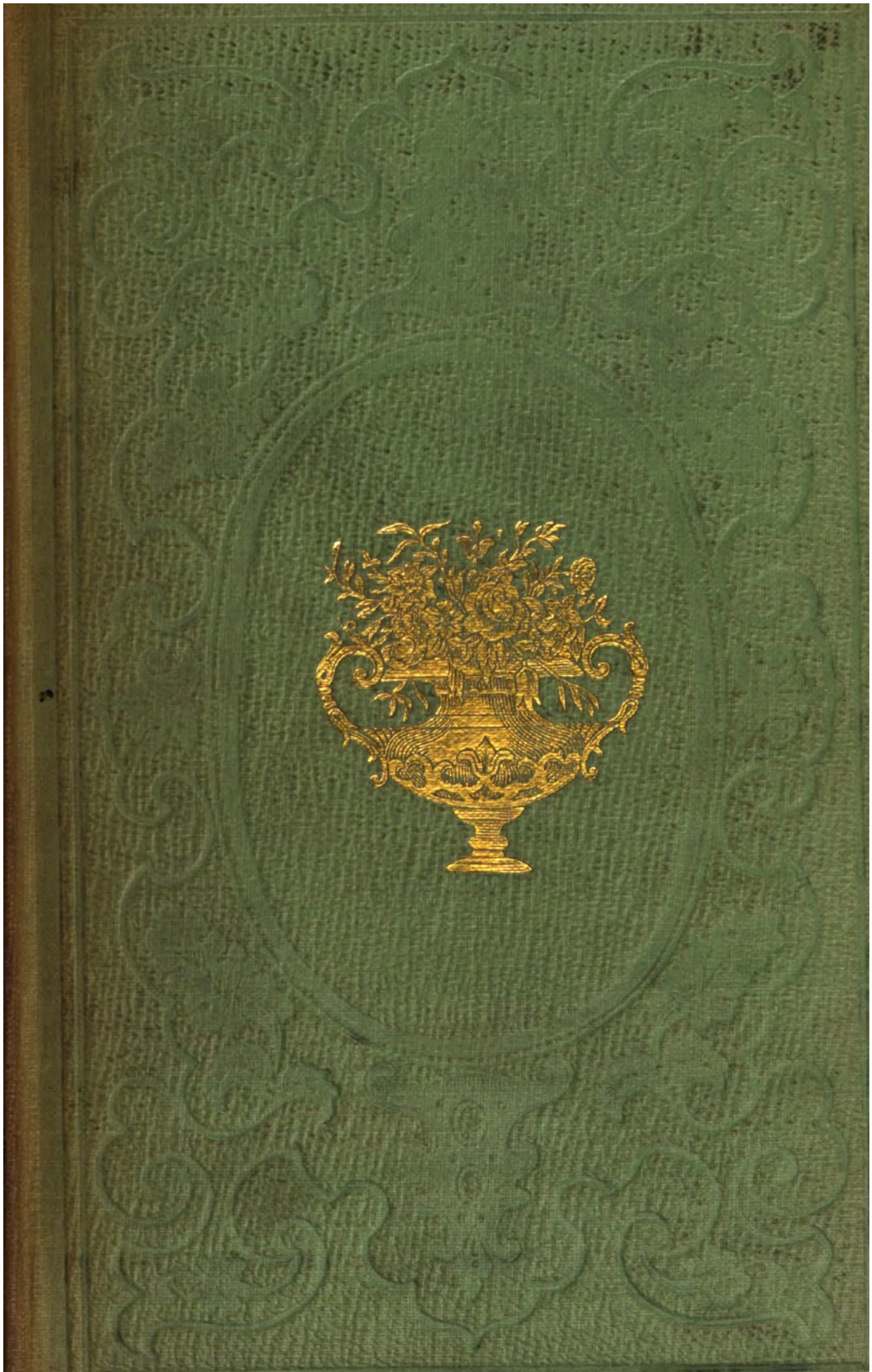
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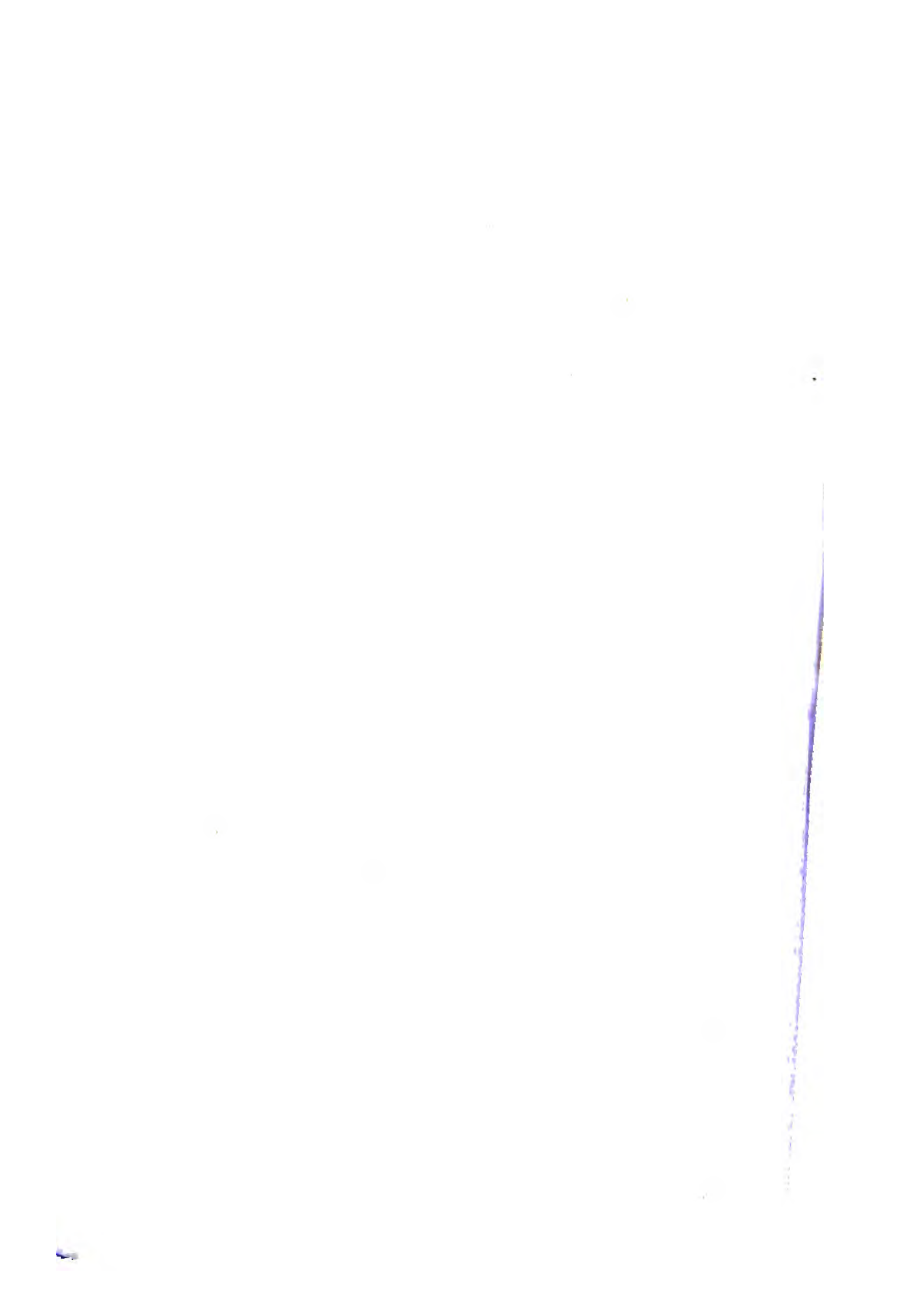
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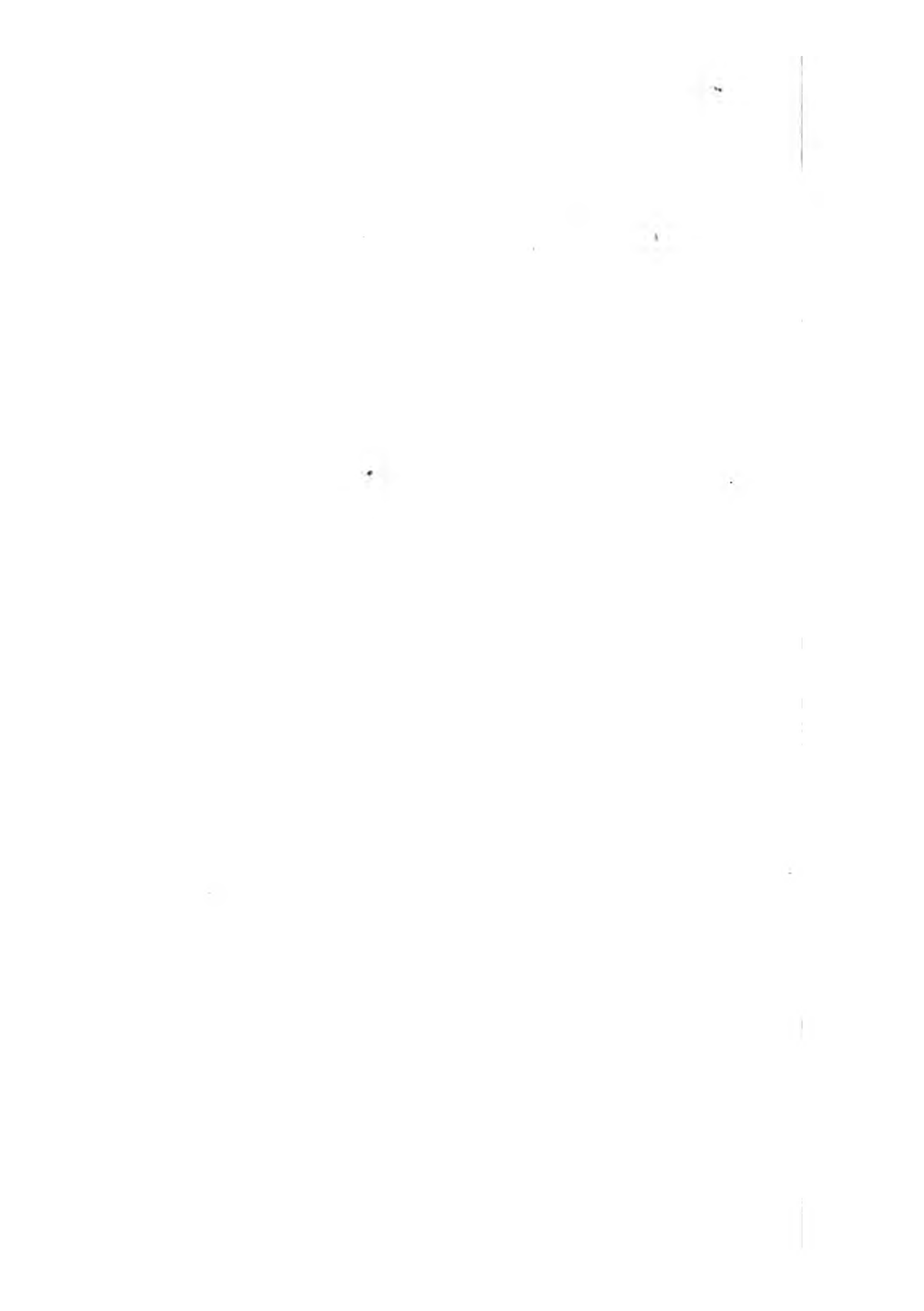


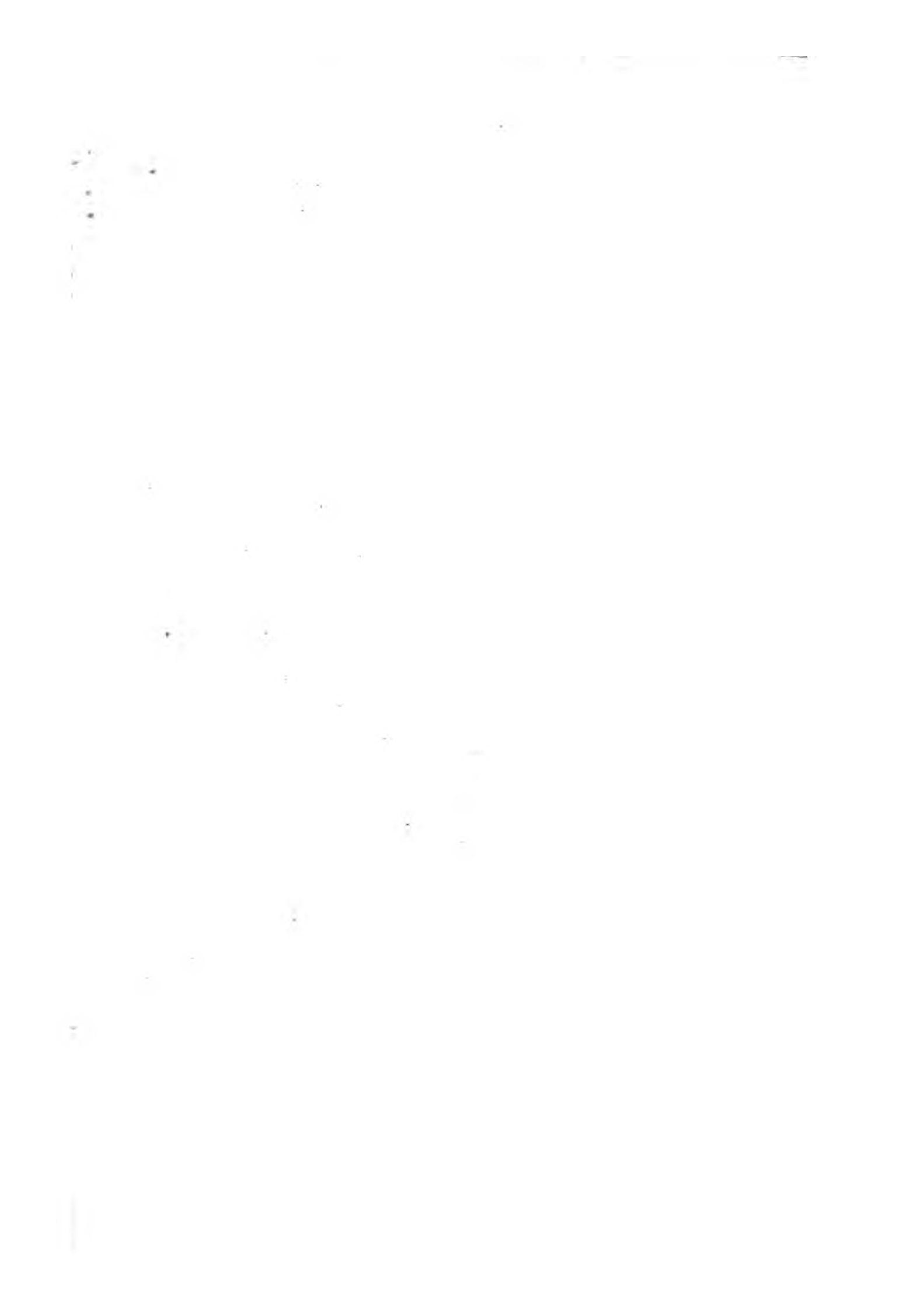


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Susan Gardner.

P. 53.





THE
PRESENT OF A MISTRESS,
TO A
YOUNG SERVANT,
By
Mrs Taylor of Ongar,

EDITED BY MISS ROBERTS.

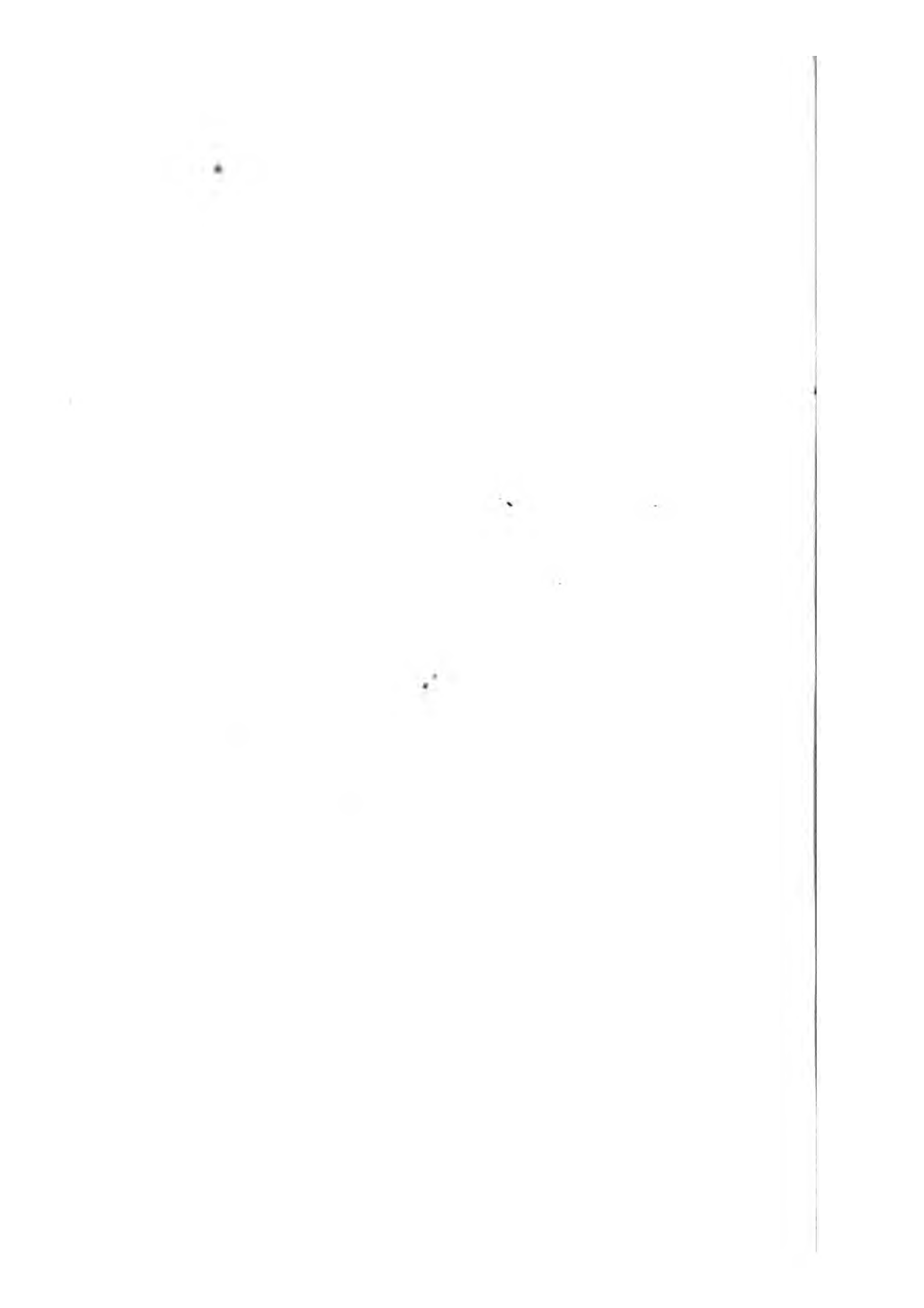


The Nursery Maid

LONDON,

HOUSTON AND STONFMAN,

65. Paternoster Row



THE
PRESENT OF A MISTRESS

TO
A YOUNG SERVANT.

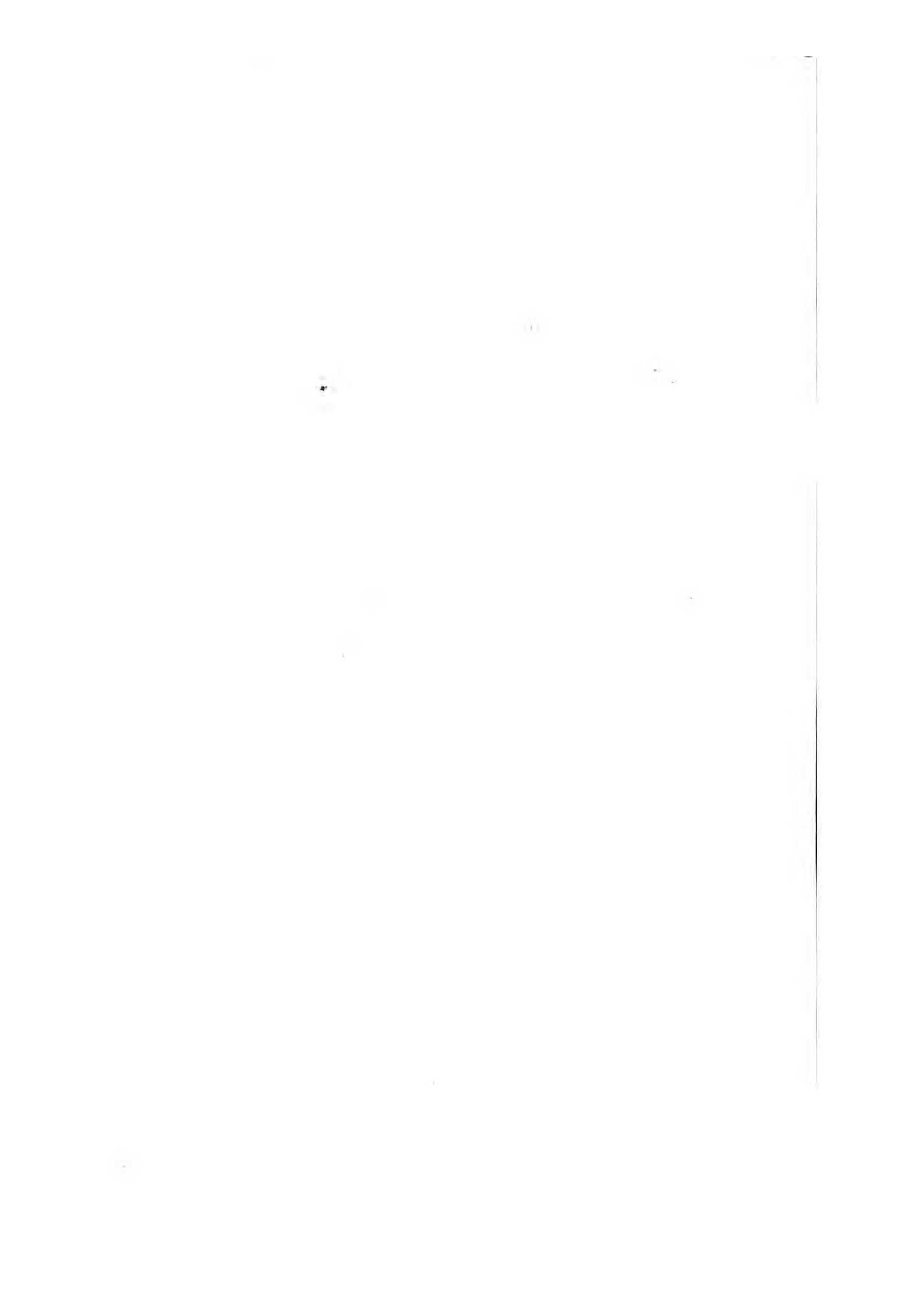
BY THE LATE MRS. TAYLOR,
OF ONGAR.

NEW EDITION, BY MISS ROBERTS,
AUTHOR OF
"THE PROGRESS OF CREATION," "RUINS AND OLD TREES," ETC.



LONDON :
HOULSTON AND STONEMAN,
65, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1851.

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ADVERTISEMENT.



SHOULD any lady be disposed to present her servant with this little work, the following explanation of its design may be acceptable. It will be obvious from even a cursory perusal, that the contents are not intended for the use of competent servants, many of the directions respecting household work, frugality, &c. being inapplicable to such, especially in large establishments. But while a hope is entertained, that servants of a superior order may occasionally glean a hint for the regulation of their general conduct,

it is principally addressed to young girls at their first setting out in life. Plain families have often the trouble of preparing young persons for higher situations, and it would contribute greatly to the comfort of both classes, if steady principles and sober habits could be early instilled into those by whom they are served.

The following pages have, moreover, an object remotely in view, more extensive than that which they immediately profess; and this is to form good wives and mothers among the poor; for there can be little doubt that she who is brought to act conscientiously in the character of a servant, will acquit herself well in these more important relations. To attain so desirable an end, it has been deemed necessary to adopt a very minute mode of instruction, on the subject of frugality especially. In servants,

this quality cannot be exercised on a large scale, and their opportunities are not less contracted when they have families of their own; they have seldom pounds at their disposal in either case. It is only therefore by attending to the small portions of which such sums are composed, that they can practise frugality, and become economists, either for their employers or themselves.

Example is in general more forcible than precept, a number of anecdotes and characters from real life have therefore been introduced with the intention of relieving whatever may appear somewhat tedious, as also to impress advice more deeply on the mind. Should they answer the end for which they are narrated, such as are deservedly worthy of regard, will have effected good beyond their humble aim; others, on the contrary, who thought only of gratifying

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THE
PRESENT OF A MISTRESS.

—◆—
INTRODUCTION.

REMEMBER the admonition of Holy Writ, "Be pitiful, be courteous;" if faults arise, consider whether they may not result rather from misapprehension, than from evil inclination or criminal neglect, especially if the offender has been little cared for in early life, or possessed but few advantages. Among servants especially, though some do wrong from want of principle, the greater number, with kindly dispositions and honest principles, would act well, if early care and admonition enabled them to see what was right.

Such are the thoughts that arose within us, when considering the relative positions of mistresses and servants. We leave them with the

former, and shall now exclusively direct our attention to the latter.

Listen, therefore, my young friends, and I will endeavour to place before you certain duties and responsibilities, which are yours peculiarly; they pertain to the name you bear, and the position in which it has pleased your heavenly Father to place you. I have seen a good deal of life, having lived longer than most of you: the fruits of my experience shall be yours, humbly trusting that they may preserve you from many dangers, and lead to much that is good.

In what point of view, think you, is a servant to be regarded? Not, certainly, as merely a hired person, as one who gives her labour for fixed wages, but as a member of the family; nay more, as a friend, who will be true to herself and her employers. Now it is evident, that you can neither be one nor the other, if you think only of your own personal advantage, and endeavour to get all you can, with the least possible labour; while you are always dissatisfied, and do not even refrain from murmuring and complaining, if any thing happens to displease you. Guard against this conduct for your own sake, if not from

a higher principle. Those who indulge in such evil tempers cannot reasonably expect that their comforts will be much thought of by those with whom they live. You naturally wish to find a comfortable home, a plentiful table, and good wages ; and you are justly displeased if disappointed : but your employers have an equal right to demand your best services, and to be displeased in their turn, if you fail to do that for which they bargained, and for which they honestly pay you.

Some young women may be inclined to say, " I wish that my parents had apprenticed me to a trade ; it would have been more independent, and less wearisome than service." In this, I think, you are mistaken, for small tradespeople lead very anxious lives ; whereas, you have every thing found you, besides wages ; and if you would consider service as your own peculiar occupation, and fulfil its duties with as much readiness and cheerfulness as a young tradesman who hopes by such means to procure customers, you would obtain the esteem of your masters and mistresses, even eventually, it may be, hold a more responsible and higher situation in the family.

It is sad to witness the dislike of honest industry, which some strong and healthy servants show by their conduct. They inquire after light places, where little is to be done, and expect that their employers should patiently put up with all their wayward humours, and indolent habits, without requiring the least obedience. Such places are happily not very common, and in the hope, my young friend, that you are more desirous to do your duty in the world, than to get a place where there is nothing either to do, or to bear, the following advice is affectionately proffered, with a request, that you will give it an *attentive* consideration ; as it is only by so doing that you can possibly remember the various duties that are pointed out.

The following narratives are equally designed to instruct and to amuse you ; they are not invented to beguile a leisure hour, but to blend instruction with entertainment ; neither are they imaginary, but real, and some of the characters are still living : read them, therefore, attentively ; and while, on one hand, they hold up to you the miserable consequences of bad conduct ; on the other, they beautifully exemplify the benefits of

good example, and the blessings which descend on those who wish to serve the Lord.

Think not that the name of servant is in any respect derogatory ; the term is mostly restricted to those who dwell beneath an adopted roof, and work therein for an earthly master, but in point of fact we are all servants, some in one sense, some in another ; and I am much inclined to think that those to whom the term is especially given, have often the lightest places, the least fatigue, and by far the smallest share of vexation and anxiety.

But we are all servants in another sense : one is our Master, even God ; He sets us our proper task ; He says to one, Come !—to another, Go !—to a third, Do this ! Happy for each of us, when we readily and humbly obey Him ; doing our duty to our fellow-creatures in whatever station we are : not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as unto God ; although, when we have done all, we are in His sight but unprofitable servants.

CHAPTER I.

KEEPING IN PLACE.

No servant can ever rise in the world, nor establish a character, who is frequently changing her place; this is evident by the objections which are generally made against servants, if they have not lived long anywhere. Such objections are perfectly reasonable; for who can imagine that a valuable domestic would be either frequently turned away, or that, having a good home, she is unwilling to keep it. A sensible girl will not allow every trifle to unsettle her, nor expect perfection. The habits of one family necessarily differ from those of another, and how foolish it is to say, "I cannot conform to them, I will not continue here, because I have never been used to this, or that." What appears unpleasant at first, may be only so, because it is new; therefore by no means leave in a hurry, till you give your new situation a fair trial.

There are other weighty reasons, which will induce a prudent girl to observe this conduct. The servant who has continued long in her place, and endeared herself to the family by amiable behaviour, can alone reasonably expect the assistance of her employers in times of sickness and distress. *Real* friends are more scarce, and of greater consequence, than young people are apt to imagine ; and frequently none are so able, nor so willing to prove themselves such, as masters and mistresses, who have been long and faithfully served. Nor ought it to be forgotten, how much is lost by remaining a few months, or even a few weeks out of place ; that it is extremely difficult to make up arrears, either as regards time or wages ; and that much anxiety and great privations may be endured, before these can be effected. Persons who are continually changing, as often begin the world afresh. They are as far from making any progress, as the traveller who turns back every step, and begins his journey again, vainly hoping by such folly to reach the end he has in view.

A custom prevails among servants in many country towns, namely, that of changing their

places at a certain season in the year, chiefly at Michaelmas ; and this is so much the fashion, that many make a practice of it, whether their situations suit them or not. Or, what is as bad, they give warning in order that they may be invited to stay another year ; when this occurs they too often become conceited, but it happens not unfrequently that their employers will not allow themselves to be thus trifled with, and that they are in consequence taken at their word.

Having said thus much about the *keeping* of places, it may be proper to give a little advice respecting the manner of *leaving* them, and the conduct that should be observed afterwards. Though the labourer is worthy of his hire, yet servants should have some sense of what they owe to those whose bread they eat. It is a great thing to be supplied with the comforts of life, though they *are* earned by labour. Indeed, labour, where there is sufficient health and strength, is no evil at all ; and those who have constant employment are happier than the idle. But many live with mistresses to whom they are obliged for more than their maintenance ; those who, having taken them when utterly ignorant,

have not only borne with their awkward ways, but have kindly instructed them in household duties ; and thus enabled them to procure an honest livelihood. Such kindness is of far more value than gold ; the second may be lost or spent, but of the first no one can be deprived. Surely it is most ungrateful, when a servant begins to feel the value of such instructions, and is competent to take a higher place, immediately to set about bettering herself, and to leave her mistress with an ignorant girl, who will require the same pains to be taken with her. No kind mistress will be so unreasonable as to expect that a servant shall confine herself entirely to her first place, or lose a suitable opportunity of obtaining a superior situation ; but before this is sought for, it will be desirable to consider, and that seriously, if a reasonable hope exists of actual advantage, and whether it is wise to leave a comfortable place, where improvement may still be gained, for a small increase of wages. That place cannot be a bad one, where a young person is kindly treated, and kept to her duty ; and the mistress is certainly entitled to respect and consideration, who takes the trouble of instructing a young

beginner ; self-interest, therefore, as well as gratitude, should prevent a servant from hastily quitting such a desirable situation.

Should, however, circumstances arise that may render a change of place advisable, you will do wisely to consult your mistress on the subject. Explain to her your reasons, and seriously consider the advice you may receive from her. By thus acting, you will be sure to gain a good character, without which a respectable situation cannot be honestly obtained.

Servants are often displeased with their mistresses for telling the truth when applied to for their characters ; and yet, if mistresses were always determined to do as they would be done by, and not to conceal faults that may be remedied, it would conduce to much good ; the heads of families would not be annoyed and disappointed, and servants would have every possible inducement to be steady, industrious, and obliging.

But mistresses, equally with servants, have characters at stake ; and many an excellent place has fallen into disrepute, by the false reports of those who have been discharged for ill conduct. This is hard dealing on the part of servants.

Truly, it is sufficiently disagreeable to have been troubled with idle, uncivil, or dishonest persons, without being made the subject of untruths, and prevented from obtaining a trusty servant in the place of an undeserving one. It may, occasionally, be extremely difficult to give a satisfactory reason for being discharged, it may be equally so to assign a real cause for giving warning ; but it will be right in those who do not wish to expose the faults of their employers, to refrain from any species of deception.

Do not allow yourself to be set against a place that is evil spoken of, by designing or malicious girls ; if the situation appears desirable in other respects, go and try for yourselves. Should the reports you have heard prove true, you are not bound to continue, and no great harm will be done : should they be false, you may have obtained a comfortable settlement, and perhaps in time may rank with the subject of the following story.

Lydia Miller was the daughter of an honest labourer, who lived a hundred miles from London ; and her mother was generally respected as

a decent and industrious woman, who occasionally went out nursing, and was much esteemed by all who employed her in that capacity. The parents brought up a numerous family in habits of industry, and when they went abroad into the world they carried with them the remembrance of instructions well bestowed, and of examples in all that was most excellent. Lydia was the youngest; she had scarcely attained her sixteenth year, when the representations of a neighbour induced her to seek a place in London. The advice he gave was injudicious, but well meant: he not only spoke of high wages, and the desirableness of seeing the world, but told of wondrous sights in the great city; and in speaking of a near relation of Lydia's father who lived there, he instanced, as a proof of the comfort which she enjoyed, that her house had sash windows.

Accordingly Lydia left her mother's neat and pleasant cottage, with the pretty garden and rural seat at the door, shaded by honeysuckle and jessamine, where she used to stand with her spinning wheel, and feel as blithe and joyous as the little birds that flitted over her head, or sung in the neighbouring trees. Her friend,

according to his promise, took her up in his cart, and lodged her safely at her relation's, who lived in a dark gloomy house, in a dirty street, and took in washing. Lydia was wanted to assist in the wash-house, to nurse the children, to wait on the lodgers, and to fetch and carry the linen. She had associated with sash windows ideas of light and cheerfulness, but those of her cousin were begrimed with dust ; neither green fields nor gardens were to be seen from them, nothing but the roofs of houses, and miserable yards and sheds. Poor Lydia remembered with an aching heart her mother's pleasant cottage, with its birds and flowers ; and often wished herself back again. But, alas ! there was little hope of returning ; she had no money to pay for her journey back, her relation did not think it necessary to give her regular wages, and moreover, the friendly old man was not likely to return with his cart again.

“ Cleanliness is next to godliness, my children,” her mother had often said ; and on this principle the cottage of Mrs. Miller was duly regulated. The reverse was the case at her relation's. Lydia's heart sunk within her, when she saw the dirty

windows, and the general untidiness of the house ; but how much more, when hearing the bad words and immoral songs of the women in the wash-house, and the coarse laugh of her relation, if the country girl hung down her head and blushed ! Unable at length to endure the annoyances to which she was subjected, Lydia sought for and obtained a place suited to her age. It seemed in every respect desirable ; for the family consisted only of a master and mistress, and the house was small. Scarcely, however, had the new servant entered on her duties, than her difficulties were even greater than before. The mistress drank, the master was passionate ; and, in consequence, the house often presented a scene of terrible confusion. Lydia was scolded from morning till night ; she was even in dread of her life, from the temporary insanity of her mistress, brought on by drinking, and she was constrained to seek for a new situation. One soon offered in the same neighbourhood, in consequence of a lady having been left by her servant at a moment's warning,—a conduct which often throws a family into the greatest confusion, and of which no girl who values her character will

be guilty. Had it not been for this circumstance, Lydia's youth would have been an objection, though it was more than overbalanced by her extremely neat appearance. Her clothes were of the most homely kind ; but there was a simplicity and a propriety in her dress, which gave her a manifest advantage over those mistaken girls, who render themselves ridiculous by expensive finery. To the inquiries that were made respecting what she could do, she gave no very satisfactory answers ; for she had as yet seen nothing of the world, and could boast of little but the virtue of cleanliness, which she had learned of her mother. Nor would she deceive her mistress by pretending to understand things of which she knew herself to be ignorant,—a falsehood which must be immediately discovered, and by which she would naturally forfeit all title to future confidence.

When Lydia's month was expired in her old situation, she entered upon her new one, and soon gave her mistress reason to rejoice, that she had not refused her on account of her youthful appearance. She proved cleanly, industrious, humble, and teachable ; and being sensible of her

ignorance and very desirous to learn she rapidly improved ; but her highest eulogium may be comprised in these words : she continued in her place twenty years.

Lydia was greatly attached to the family, and their interest became dear to her as her own ; under the direction of her mistress she soon knew how to lay out money at market to the best advantage, and took care that no imposition should be practised in even the smallest article. Remembering the admonition of the apostle, with regard to tale-bearing, and watchfulness as respected words, she never permitted any one either to speak disrespectfully of her master and mistress, or to pry into their affairs. Such conduct was resented by her as a personal offence. Nor was this all, she loved the children, and was of course beloved by them ; she also became a tender and attentive nurse in sickness, and would undergo the fatigues of such distressing seasons without a murmuring word.

During the twenty years that Lydia lived in this family, she paid two visits to her native village : the first was at the end of seven years, for during that time she had saved money suffi-

cient to admit of not only incurring the expense, but of adding to the comfort of her aged parents. Those only who love, and are deservedly beloved, can tell what a happy meeting it was, and how delightfully the three weeks of her permitted absence glided away. Some few of the country girls looked somewhat enviously at Lydia, on account of her creditable appearance, and sneeringly remarked, that it was a fine thing to go to London. They were not sufficiently aware that good conduct alone ensures prosperity, and that to have said, "industry and good conduct have their reward even in this world," would have been much more to the purpose.

When the three weeks expired, Lydia took an affectionate leave of her relations, and returned punctually at the appointed time. To have acted otherwise would have seemed to this excellent young woman, ungrateful towards her mistress, and she was too well principled to invent excuses, for remaining a few days longer ; remembering in whose presence her words were uttered, and that the all-seeing eye of her heavenly Father was continually fixed upon her.

The subject of this narrative was endowed with

an excellent understanding, and some considerable perception of character ; it was, therefore, especially to be regretted that she lent a willing ear to a young man in the neighbourhood, who amused himself with paying her attentions. In this respect poor Lydia was completely off her guard ; he was younger than herself, of frivolous habits, and one who was evidently incapable of a serious attachment. He began by praising her beauty, although she was merely well-looking, talked of her sweet diamond eyes and rosy cheeks, calling her his angel, and declaring that he could not live without her.

Lydia Miller listened and believed ; she omitted to ask advice of her excellent mistress, who would have conversed with her husband on the subject, and thus gained information respecting the merits of the suitor. Instead of this, she permitted her affections to be deeply engaged, and her unprincipled admirer, having gained the point at which he aimed, suddenly abandoned her and raised many a laugh at her expense among his base companions, who openly ridiculed her even as she passed along. This was hard to bear, and grief and mortification did their work, undermining her

naturally excellent constitution, and laying her on a bed of sickness ; yet in the midst of her own sorrows, she did not forget her duty, nor was so much occupied with her afflictions as to be negligent in her business. She indeed recovered sufficiently to become as heretofore an excellent servant ; but her health was never perfectly restored, and though cruelly deceived, she could not hear without emotion that the betrayer of her happiness was suddenly called to his account.

Lydia might have settled very respectably about a year after ; an excellent man, and one who was really in earnest, made her proposals of marriage ; but feeling that she could not return his affection, she prudently declined the offer of his hand.

Years rolled away, and Lydia continued faithful to the family through many trials and changes : she attended the dying beds of both her master and mistress, and closed their eyes. She then went to another branch of the same family, where she remained ten years longer, till her health, which continued to decline, obliged her to remove to a lighter place, though still in the same circle. Here she lived beloved and respected, till past her labour, when her master procured for her a

situation in a respectable alms-house, and furnished it very neatly at his own expense. She had saved something considerable, during her long life, and this, with her weekly stipend and kind attentions from her friends, made her completely comfortable. Her neat garden, with the honeysuckle over the door, reminded her of her mother's cottage, where it seemed but as yesterday that she used to stand and spin ; so fast does time fly away ! Who of all the gossips in the neighbourhood, with whom she might have associated, would thus have befriended her in time of old age and sickness ? It is only faithful servants, that continue long in their places, who deserve, or can expect to find, true friends in their masters and mistresses.

At length the time came when Lydia was summoned hence. A sudden attack of illness betokened that her day's work on earth was ended. One day she drooped, another she died ; but the brief interval afforded an ample time for bearing a full testimony to the goodness of her Saviour, whose rod and staff had safely conducted her to the haven she was about to enter. Humility as regarded her own deserts, and humble trust in

her adorable Redeemer, had long been the habitual feeling of her mind. Hence, her religion had been one of many years standing, it proved a light to her feet and a lamp to her path during the period of her earthly pilgrimage, and when death approached, she had not to learn on whom her faith rested.

During her illness, she expressed the greatest affection for the various branches of the family she had served, and mentioned them with her dying breath. One of these, whom she had tenderly nursed in her infancy, wrote the following epitaph, as a memorial of a *good and faithful servant* :—

In Memory of
LYDIA MILLER,

Who departed this Life August 27, 1814, aged 60 Years.

It is not beauty, wealth, or fame,
That can endear a dying name,
 And write it on the heart ;
'Tis humble worth, 'tis duty done,
A course with cheerful patience run ;
By these, the faithful sigh is won,
 The warm tear made to start.

And such the virtue, such the praise,
Of one, who now her forehead lays
 Beneath this stone to rest !
Her modest worth, her meek content,
Her life in lowliest duty spent,
Have raised her better monument
 In many a grateful breast.

By those she served this tomb is made,
By those she loved this tribute paid,
 Well earn'd through many a year ;
The wither'd arm, the sightless eye,
Which here in death and silence lie,
Nurtured and soothed the infancy
 Of her who drops the tear !

CHAPTER II.

TEACHABLENESS.

CARRY back your thoughts, my young friends, to the period when you sat beside your mothers, or the village schoolmistress, learning to read or sew. Who gained instruction the most readily? Those, undoubtedly, who took the greatest pains. The same holds good with regard to the duties of more advanced life, when, leaving the cottage of your parents, you go forth to occupy situations in other families.

Every one must know his business, before he can hope to succeed in it. The bricklayer, the carpenter, and the shoemaker, generally require a seven years' apprenticeship to perfect them. Household employments are *your* business, by which your livelihood is to be obtained, and for which desirable end previous instruction is equally necessary. If young persons, at their first setting out in life, would regard things in this light, they could neither be perverse nor

uncivil when attempts are made to instruct them ; nor when they are desired to do this or that, would they turn away without answering, as if they did not hear. Nothing can be more improper than such behaviour : those who are guilty of it, can have little that is obliging in their dispositions ; if they had, they would reply readily, and say that what is ordered shall be done ; or when fault is found, they would express their concern that they had not pleased, they would promise amendment, and be as good as their word ; never forgetting that they are paid for civility as well as for labour, that they are hired to *obey* as well as to *do*. To mutter, is also exceedingly wrong. If what is said is fit to be heard, it might be spoken aloud ; if otherwise, nothing is gained thereby but the gratification of ill-humour ; and those who indulge such a temper uniformly injure themselves.

None are too old or too wise to learn. Even your mistress, if she is a sensible woman, hopes to grow wiser every year, and takes pains so to do ; while, on the contrary, those who are young and ignorant, yet conceited and unteachable, might be asked, how they came by their

imaginary wisdom, or how it happens that they are already perfect in their business? A conceited girl may indeed vex her employers, and occasion them much inconvenience; they can, however, readily dismiss her, but as regards herself, a proneness to self-exaltation is uniformly productive of evil; it causes the possessor to remain in ignorance, and prevents her from rising to respectability in her station. "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him." *Prov.* xxvi. 12.

Can a servant who chooses to remain thus ignorant expect to become a useful and domestic wife? Should she ever be able to keep a servant, would she incline to maintain a sturdy girl who was equally ignorant and unteachable; or if some one is placed under her in the kitchen, would not the same untoward temper, which renders her above being taught, make her unwilling to bear with the dulness and perverseness of another? Let such a one imagine herself busily occupied in domestic concerns, and that her assistant, from want of care and attention, was by her continual mistakes rather hindering than helping, showing moreover wilful negligence, and

then giving ill language in return for just reproof, could this be patiently borne, though the maintenance and pay of such a useless person would fall upon the master and mistress? Those who feel that they could not bear such conduct, will do well to remember the divine precept which teaches us, to do unto others as we would they should do unto us.

CHAPTER III.

GOOD TEMPER.

YOUNG persons who do not possess good tempers, or who have not been well trained at home, will have to endure much trouble when they go out into the world. They cannot expect that every one should conform to their humours ; on the contrary, it is their duty to submit, to obey and not to rule. They must remember that masters and mistresses are sufficiently occupied with their own concerns, without having their peace disturbed by their servants.

Girls of a naturally bad temper are frequently discomposed by *things* as well as by persons. If the fire will not burn, if the pot will not boil, if it boils over, or if any little cross circumstance happens, even where no blame attaches, every one within reach must suffer for it ! as if all *things* as well as all *people* were to be in constant subjection to them. Locks may be spoiled by banging of doors, earthenware may be broken by

throwing it about, fellow-servants may be rendered miserable, the children may be frightened, the mistress offended, and a good place may be lost—sooner than any of these exploits will improve the fire, or make the pot boil slower or faster, or produce one good effect either present or future. Let those whose tempers are of this unhappy cast, endeavour to subdue them. Were their bodies diseased, they would take medicine ; but a diseased mind requires still greater attention, lest bad habits should grow so strong as to become incurable. Some say, they know their tempers are bad, but they cannot help it ; yet if they knew that some one was standing with a pistol, ready to shoot them the next time they suffered their tempers to break forth, it is more than probable that they would keep them under restraint. Evil tempers are not uncontrollable ; and though no present danger may result from their indulgence, be assured that they will not pass unpunished. Wherefore ? Because the word of Scripture teaches you to put away “ all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, with all malice.” *Ephes. iv. 31.*

Every servant naturally wishes for a good-

tempered master or mistress, and that the persons with whom she comes in contact may be of the same description. If this were the case, what a pity it would be, that an ill-tempered girl should break the peace of so many well-disposed people! But if, to her great disappointment, she finds too many of her own disposition, she may learn, from viewing their unamiable conduct, in what light she must herself appear, and what little hope there is of her being loved or esteemed, when she finds it so difficult to love or esteem others, who are themselves unamiable.

There are many little things which a good-tempered servant will do, though not properly belonging to her place, pleasant and gratifying to the family, and seldom going unrewarded. An observant and obliging girl will soon discover, in almost every mistress, some peculiarity, in attending to which she will have an opportunity of pleasing, and thereby endearing herself, at the expense of little time and trouble. Though such trifles frequently add more to the real comfort of a mistress than even much laborious work, if performed ill-humouredly or grudgingly; yet it is not every one who has an eye to discern

these things, or a heart to practise them ; but those who have, generally find their account in it, besides the pleasure of doing a kind action. If no one had ever done for you any more than they were obliged to do, nor suffered you to feel that pleasing sort of kindness which springs from a willing mind, you might have been much worse off than you are, and might have had still more reason for complaint. A good disposition is its own reward ; and those who are disposed to conquer an evil one, may be encouraged thereto by that Scripture which saith, " He that ruleth his spirit, is greater than he that taketh a city." I will now relate a story which I know to be true, to show the surprising effects of good temper and good conduct, even in the lowest situations of life.

A thriving young tradesman, whose peace was continually disturbed by the bad temper of a relation who kept his house, used frequently to tell her, that he wished she looked half as pleasant and good-humoured as *Jane Batson*, who lived at a neighbouring public-house in London, and was employed in carrying out porter, and fetching in the pewter pots. He made this remark not with-

out reason ; for there was a modesty in Jane's behaviour, a mildness in her countenance, and a neatness in her dress, which is not often seen in such a situation. Moreover, her conduct was as little injured by the company she was exposed to, as her temper was ruffled by her laborious employment and hurried life.

Her appearance so far interested this young man, as to induce him to converse with her occasionally ; and he was thereby confirmed in his good opinion, because she did not bridle and look coquettish and forward, as some might have done ; nor did she, though his attentions increased, bedeck herself with one new ribbon, or spend one more minute at her glass. She was not foolish enough to think, that every civil word spoken, even by her equals, must needs have some particular meaning ; much less had she the presumption to imagine, that a respectable tradesman could have serious thoughts of her. But whatever she might think, so it was ; for he discovered so many engaging qualities in her, that for once he resolved to disregard what the world might say, and to make her his wife ! This is a thing which seldom happens ; nor is it meant to hold out the idea,

that every one who is discreet, and modest, and good-tempered, may of course expect such good fortune. But though young men in a superior condition may not marry them, being in general able to obtain suitable wives among their own class, yet such conduct will assuredly meet with its reward in some shape or other. Indeed, the very pleasure of trying to please and serve others, is a reward of itself ; for persons of amiable dispositions, however they may be situated in the world, will always be happier than those who, by fretfulness and discontent, render every one miserable around them.

But to proceed with the story. Mr. Warner, the thriving young tradesman, married Jane Batson, the girl of the King's Arms ! and she did not disgrace him, or give him occasion to repent his choice. She had always, as far as her situation would permit, endeavoured to improve her mind ; and as she had kept herself at a distance from the low company to which she was exposed, she had none of their vulgar and disgusting manners. Indeed, she would not have continued in so unfavourable a situation, had she not been distantly related to the people of the house, from whom she

had some expectations ; and being otherwise friendless, she was fearful of disoblighing them. She was, as the wife of Mr. Warner, sensible of her deficiencies, and knew that something more was wanting to make her respectable than fine clothes. She therefore bestowed more time, and took more delight, in the improvement of her mind, than in the various pleasures of her new situation. Whatever she learned that she did not know before, so far from rendering her proud and vain, convinced her that there was yet much more to be learned, and reminded her of her remaining ignorance. Nor did she put on any of those ridiculous airs, which people are apt to assume who are suddenly raised from an obscure situation. Religion taught her, that it is God only who by his providence pulleth down one, and setteth up another ; and that it is He who lifteth the poor out of the dust, and the needy from the mire ; and to Him she gave the glory. She never forgot from whence she had been raised ; and it made her humble rather than proud. Neither did she become extravagant, nor show a fondness for finery : she had always dressed agreeably to her station, and so she did now ; but she

never exposed herself to ridicule by going beyond it. She was an excellent wife, mother, and mistress: and let it not be forgotten, that the quality which first attracted the notice of her husband, was her *good temper*.

CHAPTER IV.

SPEAKING THE TRUTH.

WHEN you go into a shop to make purchases, and an inferior article is put into your hands with an assurance that it is one of the best, you feel justly displeased, and are not inclined to deal there again ; naturally suspecting, that those who do not scruple to impose upon you to-day, will do the same to-morrow, if an opportunity occurs. Or if you inquire the way to any place, and are directed to the left hand, when you should have turned to the right, you will not, for the same reason, suffer yourself to be misled by that person a second time if you can avoid it. Or should any one do you a slight injury, and then flatly deny it, you would probably be more provoked by the denial, than by the injury itself. If all were guilty of such conduct,—if no confidence could be placed in any one,—what a world should we have? What a situation would yours be, if neither your master nor mistress, nor any with whom

you are concerned, could be depended upon ! Judge then, my young friend, of others by yourself ; and never imagine, that you are the only person in the world who has a right to the truth, without ever being deceived.

An unprincipled servant has many opportunities of deceiving ; she may inflict serious injuries on her master's family, and continue for some time undiscovered ; but her unjust conduct will assuredly be found out at length. " Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord," *Prov. xii. 22* ; and consequently no blessing can rest on those who lie in wait to deceive.

The subject is all-important ; it affects the eternal happiness of every one ; for the present we shall, however, regard it merely with reference to our well-being in society, and the good opinion of our fellow-creatures.

Falsehood is often resorted to for the sake of hiding some accidental fault : if, for instance, a dish is broken, or a wine-glass, left carelessly on the edge of a table, is thrown down, the blame is laid on the cat, who cannot defend herself. The doing so is nevertheless a great sin, and will be punished as such ; and, as it regards any present

advantage the risk is great. It may be that the cat was not in the kitchen when the breakage took place, and some trifling circumstance may prove her to have been elsewhere. What then is the consequence? the servant who sought to lay the blame of her own carelessness on an unoffending animal forfeits all right to confidence, and must not wonder that she is disbelieved, even when speaking the truth.

Instances occur of servants being so dull and negligent, that they can hardly be trusted to do anything alone, who are yet extremely clever in making excuses, and consequently leave no doubt of their abilities, if they would rightly apply them ! How lamentable it is, that valuable talents, with which our Maker has blessed us, should be used as instruments of rebellion against him ! Such persons have no scruple in declaring, that they have performed that which they know still remains undone ; and they will deny having done things, of which they know they are justly accused ; whatever carelessness or negligence occurs is laid to the charge of others ; if no one is at hand to bear the blame, they endeavour to persuade you that the furniture or china broke of

themselves. Persons of this description rarely continue long in a place, and never obtain good characters, unless indeed their employers are equally unscrupulous, and do not object to give false ones.

On the contrary, how highly is a servant estimated, when her word can be depended upon! Her little faults are frequently overlooked or pardoned, for the sake of the openness which confesses them.

“ Oh 'tis a lovely thing for youth
To walk betimes in wisdom's way,
To fear a lie, to speak the truth,
That we may trust to all they say !

“ But liars we can never trust,
Though they should speak the thing that's true ;
And he that does one fault at first,
And lies to hide it, makes it two.”

See the evil consequences of this vice, exhibited in the history of *Hannah Perry*, the daughter of poor cottagers ; who being themselves without the fear of God, cared not to instruct their children in the ways of righteousness. The mother, especially, often deceived her husband, and told innumerable falsehoods, in order to account for

the sums of money that were squandered away in gin and snuff, in ounces of fine tea, and quarterns of fresh butter.

When Hannah perceived that her father was continually imposed upon, she began to practice the same vice ; for she had not learned to consider, that falsehood is the offspring of sin, and the parent of misery. Being naturally clever, she became equally dexterous as her mother, in every kind of deceit and falsehood ; and instead of being corrected, she was even praised for the tricks she practised. “ O Hannah ! what a liar you are, girl ! ” the father would say laughingly, clapping her on the back : and the mother used to observe, that it is a hundred to one but her girl would get on, by hook or by crook.

Years passed on, and Hannah went forth into the world, extremely ignorant yet naturally clever, and requiring only to see a thing once done to be able to do it herself. She had a sort of pride, which inclined her to take delight in excelling, not so much to serve and oblige her mistress, as to set herself off ; and though brought up in habits of great untidiness, she soon found out the advantage of keeping things in order. Her kitchen was,

therefore, extremely neat, and her own dress always did her credit.

This was the turning point in Hannah's history. Had her natural good abilities been united to right principles, she would have become a valuable servant ; she might not indeed have been the wife of a respectable tradesman, as was the case with Jane Batson, for instances of the kind are not very frequent ; yet she might have done credit to her station, and proved a comfort to all around her. But unhappily her treacherous disposition, and aptitude for telling falsehoods, continually led her to conceal the faults that resulted from ignorance or inexperience ; when such occurred, she had always an excuse ready, and as her unhappy father was not present to extol her ingenuity, she often secretly congratulated herself on the success of her devices.

But however clever Hannah might be, she found mistresses who were equally dexterous in finding out falsehoods, as she was at inventing them. A single untruth may perhaps pass without discovery, though never unpunished, sooner or later ; but deceit cannot be habitually practised without detection. Hannah soon found that

neither her cleverness nor civility could atone for want of sincerity : she consequently removed from place to place ; and being seldom able to obtain a character, she invented a variety of stories with surprising ingenuity, and according to the circumstances of the case. Either her late mistress was far distant in the country, or dead, or something had occurred that might suit her purpose, and serve her turn. In due time, however, she found that it was easier to get *out* of place, than to get *in* to one, notwithstanding all her plausible stories. Experience might have instructed her to alter her course and amend her ways, but the habit had become so powerful that she had almost forgotten how to speak the truth. There is such a thing as being given up to strong delusions to *believe a lie*, and there is reason to fear that this was the case with Hannah ; she often persisted in a falsehood till she almost believed it herself, and often uttered untruths before she was aware of them.

At length, in an evil hour for himself, a labouring man became acquainted with her, yet not at first with any intention of marrying, but merely to enjoy a little sociable chat ; in a short time,

however, the wonderful tales she told, of the high places in which she had lived, and the unbounded confidence placed in her by her mistresses, of the amazingly grand things she had seen, and the clever things she had done, concerning great offers from Lord such a one's butler, and the Duke of such a one's valet, so captivated the poor man, that he thought her one of the seven wonders of the world. Moreover, her own conduct became so increasingly kind and condescending, as to leave no doubt respecting her partiality for him ; while she gave him to understand that she had saved a handsome sum at service ; thus encouraged, he made her an offer, and cheered himself with thinking that her savings might be laid out to such advantage as to ensure a comfortable home. True it was that he occasionally wondered at her preferring to marry a poor working man, who could earn little more than enough for his own support ; but then he pleased himself with concluding, that he must be extremely agreeable, or else that his good qualities were justly appreciated by his intended bride. When, however, William Jenkins set about furnishing his house, in order to hasten the happy day, he marvelled

that she did not come forward with a little money towards defraying the expenses ; but she told him that her money was in the hands of a friend, and that the friend was absent on important business.

Jenkins, therefore, thinking that whenever the money came it would be welcome, and impatient to secure such a prize, lest any untoward event should mar his happiness, contrived to save sufficient, by half starving himself, to purchase an old bedstead, half a dozen rickety chairs, a table, and a broken hutch, a rusty kettle, and a few cracked plates and platters, pots and pans. When Hannah looked upon them, he again secretly wondered that she appeared so well contented, and often repeated to himself the words of the old song, " Only see what love can do."

Away then went the couple to the old grey church, and plighted their vows before the altar. A few days only passed pleasantly ; for the husband soon discovered his mistake, and the bride found out, that being Mrs. Jenkins was not quite so delightful as she expected. The money, concerning which she had so often boasted, was proved to exist only in her own imagination ;

hence, as a natural consequence, deception brought its own just punishment.

We have mentioned that the neatness of Hannah's appearance resulted from self-interest. When, therefore, she had no further purpose to serve, she relapsed into the slothful and untidy habits of early life ; and, what was still worse, she brought up her seven children in idleness and falsehood. The husband, who was naturally of a frank and open disposition, finding that she could never be depended on, grew suspicious and ill-tempered ; and, as his wife uniformly told him some untruth respecting the way the money went, he constantly tried to make a secret of how and when it came. If she wanted anything on trust at the chandler's shop, she had always some story to suit her purpose ; when payment could no longer be delayed, she had recourse to the same means to procure the money from her husband, who advanced it grudgingly, not believing a word she said. If the children were detained at home from the Sunday school, the mother furnished them with an excuse ; and so dexterous was she in inventing a different one every time, that they did not long require her

assistance. But the unhappy woman soon found, that as neither her husband nor her children could depend upon her, she had no one in whom she could confide ; hence it happened, that all trust in one another having ceased, the house became too often a scene of wretchedness and contention.

At length the children went forth to get their living, and sad it was to trace their progress from place to place. No good instructions rested on their minds, serving as way-marks in life's journey ; neither had they been taught the blessedness of prayer, or to feel the need of strength from above ; they resembled ships at sea without a compass or a pilot, tossing at the mercy of the winds and waves : and as no one cared to keep them long, they continually returned, to devour the scanty morsels that barely sufficed for their parents. William Jenkins deeply felt the degradation of his children, but their mother cared not ; she praised or scolded them by turns ; and when her husband, worn out with hard labour and vexation, died after a short illness, his widow was neglected by all who knew her. True it was, that if her principles had been different, she might

have found employment among the neighbouring gentry and farmers, for she was naturally extremely clever ; but the appellation of, *that lying Hannah !* proved a barrier against her.

For a few weary months did the utterly desolate widow endeavour to struggle on in her lonely hut ; but her strength failed, and she applied for admittance to the workhouse. This then is the last sojourn on earth of Hannah Jenkins ; despised and shunned by all who have any moral principle, she is held up, by every pauper mother, as a warning to their children.

This is not a solitary instance of wretchedness, resulting from habits of deception. Many others might be given, and we specially refer our readers to the affecting history of Mary Wood, the housemaid, narrated in Mrs. More's Cheap Repository Tracts.

Let us not lightly dismiss the subject. " Godliness has the promise of this life, and of that which is to come." He who habitually neglects his duties to God and man, lives miserably, and seldom prospers. And yet, what are the sufferings of time, when compared with those of eternity ? what are the upbraidings of conscience to

those who are fully occupied, when compared with the rushing remembrances that fill the mind of one who is laid on a dying bed? Actions will then appear in their true light; every false word will rise up in judgment,—nay, the slightest deviation from veracity. It will be no source of comfort to remember, that an ingenious untruth saved the utterer from being found fault with; it will rather increase the fearful looking forward for judgment and fiery indignation. Nay more, if it pleases the Most High, in infinite compassion, to speak peace to the despairing spirit, for His sake who rejecteth none, that spirit must eternally suffer loss. Inspiration teaches, that a vast difference subsists between such as have fought the good fight, and obtain an abundant entrance into the kingdom of their Lord and Saviour, and those who are scarcely saved.

CHAPTER V.

HONESTY AND SOBRIETY.

SOME ill-instructed servants deceive themselves by thinking that there is no great harm in taking a little tea or sugar, or perhaps a glass of wine, if opportunity occurs, because their master is a rich man. No reasoning can be more fallacious ; the eighth commandment makes no difference between the rich and poor, it says simply, "Thou shalt not steal." Whatever is taken secretly from another, is a breach of that holy injunction ; it involves a sin, and whoever does not repent, and seek forgiveness through the blood that was shed for him, will lose his crown at the last day.

Deceive not yourselves, my friends, by saying, that what you take cannot be missed,—that helping yourself to tea or sugar, or eating some little delicacy, is very different from taking clothes or money. It is no such thing ; the want of principle is the same in both cases, and will equally be condemned. An unscrupulous ser-

vant has deeply injured many a confiding mistress; and when dismissed, suspicion often takes the place of confidence, drawers are locked up, and a degree of mistrust ensues, which had previously no existence. Alas, how disgraceful it is that a human being, a member of the family, should require watching like an animal that does not know right from wrong!

Beware of small temptations. She who takes a trifle to-day, may feel less scruple in appropriating something of greater value to-morrow; and thus it is, that from small beginnings an evil habit is acquired, and total ruin ensues. Remember the small spark, which falling on some combustible substance, sets fire to the house and leaves but a heap of ruin. A skein of thread, a bit of cast-off ribbon, or some forgotten sweetmeat, may allure a servant to take what is not her own, and the consequence of that act may prove as terrible as the bursting forth of flames, which a small spark kindleth.

Avoid temptation. Let me seriously caution you, my young friend, against that foolish and impertinent curiosity, which leads you to pry into drawers, and rummage over your mistress's ward-

robe, or that of a fellow-servant, although without any dishonest intention. You may be induced while thus occupied, by your unwearied enemy, to take some trifling article, in itself of no actual value perhaps, and this merely to obtain the pattern of a cap or handkerchief; but the act is wrong, and independent of its being so, there is something extremely mean in the whole affair. Moreover, is it doing "as you would be done unto?" Assuredly you would not like to have the same liberty taken with your drawers or boxes. For thus betraying the confidence reposed in you you may not be immediately dismissed, but you will assuredly forfeit the esteem and confidence which mistresses in general desire to feel towards their servants, and which all well-disposed servants are anxious to preserve.

Another quality equally indispensable is, that of strict sobriety. There cannot be a more disgusting spectacle than that which is exhibited by a human being when disguised in liquor; and though equally sinful in a man, it seems more abhorrent in a woman. When habitual, it is seldom laid aside, although frequently originating not in any pleasure which the tasting of

spirituous liquors affords, but from the undesirable custom of taking a glass, when fatigued by extra work, or when imagining that some ailment may be cured by a dram. Such, however, is not the case; for most complaints are either attended with fever, or are in danger of it, and drams add fuel to fire. Innumerable diseases have been occasioned, nay, even rendered mortal by them: but few, if any, have been ever cured. A dram *may* revive the spirits, and apparently recruit exhausted strength, but if habitually taken, the consequences are sure to be most injurious.

Were I to describe the manner in which spirituous liquors act upon the stomach, how they ruin the digestion, and carry disease into every part of the human body, you might possibly not understand me. But you can understand the effects, when you behold the red and bloated face and the swelled limbs of the confirmed drunkard, or the pale countenance and trembling hand of the secret tippler. Those who think that it will be time enough to discontinue the practice, when they begin to feel its effects, are not sufficiently aware that their health may be so seriously injured, as to occasion much cost and suffering before it is

restored. Health is among the first of blessings : without this invaluable gift, those who have riches cannot enjoy them, and the poor are unable either to maintain themselves or to perform their duties. Yet how often has this valuable blessing been irretrievably lost to many, who began the drunkard's life by taking "a drop to comfort them once a-day !"

We will endeavour to enforce what has been said, by the history of a worthy young couple, who lived happily together, and by mutual industry and prudent management got forward in the world. They adopted the useful plan of putting by their savings in a box with a slit in the lid, —this was not to be opened till some extraordinary occasion occurred ; and as no account was kept of the money there deposited, they hoped to be agreeably surprised by the amount, whenever it became necessary to appropriate their treasure.

The husband was at length obliged to leave home for a short time, and during his absence, a female neighbour repeatedly visited his wife, whose custom it was to introduce a bottle of spirits, when the visit was returned, "in order,"

as she said, "to give a comfortable glow at the stomach." At first the proffer was refused, and afterwards complied with merely because constant refusal was unpleasant. But the baneful potion took effect, and too soon, that which had been nauseous, proved agreeable; the habit of taking spirits became so powerful, that more resolution and strength of mind than the poor young woman possessed were necessary to overcome it, although attendant evils became daily more apparent.

The sober, industrious, and affectionate husband too soon perceived, with indescribable distress, that the health and beauty of his wife began to fail. He observed, likewise, that she became negligent of her house and children, and though she was never absolutely intoxicated, she was continually flustered; her temper became irritable, the very reverse of that gentleness which won his heart and led him to hope for years of domestic peace.

At first he expostulated, and she denied; then he stormed and threatened, and she confessed and promised amendment: but neither his accusations nor threats, nor her denials nor confessions,

were of any avail. Her character, her health, her husband's affections, and her peace of mind, were gone for ever !

Nor was he less altered than his wife : suspicion, vexation, and resentment, disfigured the countenance which had hitherto beamed with good-nature, affection, and confidence. The box was opened, and found empty ; and, as the breach grew wider, he became the tyrant of his unhappy family, which, consequently, presented scenes of strife between the parents, and of rebellion among the children. Their bitter quarrels were sometimes interrupted by days of resentful silence, during which every vengeful passion was lurking within, and again burst forth with increased violence. Who can wonder that children, brought up amid such scenes, should inherit the evil tempers of their parents, and prove sources of vexation to all around them ! Most of her family turned out such as might be expected ; one of them especially brought the grey hairs of his aged father in sorrow to the grave. What a price was this to pay for a dram !

Volumes might be filled with similar instances, but one more shall suffice.

Sophia Ladbroke was the only child of a widow, who had some little independent property, and added to her income by selling fruit and chandlery wares.

The mother and daughter lived very happily together for some years ; but at length Sophy lost her colour and appetite, and became subject to fits. The tender mother felt all that a parent could feel in such circumstances, and expressed her grief and apprehensions to her neighbours. But neighbours are frequently more sagacious than parents ; and one of them ventured to hint to her the probable cause of her daughter's illness : she said, "Sophy smelt at times of spirituous liquors," (for they are sad tell-tales, in spite of every precaution;) and she had also perceived other symptoms, which could not be mistaken, though they escaped the notice of the unsuspecting parent. Instead, however, of being thankful for this friendly information, Mrs. Ladbroke became extremely angry, and highly resented the interference. She wondered at the malice that could raise such evil reports, and desired her neighbour not only to mind her own business, but to

desire her acquaintances to do the same, and not to interfere in future with other people's concerns. The neighbours did as they were desired, and left Sophy and her mother to themselves.

Many months passed over, and Sophy grew rather worse than better. One day, having been to carry a pottle of raspberries to a neighbouring house, her mother observed that the juice had stained her apron, and in taking hold of it she struck her hand against something hard ! It was a bottle of spirits, in a private pocket, hanging before ! The whole mystery was revealed at once : those who had been accused as enemies, appeared to be true friends ; and grief and shame took place of the resentful feeling which the unhappy mother had indulged against them. But the conviction came too late : the health of her child was beyond recovery. One dreadful symptom succeeded, then another, and left no room for hope : but the tender feelings which were naturally excited in the bosom of the parent, were blended with disgust. Mrs. Ladbroke continued to *love* her child, but she ceased to *esteem* her. A dying drunkard is an awful spectacle. At

length death came, and put a period to her fatigue and anxiety ; and she was left alone at the age of seventy, instead of having a daughter's care to alleviate her increasing infirmities, and soothe her dying pillow.

CHAPTER VI.

GOSSIPING AND HOLIDAY MAKING.

You make a great mistake, my young friend, if you imagine, that the generality of masters and mistresses wish to keep you in perpetual confinement, without any one to whom you can speak. Few persons are so unreasonable as to expect their servants to live without society ; they are aware that young people especially, of every class, require recreation. It would be well, however, if some servants could content themselves with such as are allowed, without neglecting their master's business, which is really dishonest ; as their time, properly speaking, is not their own. And in truth, those who have their bread to get, whether servants or others, cannot reasonably expect to have a great deal of leisure for amusement. Happy is it for them, if they have health and strength sufficient to obtain an honest livelihood, though they should have little opportunity for taking their pleasure. Most servants

are allowed holidays, on which occasions they should return home punctually ; otherwise they cannot be surprised, if such indulgences are granted more reluctantly for the future.

To visit your parents, and near relations, is a natural desire ; and, especially if they are worthy people, such holidays are the pleasantest you can have. But there are fairs and other places of amusement, which require a word of caution. If a fair consisted only of a few gay stalls, offering to your notice toys, fruit and gingerbread, ribbons and gloves, with perhaps a show of wild beasts and some music ; and if the company were all decent people, who once a-year assembled together to shake hands, and treat each other with a slice of plum cake, or to purchase some useful article at that time, which could not be had in their own village, it might be all very well ; but if ever you have been to a fair, you must have perceived that the reverse often occurs. Alas, what crowds of drunken men are there, who will hardly suffer a modest girl to pass unmolested ! what profaneness and wicked conversation and lewd songs are to be heard ! But especially if you have been tempted to see

one of the plays that are common at such places, if you have any sense of propriety, I must believe that you will not incline to go a second time. What uncouth and ridiculous grimaces are often made by the principal performers, when twirling their tambourines and winding their hurdy-gurdies! What bold and impudent women too often come upon the stage, such as ought not even to be looked at, but with a sigh of pity or a frown of disapprobation! and what unhappy children, brought up to the same trade, are tossed to and fro, and trundled over and over! Do they look like reasonable beings? or can you suppose them to be wise, and good, and sober people? They serve to make you laugh, but laughter does not always lead to the best consequences; and it is possible to be very happy and cheerful without it. I advise you, therefore, if you are disposed to visit a fair, that you at least avoid such shows, where there is much to corrupt, but nothing to instruct you; that you go with decent company, and do not stay till a late hour, when drunkenness and revelling are at the height; and that, moreover, you are not too lavish in spending your money, by purchasing unnecessary things, because they

may seem cheap, or articles which you do not want, for they are bargains only to those who really want them. She who lends herself to the excesses of such a place, is not one whom we should expect to behave well when she gets home. What has been said relates entirely to *country* fairs, for a discreet servant would hardly wish to attend those which are in and near London.

Some young servants are apt to stay on errands, occasioning much inconvenience to the family, and frequently hindering their own work. But careless and sauntering girls are generally indifferent about what is put out of course, or left undone. They will not suffer themselves to be so hindered, as not to find time to get their usual quantity of meals, or perhaps an odd half-hour to make a smart cap, or curl their hair; and having done these they are contented. Yet if a mistress ventures to complain, she is perhaps railed at by her negligent servant, to the first gossiping acquaintance; but such as lend a willing ear, are not true friends; they may, by increasing discontent, induce a young servant to change her place, but when this is done, is such a rash adviser either able or willing to befriend her, in times of need? What would

have become of Lydia Miller, if in her latter days she had had no better friends ?

But if you, my young friend, should be so fortunate as to find an honest neighbour in your own condition of life, who seems disposed to give you good advice, cultivate such an acquaintance. True friends may soon be known by the counsel they give : at least, this was Susan Gardener's opinion, who having had some disagreement with her mistress, left at a moment's warning, and called at a neighbour's in her way home, to whom she told her story, expecting to be commended for what she had done. Instead of this, her friend addressed her thus : " Susan, you have done a foolish thing ; you had a good place, and ought to have known when you were well off ; if it was not all that you could wish, your next may be worse : you are not perfect yourself, and why should you expect your place to be so ? If your mistress was angry, it was your duty to humble yourself ; and if you will go back and do it now, I will go with you, and see if I cannot persuade her to forgive you ; but remember, I will not do it a second time : when next you quit your place without occasion, or are turned

away for misconduct, you must take the consequence." The girl prudently listened to this wholesome advice ; her mistress was reconciled ; she behaved well in future, and continued in her place till she married. But you shall hear more of her in another chapter.

There are other things, besides giving good advice, by which you may be directed in the choice of friends. You may, for instance, be assured, that she who is untidy in her cottage, her children, and herself, has something else amiss in her disposition. The poorest people *may* be cleanly if they please, and if they are so disposed, they certainly *will*; because water costs nothing, and it will do much if people are not too indolent to use it. Sloth and idleness are sure to be accompanied by other vices ; nor would it be surprising, if lying were among the number : and as a lie is generally a cover for something that is wrong, it affords another argument against keeping such company ; especially as the deceit may be practised upon yourself as well as another ; or should you be the only favoured person with whom they are sincere, there would be reason to suspect some resemblance in

character, for virtue and vice cannot hold any fellowship.

If the persons above described are such improper company for young servants, how much more so are those who are addicted to pilfering ! Many an honest girl has been tempted to commit petty thefts, till all principle was gone, and ruin has ensued. When therefore you are asked for even the most trifling thing that belongs to your master, be assured that those who ask you are as much your enemies as they are his ; and avoid them as you wish to escape destruction. Always remember on such occasions, that you have no right to give away what is not your own : leave your employers to be charitable, when and how they please ; they best know what they can afford, and do not require the assistance of their servants, in disposing of their property according to their pleasure. In a word, the idle, the lying, the profane, and the pilfering, are not fit companions for a respectable servant ; and those who will associate with them, must share their lot. They might as well hope to gather cherries from a bramble bush, or strawberries from a bed of nettles, as expect any benefit from such society.

It sometimes happens, that servants are exposed to bad company without going abroad, as in the instance of persons occasionally employed in the house. Those who have been any time in service, may have known some at least among them, who were not likely to improve a servant ; and girls who have any wisdom will keep themselves at a proper distance, making it a point of conscience to inform their employers of any dishonest practices that come to their knowledge, regardless of the resentment they may bring upon themselves by so doing. Those who have the misfortune to live under the same roof with wicked fellow-servants, will find still greater trial for their prudence and integrity ; but they are not obliged to follow bad examples : and we may reasonably expect that even in a large household, some one at least may be found worthy of imitation. Should this unhappily not be the case, it is at least in your power to set a good example, humbly trusting that some may grow weary and ashamed of their evil courses, when they perceive the beauty of discreet and amiable conduct, and what general approbation it gains.

I shall conclude this subject, by putting you on

your guard against gipsies and fortune-tellers. They are the vilest of characters. What information or advice that is worth having, can you expect from such reckless persons? Surely, if they could tell their own fortunes, if they knew that they should be transported or hanged for their wickedness, as many of them are, they would act with more caution for their own sakes. When they have entertained you with their nonsense, and made you believe a thousand improbable things, for the sake of a little money, which is all they want, they cannot even tell whether you will report them to your masters, and cause them to be taken up as vagabonds.

A company of gipsies once offered to tell a man his fortune, which he wisely refused. They then requested him to let them ride a little way in his cart, which he complied with ; but when he came to a stream of water, he contrived to let them all drop into it, telling them as he drove off, that if they had known their own fortunes, they would have foreseen how he intended to serve them, and would never have ventured themselves in his cart !

CHAPTER VII.

FRUGALITY.

To be sober, honest, and sincere, are three excellent qualities ; but many things besides are required, and the mistress that can be satisfied without them, is not worth living with ; as a servant can never hope to improve under so negligent an individual.

If, my young friend, it should be your privilege to live with a discreet and managing mistress, you will find, that in order to gain her approbation, you must learn to be *frugal* ; such a habit, acquired when you are young, and employed for the benefit of others, may prove of incalculable advantage to yourself as you advance in life. Servants have much at their disposal, let a mistress be ever so careful : and if they are inclined to wastefulness, they may injure their employers to a greater extent than they are aware of. You may possibly think that frugality is unnecessary, in a house so very different from your own home :

and you would be surprised to hear, that your master and mistress may not really be richer, or even so rich, as your parents! Now in order to understand this, suppose your father has twenty shillings a-week, and spends but eighteen, or at any rate no more than he earns, he is really better off than one who has ten times as much, if it is not equal to what his situation in life requires. Those who have not enough for their purpose are *poor*; and those who have, are *rich*, be their income small or great. You may, therefore, serve in families, where every shilling, almost every penny, is an object; and who, while their servants are enjoying their meals, without any care, or anxiety how they are to be paid for, find it difficult to maintain them; and spend many an anxious hour, when their servants are fast asleep, or perhaps idling their master's time, or wasting his substance. Of course, people do not communicate their affairs to their servants; but when needful it is right to enforce the greatest economy. And without doubt, many a thoughtless creature has sufficient good-nature and principle not willingly to injure those who support her, if she understood the state of the case; and who would

pursue a different line of conduct, if she was aware of the real mischief which her wasteful habits occasioned.

How unbecoming is the wastefulness of some servants, who let provisions remain from day to day, till they are quite spoiled, and unfit to be eaten! Instead of this, they should look into the pantry every morning, and bring out all that was left the day before. If it is not eatable to-day, it will be worse to-morrow; and in plain families, where the broken victuals cannot be given away, the servant should eat her share of such leavings at any rate. It is probable that they are better than what she has been accustomed to partake of at her mother's cottage, or than what may fall to her lot when she has one of her own.

Every servant ought especially to take care of the bread: it has been a very expensive article for many years, and is justly called the staff of life. No more should be cut at a time than is likely to be wanted; and what pieces are left, should be eaten before fresh is cut. Keep the loaf as even as possible. A neat and careful servant may almost be known by the way in which she manages her bread; while a careless

one will sometimes have to throw away half a loaf, that has been left to spoil. When any pieces unavoidably remain, they should neither be given to the chickens, nor thrown into the swill-tub, nor cast on the cinder-heap ; but saved for bread puddings, and used in proper time. A pennyworth of bread may be easily wasted every day, and that is thirty shillings a-year.

For the same reason, no more beer should be drawn at a time than is likely to be wanted : when, however, any is left, a piece of *under crust* should be put into it, and then covered close. A pint of beer is sometimes left to be thrown away, and thought nothing of ; but there are only eight pints in a gallon !

Coals are a most expensive article in a family, and a thoughtful servant will be particularly careful of them. She will not be always stirring the fire : fresh coals are quickly turned into dead cinders, by frequent and violent stirring ; besides, the hearth is kept in a constant litter by so doing, and the fire-place has a most uncomfortable appearance. When a fire is made up, the coals should be wetted with a little water, and suffered to lie a short time to cake together, before they

are stirred. Some servants, by using large coals when they are not wanted, have only dust to burn towards the last; thus in both the parlour and the kitchen there will be bad fires, till the fresh stock of coals comes in. A fire always burns dead after the bellows have been applied; at any rate it should be blown gently, and from a distance. People are apt to suppose that heaping coals upon a fire causes it to burn freely; the reverse is the case; if too much be loaded on, it will not draw till it is half stirred away into the ashes. How many more shovels-full than are wanted may be thrown on in a day! how few of these go to a peck! and there are but four pecks in a bushel!

Candles are another expensive article: you will therefore carry them steadily, that they may not gutter down; and you will see that no pieces are left in the candlesticks, to be melted away when you clean them. Carefully save all such pieces, and never cut a whole candle for the kitchen, while any of these remain; nor yet suffer it to burn in the socket. If you have occasion to leave the kitchen for any length of time, put out the candle while you are gone; and do not let two or

three be burning at once, when one is sufficient. How many pounds of candles may be wasted in a year, by not attending to such precautions as these !

There is no occasion to use soap in scouring boards, where wood ashes can be had ; these with fuller's earth, and even without it, are quite sufficient, and will make them look equally well, if they are properly wetted, scoured the right way of the grain, well rinsed, and dried. There is still less occasion to leave the soap in the water, for whatever purpose it is used. It should not be so left, even while you are washing your hands ; for if you wash them frequently, the soap will speedily become soft. Much less should you leave it in the hot suds while you are washing. Half a hundred of soap costs a great deal of money, and it is gone in a very short time, without care.

The above instances make but a small proportion of the waste and destruction which a careless servant may occasion. The furniture of a house is often injured by such a one, to a great amount. If, for instance, it had ever entered her mind, to think what is the actual value of a dozen knives and forks, surely she would not suffer the one to

become rusty, nor blunt the points of the other, by driving them into the knife-board while cleaning. They should always, after using, be washed in moderately hot water, (if it is too hot it will loosen the handles,) and then wiped with a dry cloth. Rust, though it may be rubbed off, will generally return again ; in which case the knife is spoiled. Many are left about and lost, by those who are not in the habit of putting things in their places ; and then it is no wonder, if articles of less value, which are not so likely to be missed, share the same fate, when a moment's time would at once secure them, and take off all the appearance of a littered and untidy kitchen.

The bruises which are seen in pots and kettles, might often be prevented by a little care and attention ; as well as the rust by which tin ware is destroyed : as regards the latter, if tin vessels were slightly rubbed with wood-ashes *every time* of using, well rinsed, and put by the fire to dry, they would last for years, and be a credit to her who had the care of them. I say *slightly* because hard rubbing is unnecessary, if things are so cleaned *every time* they are used. When once

they become foul for want of this, they require much trouble to clean them.

Tin candlesticks are sometimes unsoldered, and the japan of others quite destroyed, by holding them over the fire to melt the tallow, instead of dipping them into hot water. Many a two-pence and threepence goes for soldering these things, and many a half-crown for new ones, when they can be soldered no longer.

But if hard wares are so liable to destruction, through carelessness, what shall we say of the the china, and earthenware? Plates and dishes, cups and basons, are always going. We are speaking to *very* young persons now, for surely an established servant cannot need such cautions. When a girl carries the handle of a jug to her mistress, and tells her that it came *right* off in her hand! she might often be asked, whether it would have done so if it had not been first cracked: this is continually done, by putting things violently down, or knocking them against each other. A mistress may sometimes be told (and very truly too) that the tray was but just touched, and it fell off the dresser, with all the china! and no wonder, if it stood half off, and but just on the

balance ! Some mistresses have a list of kitchen ware, and at stated times require every article to be produced, whole or broken ; otherwise the kitchen in process of time becomes almost destitute of furniture ; and when inquiries are made, some servants are apt to deny having broken this or that, declaring they cannot think *which ever way* it went. And they often profess equal ignorance with regard to their towels, kitchen cloths, and rubbers, which are sometimes used for improper purposes, and then thrown aside into holes and corners. There are but two ways to choose, when they are all gone : one is, to do without ; the other, to make new ones ; and the latter cannot be done for nothing.

A careful servant will not hazard the loss of silver spoons by taking them into the wash-house, nor will she wear them away by scraping the insides of saucepans with them. It is a serious thing to lose or injure a silver spoon.

Frugality is especially necessary at washing times. As copper stoves will generally draw well with anything, large coals should by no means be used for them. When the colour of a printed thing is lost, by being washed in too hot water, or

by lying in it longer than necessary, it cannot be restored again. And as it is impossible to put colours *in*, so it is very difficult to get iron-moulds *out*, with which linen is often disfigured by carelessness ; neither is it easy to repair a fine gown or handkerchief, torn by 'a prickly bush, on which it was improperly spread, and then snatched off again in a hurry.

If some girls would lean half as hard on the boards when scouring them, as they do on slight furniture when rubbing it, they would do them credit. I have even known two or three panes of glass broken by a heavy hand, while cleaning the windows. Casement windows too are sometimes left open unfastened, and suffered to blow about with the wind, till there is a shilling's worth or two of work for the glazier.

As it is expensive, and in the country sometimes difficult, to get chairs new bottomed, no careful servant will stand upon them, or lay anything thereon which may injure them. When a carpet is taken up, unless it is shaped to the room, the opposite side should be turned to the fire, and it will wear regularly, and last much longer.

No one, who considers the original cost of

feathers, will suffer them to escape by want of a timely stitch in the bed ticking, or by not preserving those they may see about the rooms: expensive feather beds may lose a great deal in a few years through negligence. When bedding gets out of repair, the mistress should be informed of it, if she is not in the habit of looking after these things herself. A little thought and attention, and in various instances almost as little trouble, on the part of a servant, will thus save to her employers many pounds in a year, and make it worth their while to grant her all the privileges and indulgences, which those only who possess these valuable qualities have any right to expect.

Say not, my young friend, that it is *only* a bit of bread, *only* a slice of meat, *only* a shovel of coals, *only* a small piece of soap, or candle, *only* one knife, or fork, out of a set, *only* a pane or two of glass, *only* a plate or cup: for when some one, or several of these, are wasted and destroyed every day, they soon amount to a great sum; and if those whose business it is to watch over them require to be watched themselves, they are unprofitable servants, and must not wonder if they are held in low estimation.

When our Lord fed five thousand people with five barley loaves and two small fishes, as recorded in Matthew xiv. 17, it might appear strange to some of them, that He, who could so easily supply their wants by His almighty power, should nevertheless command them to gather up the fragments that nothing should be lost: and many a scrap might be so gathered up, which by the thoughtless creature who was treading it under foot, would appear to be scarcely worth the trouble of stooping for; yet by this care *twelve baskets full* of wholesome food were preserved, and the multitude were thus taught to estimate *frugality* as a christian virtue. When divine mercy bestows abundance, the frugal care of it becomes our duty.

Is there a mistress who would deem the above lessons on *frugality* superfluous, or too minute? Would she regret the accumulation of *twelve baskets full* of fragments, while there is a necessitous fellow-creature within her reach? or when, for aught she can tell, notwithstanding present appearances, such fragments might one day become an object to herself, or to her children? especially if it be added, that acting on the

principles here recommended, is the most likely way to prevent such necessity.

I shall now relate to you, my young friend, the history of *Jane Perkins*, who went to live kitchen-maid in the family of a lady, where several servants were kept. Jane was young, and had never had any instruction ; but being conscious of her ignorance, and desirous to improve, she narrowly watched everything that was done in the kitchen, and soon became so handy, as to be more serviceable to the cook than kitchen-maids usually are. As she was a good-natured woman, she took pleasure in instructing her assistant ; for she recollected that she had once been young and ignorant herself, and that if somebody had not taken pains, and had patience with her, she could never have obtained the comfortable situation she enjoyed. What she had received she therefore bestowed willingly ; and found herself amply repaid in the tractable and active disposition of Jane : more especially as her own health was in a declining state, and she felt assistance to be increasingly necessary. Growing rapidly worse, and having no hopes of recovery, this kind friend was obliged to quit her situation, but she did so

with the pleasing certainty that Jane was fully qualified to take her place. This the young woman did for a considerable time with satisfaction to the family, and credit to herself; but she was not so occupied with her own especial business, as not to observe at every opportunity what was going forward in other parts of the house; for she justly thought, that she could not know too much, and was desirous to qualify herself for any kind of work that might be required.

As she was deservedly beloved by her fellow-servants, she found it no difficult matter to obtain from Mrs. West, the housekeeper, who occasionally assisted as lady's-maid, all the information she desired: for as Jane was not one of those ill-natured creatures who refuse to do anything but what belongs to their place, she did Mrs. West many a service; and once, when she was absent for a few days, acquitted herself so much to the satisfaction of the lady, that she expressed herself particularly pleased, and from this time grew much attached to her.

Years thus passed away, till Mrs. West gave up her situation, and went to live with her brother in the country. By this time Jane was

well qualified to take the place; and so amiable had been her behaviour, that she was not envied by her fellow-servants, when she quitted the kitchen and took possession of the housekeeper's room.

And now her lady had more frequent opportunities of observing the sweetness of her temper, her humility, her prudence, and integrity: nor was she less a favourite with Miss Mannington, the lady's companion, who died a few years after, to the great regret of all the family, but especially of the lady whose attachment to her had been such, that it was not expected her place would soon be supplied. It is nevertheless true, though strange, that the lady actually raised Jane to this honourable station, and that, as this excellent servant had sought on every fitting occasion to improve her mind, she did not fall short of Miss Mannington in all that had rendered her a valuable companion. By this time she was not very young, yet she had some respectable and suitable offers; which however she refused, saying she would never leave her benefactress.

These events do not happen every day, even to the most deserving; and to the undeserving they

never do. Such people may, indeed, rise in the world, but not in the honourable manner Mrs. Perkins did, who, under Providence, owed her exaltation to her own merit. Few of her rank, however well-inclined, are capable of filling such stations: but there was a natural manner about her (similar to that of Jane Batson) which was far remote from vulgarity, and was improved by care and attention; there was nothing of assumption in her disposition, for assumption is unbecoming in whatever rank of life.

The lady lived to be ninety, and as she had no relations, left the bulk of her fortune to Mrs. Perkins, who had proved as faithful a friend as she had been a servant.

It is worthy of remark, that had she not been sober, and honest, discreet, attentive, and clever, she would never have rode in her carriage, nor have become the mistress of her fellow-servants, and owner of the spacious house, which she first entered as a *kitchen-maid!*

CHAPTER VIII.

INDUSTRY.

A LIFE of indolence is injurious both to body and mind ; and were it not so, it is unreasonable to expect food and clothing, without striving for them. These are things which must be purchased by some means : and those who have no fortune of their own must earn them by their labour ; thankful, indeed, they ought to be for the undeserved mercy which preserves to them the use of their senses, with health and strength. Many who are envied for their riches would gladly exchange a large portion with the labouring poor, if by so doing they could obtain health and cheerfulness. Such are often a poor man's only wealth, and a goodly portion are they, enabling the possessor to procure the necessaries of life, and to enjoy them with grateful hearts, while those who suffer in their limbs or health, cannot

delight themselves in the good gifts which they possess, however wealthy.

If some men were not industrious, there would be neither sowing nor reaping, grinding, nor baking, and then we must go without bread. If some people were not industrious, there could be neither spinning nor weaving, and then you could have no clothes. If some workmen had not been industrious, there would be no house to shelter you, nor any of the various conveniences which you find within. Certainly you cannot expect to reap the advantage of other people's labour, without in some degree sharing in them.

Those who are really industrious will be early risers, because an hour gained in the morning will be a source of comfort throughout the day. Some pretend that they cannot wake without calling; but who wakes-the caller? Somebody *must* wake uncalled; and those whose hearts are in their business, can generally wake too. It is acknowledged, that young people are sometimes heavy to sleep; we know instances of those who can *always* wake, and that at any hour, when they are going out for a holiday, but who suffer themselves to be overcome with sleep when

their daily business requires them to rise from their beds. It is vain, however, for people to wake early, unless when they are up they make the most of their time, and do not idle away small portions in the midst of their daily duties. Would they, for once, take an account of what such odd five minutes and quarters of an hour amount to in the course of one day, they would often perceive the occasion of their being so behindhand.

Some persons, while young, acquire a habit of being slow in their motions; and this is very difficult to cure, as are all bad habits: but it should, if possible, be conquered; otherwise, in future life, when their own concerns become urgent, it will prove injurious to themselves. In servants it is unspeakably tiresome, where there is much to do. If from want of activity, they find it difficult to despatch the business of the day, they are ill qualified to meet any unexpected circumstance that may happen, such as visitors, sudden illness, and many other occurrences, which are continually arising in every family, and from which confusion must result, unless servants, by good management and expedition, can afford to

be so hindered. Those who are apt to complain of want of leisure, or rest, might, in many cases, gain a spare hour, which, perhaps, is spent in sauntering about their business, and murmuring as they go.

CHAPTER IX.

MANAGEMENT AND REGULARITY.

WE know instances of persons who, although nimble in their motions, are continually in a bustle ; always doing, yet having never done. These are the bad managers, who, having no notion of regularity in their business, double their labour, and when they have so done, are often out of humour with everybody but themselves. There are three valuable rules, which ought to be hung up in every kitchen, and which, if attended to, would render the business of a house comparatively easy and pleasant. These are,

To keep every thing in its proper place,

To use every thing for its proper use, and

To do every thing in its proper time.

The reasonableness of such simple directions will appear, when it is considered, that it is much easier to replace a thing when done with, than to find it when mislaid ; for it is put away in *one* place, but is sought for perhaps in twenty. How

much real distress is often occasioned by this negligence ! Every article in use should be so kept in its *own place*, that, if needful, it might be found even in the dark. Where this rule is disregarded, a house has a slovenly appearance ; and it seems strange that those, who think sitting still to be the height of felicity, should occasion themselves so many needless steps. To apply everything to its proper use is equally necessary : many things by being misapplied are utterly spoiled, and this especially is needless, in houses that are well provided with every useful article. Nothing is done properly and well by those who delay till evening what should have been done in the morning, and are then obliged to drive it off till the morrow ; remember that if the passing day is too short for its own business, it will be still more difficult to crowd the work of two days into one.

It is pleasing to witness with what ease to themselves and others some servants will go on, entirely owing to management and contrivance. They *think* of what they are doing, and have not their attention employed upon everything and anything but their proper business. A shoemaker may be known by the way in which he

handles a shoe, a bricklayer by the manner of his holding a brick ; and the same of most other handicraft trades. With equal readiness may a notable servant be known by the way in which she performs her work. There is a *right* method and a *wrong* one in everything ; and it is surprising that some servants should prefer the latter, when the former would occasion them so much less trouble, and procure them so much more credit. There are those who require to be shown everything but what lies straight before them ; as though their heads were so immovably fixed, that they could not turn them to the right-hand or to the left. There are others, who by proper attention will do the work of two hours in one : when they are going up or down stairs, they will look about, and take that opportunity to carry whatever is likely to be required. This will prevent many a ring, and weary step. When they begin to cook, they first set everything at hand that may be wanted, consequently they do not want to fetch them one by one, just perhaps when they are in the hurry of taking up their dinners. And truly, there is no part of your business, my young friend, where you would not find the bene-

fit of good management. When a servant tells us, that she left her last place because there was too much work, there is some reason to fear that she may be deficient in this quality; it would do much towards lightening the labour, in the most laborious situations; and such complaints are seldom heard from those who possess it.

We will now exemplify the good effects of such admirable conduct in the biography of Sarah Leven, who lived as upper maid for some years, with a lady and her daughter, where two women-servants and a footman were kept. The family were frequently absent for several months, during which time the servants had little to do; and it would have been no wonder, if in such circumstances, they had acquired habits of idleness, and become unfit for other situations. When the lady died, Sarah had a new place to seek; and she speedily engaged herself to a family, where there were several children, and but one servant kept. This surprised some of her acquaintance; but she knew it to be a regular and steady place, and therefore gave it a preference. The mistress, who scarcely expected that she would suit, became still more apprehensive the first day of

trial, by the leisurely way in which she moved, just as if there had been nothing to do: but she soon changed her opinion, when the meals were ready at the moment; for Sarah took a pride in having the dinner bell ring and the clock strike together! The cooking was well done, the house neat, and Sarah ready at an early hour, inquiring for needle-work. Yet she always found time to keep her own clothes in thorough repair; and this was evident from her neat and creditable appearance. If company arrived unexpectedly, or if any other circumstance occurred out of the common course, things went on nearly the same as usual: she was never confused, nor put out of temper. With her management and contrivance, quick motion would have been unnecessary; yet her leisurely ways would be no excuse for those who have neither. As she could perform her business with such ease, though there was much to do, she did not find it oppressive; and therefore saw no reason for quitting her situation; especially as she was not the sort of person likely to wish for change.

At length she became attached to a young man in the neighbourhood, who promised her mar-

riage; but on the day that she expected the banns would have been published, she was informed that another young woman had been named, to whom in a few weeks he was married! This naturally proved a great trial; but it is never worth while to revenge ill usage upon one's-self, and sacrifice the happiness of future life by a step that cannot be recalled. Thus did Sarah, by shortly marrying a man, whom she neither loved nor esteemed. He was not idle, nor drunken, nor ill-natured; but he was stupid, and clownish; and altogether such a one as did not suit her. And here I must observe, that she did exceeding wrong in promising to love and honour a man, when her heart and reason told her, that she could yield neither the one nor the other. The marriage ceremony is a solemn oath; and those who do not feel what they then utter, come under the guilt of false swearing.

Sarah became a poor man's wife, and found things very different from what she had been accustomed to in service, where she enjoyed a plentiful table, without trouble or anxiety. She had never been dainty, discontented, nor unthankful for the gifts of Providence; yet she

missed many things which had passed unnoticed, and which, perhaps, were not sufficiently valued while she enjoyed them. A young family came on, and the husband's scanty earnings proved insufficient to supply their wants ; but she did not increase the misery, by giving herself up to sloth and dirt, as some might have done in similar circumstances. Love for her children, for her character, and a proper sense of decency, prevented this ; and she proved by her conduct, that there are ways of amending circumstances even at the worst, if people have principle enough to make the trial. Many have wondered how she found time to attend to a cow, to keep pigs, poultry, and a variety of other things, whereby the thinking and industrious contrive to maintain their families. Her pork and sausages were in high repute all over the village, and she would never have been at a loss for employ, if her young family had permitted her to leave home. A lady, who was desirous that she should have her child to nurse, once called at her house, and finding her absent, could only look through the window ; but this was almost sufficient. The clean floor, the white-washed fire-place, the bright candlesticks,

and fire-irons, the white cloth spread on the dresser, and the neat row of plates above it, besides a cradle, with a nice pillow-case, and a tidy patched counterpane, with not a single litter, afforded good reason for believing that she had found a desirable nurse; and in this she was not disappointed.

Whoever might chance to call at Sarah's cottage in the evening, would be sure to find the children clean and neatly dressed, the babe in its cradle, and supper preparing for her husband's return from work. The table-cloth might be coarse, and yet the things placed upon it would be in as much order as they used to be at her former mistress's. Why not? It is equally easy to set dishes in one place as in another; and the homeliest fare may be rendered palatable, if cooked with cleanliness, and served with decency. The husband of such a wife could have no excuse for spending his time and money at a public-house.

It is unnecessary to give the history of Sarah's children; or to say what sort of servants they made. Undutiful children, and bad servants, are not often found in such families as hers. When they were capable of providing for themselves,

Sarah went out nursing, in which capacity she was highly esteemed. As she had never burdened the parish when her family was young, she had no occasion to do it in her declining years, for she had decent and affectionate children, and many kind friends and neighbours. What a difference in the situations of *Sarah Leven* and *Hannah Jenkins*!

CHAPTER X.

CLEANLINESS.

WE have heard it said, that scrupulous attention to cleanliness with regard to household furniture, dishes, and apartments, involves a great deal of unnecessary trouble. We think otherwise ; but as the subject belongs somewhat exclusively to servants in small families, we shall speak especially to them.

Inexperienced servants are not sufficiently aware of the comparative ease with which a house that is perfectly clean may be kept so, provided there are no slovenly ways of dirtying it again. A kitchen is sometimes rendered needlessly untidy for want of a little care. The custom, for instance, of sweeping the crumbs off the dresser, on the floor, from whence they are conveyed by the feet into every chamber of the house, renders it necessary to clean such rooms more frequently than they otherwise would require. Or if a tea-tray

is set upon a dresser, bestrewed with crumbs and litters, and from thence carried to the parlour table, such table will, of course, require extra rubbing ; moreover, after the marks are removed, scratches frequently remain, which give it the appearance of a chopping-board, with lines in all directions. Dressers require continual cleaning, when greasy knives, spoons, and other dirty things are needlessly laid upon them ; indeed, I have seen a careless girl set a black saucepan upon a dresser which she had just scoured ! If any utensil is suffered to be unnecessarily dirty, hands must be washed every time it is used, or else the aprons, tea-cloths, and napkins, are the worse for it, and should, in consequence, an extra number require washing, those who occasion it ought not to complain.

Saucepans and kettles, when neglected, often come into such a state, as to take the labour of two or three days before they are fit to be seen, and yet, this might be prevented by one slight rubbing with wood-ashes, as I have remarked before, and merely repeat the observation to show how neglect occasions extra work. Mahogany furniture may be kept in good order, with light

and quick, but frequent rubbing ; and the table in constant use should be rubbed every time the cloth or tray is removed, at which time the labour of a minute or two will be sufficient. If when a room is swept, the windows are dusted at the same time, they will not so often require to be cleaned. For the same reason, bed furniture should be continually whisked and brushed. When silver spoons are nicely washed in hot water, and well rubbed with a perfectly clean and dry cloth, they will look very tolerably, and save the trouble of more frequent cleaning ; at least in a family where but one servant is kept, and there is much to do. Knives too, thus washed and wiped, will clean much easier and sooner.

When a girl goes to a new place, before she removes any of the furniture, in order to sweep a room, she should take particular notice how everything stands, and set it as it stood before ; she must lay the carpet straight and even, and place the chairs close to the wall, for a room will not look neat, nor do a servant credit, if ever so well cleaned, unless the furniture stands regularly, and is placed in order.

There is nothing which a young servant requires to be more cautioned against than dust: when the sun shines into a room, the cloud of dust that is occasioned by sweeping, or even by the smallest motion, is plainly visible. Now this is always the case, whether the sun shows it or not: therefore, before beginning, she should carefully look round, and put everything out of the way; not forgetting the towels, otherwise the next person who uses them will be made dirty rather than clean; she will also shut any drawers that may have been accidentally left open, and throw a covering, that should be kept for the purpose, over the bed; having so done, she will not fail to sprinkle the room with tea-leaves wrung perfectly dry, or deal saw-dust, as without having the dust thus laid, a room might almost as well remain unswept. It is a good way, in summer time, after the rooms are swept, to mop under the beds, with a perfectly clean, and merely damp mop; this takes up the flue, and cools and refreshes the chambers. Nothing should be done in such rooms with dirty hands or apron. When a room is dusted, that no part may be forgotten, it is best to begin at one place, and go regularly

round; this too will save many an unnecessary step. The ledges must not be omitted, or any place where dust may lodge; and a brush should always be kept for such purposes.

Once a week, a birch broom should be put up every chimney, where a fire is kept, as far as the arm can reach. A tidy servant may be known at once, by the delight she takes in a clean hearth: she will sweep and throw up her cinders after every meal, and especially before she begins cooking.

There are, in most houses, stated days for sweeping the chambers; the other days should be allotted for any extra work, and such opportunities must always be taken. By thus managing and timing business, a house may be kept in order with half the labour that it would otherwise require, and with neither bustle nor confusion.

When washing is done at home, there is certainly no occasion entirely to neglect the house-work. The hearth may be swept up, and things put in their places, and the master rendered comfortable by seeing that some pains are taken to preserve appearances. The reverse of this unhappily occurs too often, and families who wash once a month are rendered miserable at constantly

recurring periods, when a little consideration would obviate the difficulty. We regret to say that many a thoughtless servant sits for a longer time than is necessary over her meals, chatting with the washerwoman, and while she is making it a day of carousal in the kitchen the family are left to shift for themselves in the parlour ; and if called for, she gives them cross looks, and murmuring complaints into the bargain. On the other hand, no considerate family will over-burden a servant, or be too particular in their requirements at such a busy time.

Though no *servant* needs to be instructed in the art of washing, yet a young beginner should be informed, that the great secret of *good* washing, is plenty of water. People may boast of the *rubbing* they bestow on their linen : but while rubbed in a small quantity of cool and thick liquor, it is lost labour. Linen will not look well, and every laundress knows such to be the case, that is not twice washed, in *plenty of water*, and then boiled and well rinsed ; and between each washing it should be shaken out, and not thrown down when wrung, which frequently occasions it to look streaky. Girls sometimes lose the credit

of really good washing, by the careless manner in which they throw linen about when getting it up ; by laying it while wet on dusty tables or dressers ; by sweeping the kitchen, while baskets of it are standing about uncovered ; and by dirty ironing cloths, which ought to be as carefully kept as the linen itself ; for a dusty cloth must inevitably soil whatever is thrown upon it ; especially if damp, and pressed with a hot iron. Servants should not be angry if linen is complained of, though they know it to have been well washed, when so little care is taken in getting it up : the question is not, how it was done, but how it looks when finished. Much stress is laid upon the *air* in drying, and good air is certainly very desirable ; but a thorough laundress will make linen look better without it, than a *bad* one will with it. A tidy servant will scour her copper thoroughly after washing, clear out and sweep the copper-grate, wash her tubs, inside and out, and set them up in their places.

There are two apartments, into which if a mistress could be admitted, when inquiring the character of a servant, she need ask no further questions. The one is the wash-house, the other

is the maid's chamber. If those, which are out of sight, are not in good order, whatever may be the appearance of the rest of the house, the labour bestowed upon it is performed reluctantly, and cannot be thoroughly well done. A really good servant, *will not, cannot* sleep in a dirty or littered chamber, any more than she can endure a slovenly wash-house. A mistress who wishes to instil cleanly habits into a young servant, must endeavour to lay the foundation of them in her chamber. And if, my young friend, you should find in your new place a clean napkin over your table, a bason and ewer, as in other apartments, and your mistress should even occasionally visit your room, to see that you keep it as you found it, you may be assured, by her thus letting you feel you are respected, that she wishes you to respect yourself; and by teaching you to be careful, both of your character and manners, she has your real welfare at heart, though you may think her needlessly strict.

As the original design of this book was not to give lessons in household work, no more will be added on the subject; especially as the purpose may be better answered by recommending

Trusler's Domestic Management. The cost of this book would be money well expended ; for the directions which it contains are calculated to form a truly valuable servant as far as relates to the *business* of her station : and many servants of old standing gratefully acknowledge the benefit they have derived from reading it.

Young persons are frequently chidden, for what is rather their misfortune than their fault : mistresses complain that their business is not done well, and justly. Servants, too, as truly declare in their defence, that they work as hard as they can, and are incessantly slaving. But were they instructed, while young, in such particulars as have been recommended above, which people perhaps may think of trivial importance, it would be for the advantage of both parties. It is not in rubbing and scouring that the excellence of a good servant consists : these are arts which are soon acquired : but rather in those minute habits, which seem almost too trifling to mention ; but which, however, if a young person does not attain, either by early instruction, or by intuitive genius, she must remain only a second-rate servant for life.

CHAPTER XI.

OBSERVATION, ATTENTION, AND MEMORY.

THE foregoing directions can be of little use to those who are not in the habit of observing what passes before them. Although without practice no one can improve, yet to practise well, it is necessary to observe. Many excellent opportunities are lost for want of this. In every new situation, something may be learned that was not known before ; and an attentive servant will find some new dish, or method of cooking, or way in cleaning, or getting up of linen, different from those to which she has been accustomed. In some instances, at least, she may find that new methods are improvements ; unless indeed she is so ignorant, as to suppose that a thing cannot be right, unless it is done in the old way ; but as different persons vary in their method of proceeding, some of them must be wrong ; and a sensible girl will not suppose herself to be so much wiser

than the rest of the world, as that *her* method must needs be the best.

Those selfish and unhappy tempers, which dislike to do anything but what belongs to their place, and from this principle even refuse to assist a fellow-servant, are their own enemies ; for they lose in consequence many opportunities of improvement. Some, by an opposite disposition, have risen to respectable situations, as in the instance of Jane Perkins, and having become the wives of decent tradesmen, have conducted themselves equal to many of better education. It cannot be too frequently repeated, that we can never know too much ; and there are few instances of a really clever servant, if equally trusty and faithful, who does not prosper in her situation, sooner or later. I believe there are no characters more secure of success, unless they go plodding on without observing anything but what is straight before them.

Servants occasionally complain of naturally bad memories, but frequently without reason ; at least, whenever themselves are concerned, there does not appear to be any falling short. I should think, that a better name for this

deficiency might be *inattention*; but whatever it may be, the sooner it is got rid of the better. When a girl of this description is making herself a new cap, she is not apt to forget how and where to place the bows and trimmings; though it may be only from the recollection of one she has seen: and perhaps she can remember what some acquaintance wore, at such a time, with every particular of the cut, the colour, and fashion. It is probable, too, that she punctually recals to mind the day on which her wages become due, as well as every bargain made in her favour when she was hired, not forgetting how many holidays were promised; and if she has seen any show or sight, she can generally recollect all the particulars. If so, it is plain that her memory is not in fault, and it will be desirable for her to bear in mind, that if her mistress did not take thought for her, she would be less comfortable than she really is, for none of her enjoyments or conveniences could be procured without the trouble of thinking. And yet it is hard that a mistress, who has a family to conduct, should in addition to her own immediate concerns, have to follow a servant about, and remind her of her business

every hour. We, however, would hope that this is not often the case.

When a servant first goes to her place, she should, as soon as possible, acquaint herself with the rules of the house, and endeavour to remember them, without being reminded a second time. Nothing is more tiresome than to have to repeat the same orders over and over, and to hear, "Oh, I forgot it!" at the end of every one of them. Surely, if proper attention were paid, arising from desire to oblige, there would be less of this, "I am sure I work as hard as I can," is sometimes the reply to just complaints: but the labour of the hands is of little avail, when the head is not equally employed. When it is, much less labour will answer the purpose; which, I hope, has been fully proved. A moment's thought will frequently prevent an hour's labour.

It is not merely in the character of a servant that habits of observation and attention will be useful. They are, my young friend, calculated to make you good and amiable, as well as dexterous and expert. And if it be your happy lot to live in a steady and religious family, you may obtain many valuable lessons, by attention, which

may prove a substantial blessing to you, and all your future connexions. Do you observe in your master or mistress, kindness, patience, and forbearance, towards yourself, and others under their care? Let it teach you the same amiable conduct, in every circumstance that may arise. Do you perceive in them meekness and humility? Let it check that pride and passion which cannot bear control. Should you hear any conversation of an instructive nature, and such as you can well understand, it is wise to think it over, and profit by it, if applicable to your circumstances. You may then, from time to time, obtain valuable information, which being treasured in your mind for future use, will enable you to employ your memory to the best advantage. The mention of this subject reminds me of my promise to give you the history of Susan Gardener, the young woman who left her mistress in ill humour, and was induced to return by a prudent neighbour.

Susan Gardener continued in her place for some years : during which time she made great progress in the improvement of her mind, and in the management of household business. She was

furnished by her mistress with instructive books ; in reading of which, and in learning to write, she spent many of her leisure hours. She took great pains to understand, and to remember what she read, otherwise reading is to little purpose. And as the family were in the habit of reading to each other, she had many opportunities of hearing them, while waiting in the parlour. These things had such an effect upon her mind, and character, that she lost all relish for those idle songs, and foolish jests, which amuse and often corrupt the ignorant.

After some time she married a man to whom she was much attached ; and in three years became a widow, with two sons, and no means of support but her own industry. By constant labour and *contrivance*, she managed to earn a scanty subsistence : but to provide food and clothing for her children, was not the whole of Susan's care. She wished to make them worthy characters, and to give them what knowledge she had herself obtained by observation and attention, and of which she felt the value. It did not prove sufficient to render them equally well informed as some of their superiors ; but it was enough to show them their best interests,

and to convince them, that to be respectable, it is necessary to be sober, honest, diligent, and obliging ; it taught them, that the little which a righteous man hath, is better than the riches of many wicked. They were never suffered to play in the streets, or to mix with the vagabonds in the neighbourhood ; and though sneered at, and called abusive names in consequence, they went steadily on, and often thought within themselves, that if indeed their lot was low, they might at least be well conducted.

In after years, while some who had mocked at them, died in consequence of drinking, or were transported, nay, even hung for their misdemeanours, these young men enjoyed the fruits of their industry, and were respected by all who knew them ; true it was, that they never became rich, unless in the respect and approbation of their superiors, and in such proof of their kindness as the deserving generally experience ; but they had always sufficient for their wants, and something to bestow upon their worthy and beloved mother, to whose *attention* and *observation* in early life, they owed in a great measure the respectability of their characters.

If from what has been said respecting *memory*; you should be convinced of its value, and inclined to cultivate it, I shall have some hope, that you will not in future *forget* what follows, though it is a subject, which if you never have thought of before, you cannot properly be said to have forgotten. This is the care of animals, whenever any are kept in the house where you live; and I know not where better to introduce the subject, than in this place. It seems strange that young people, especially, should neglect them in the manner they often do, when each and all are useful, and without many of them, the business of life could hardly be carried on. How shamefully that valuable creature the horse is too often treated,—an animal to which we owe so many of our comforts and conveniences. Happy would it be for many men if they were equally innocent and industrious: but with these a woman servant has nothing to do, except to pity them; and yet I would advise her to be very careful of marrying a man who is cruel to animals, lest he should be cruel to her. To the faithful dog, however, you may be a friend: his attachment to his master, his honesty and obedience, are

lessons worth imitating ; and if once you view him in this light, you will be disposed to take care of him as well as the poor cat, who is equally useful in her way, and yet often neglected, and ill treated. It is in your power, without wasting any provision that is fit for a fellow-creature, to supply their wants, with merely the trouble of collecting together the bones and scraps that are left, and setting them down regularly in one place, with a basin of water to slake their thirst, when they have no means of helping themselves to it. Besides, the butcher, if asked, will generally give a little meat for these creatures, and thus they may be maintained, without the cost of sixpence in a year. If you fail to do this, you should not be angry if they take the opportunity of an open pantry-door to help themselves ; or throw down your plates and dishes, in ransacking for a morsel to satisfy their hunger. Those who kick and beat them for so doing, should consider, that they have no other means of maintaining themselves ; we cannot call their doing so by the opprobrious name of stealing, because the eighth commandment does not extend to them ; the acts of some people, however, unhappily, are

deserving of the name, who help themselves to any dainties that come in their way.

Remember, in the absence of the family, not to suffer a poor bird to famish. Favourite and valuable birds have often died through neglect, and good places been lost in consequence. Let nothing induce you to flay eels, or to fry live fish, such doings are dreadful sins, for which you will have to suffer everlastingly. Their Creator has given them to us for food, we have a right to take away their lives, but this should be done in the easiest manner possible. Fish may generally be killed, by letting them lie some time in cold *pump water*, before required for cooking. If you are humane and tender to defenceless animals, there is reason to expect that you will abound in those kindly feelings towards your fellow-creatures, and we shall entrust our children to you with confidence. Do not *forget* this.

CHAPTER XII.

THE NURSE-MAID.

THERE is no situation in which good temper is so absolutely necessary, as in that of a *nurse-maid*. She who is conscious that her temper is bad, should by no means undertake the care of children, because both their future health and disposition, greatly depend upon her conduct. To those, however, who are already in such situations, the following advice may be serviceable.

A young woman who is tempted to neglect, or ill treat a helpless infant, should remember, that she was once an infant herself: and that if she had been treated thus, she might have been sickly, or a cripple, and unable to provide for herself in the world. Perhaps it is well for some, that their parents could not afford to keep *nurse-maids*, and that they were attended to by their *mothers*.

As an infant cannot defend itself from ill treatment, so neither can it complain; and therefore, is entirely at the mercy of those to whom it may be entrusted. To waste and purloin provisions, to take clothes, or even money, is pardonable, when compared with neglecting or injuring children, whom their parents value so highly, and love so tenderly. Yet it is sometimes the case, that when nurse-maids are entrusted to walk out with children, for the benefit of the air, they sit in some smoky cottage hard by, while the poor babes are moping and moaning unheeded, or are allowed to play with dirty or diseased children. At other times, perhaps, they are suffered to hang over the maid's shoulder, while she is traversing the streets with some of her companions, who may be carrying their burden in like manner, or dragging by the hand a weary little creature, and refusing to carry it at all, or shaking and chiding it for crying. Children have sometimes been so treated by those who have appeared fond of them in the presence of their parents: but if this is taking them out, they had better remain within doors. When at home, the nurse should not pace backward and forward, by

the hour together, with an infant hanging over her arms, or almost bent double. The child might as well continue in the cradle, or be fastened in its chair. *Carrying* a child, is not *nursing* it.

Children ought to be kept cheerful, by being diverted and played with, for all young things are playful, even nurse-maids, though not so young. The colt, the lamb, the puppy, the kitten, can help themselves, almost as soon as born; but an infant requires assistance even in its play, and those who love the little tottling things, will be amused by playing with them; those who do not, are unfit to be nurse-maids.

Be very careful not to let a child spring back in your arms; should however an accident of the kind occur, and even the slightest injury result, do not hide it from the parents. Their displeasure may be great, but what is that when compared with your future distress of mind, should the child become a cripple, or suffer in its health? Slight hurts may produce serious consequences, if not attended to in time: and the servant who conscientiously tells of them, would be more frequently commended than blamed.

Give the child nothing to eat, which you know would be disapproved by its parents. No green gooseberries, sour apples, sweet cakes, nor other trash: such things may keep it quiet, but they are unwholesome. Plain food is the best for grown up people, and much more so for children.

If the bodies of young children are so feeble that they cannot sit upright, or move from one place to another, or feed themselves, their minds are more feeble still. You see how very ignorant they are, and what mistakes they make: they believe anything that is told them, however foolish or untrue. Wherefore? Because they have not seen so much as you have; just as you cannot know so much as those who have lived still longer, and seen yet more. As, therefore, they have everything to learn, they should not be imposed upon; but should have their little mistakes set to rights as soon as they arise. Perhaps, my young friend, if you had been so instructed when a child, and your errors, as fast as they arose, had been corrected, you would have found the benefit of it at the present moment. You have been urged in a former chapter, to pay a strict regard to truth; and to a child, of course,

you will never tell an untruth; nor be guilty of it in its presence. Children had even better be disfigured, or crippled, through the carelessness of a servant, than be made wicked by her example.

If unripe fruits, and trash, are hurtful to their bodies, the foolish stories, and improper conversation, which they sometimes hear, are injurious to their minds, in a much greater degree. They do not know the difference between good and evil; what is said, and done before them, is therefore of the utmost consequence, and their future happiness may depend upon it. They should never be terrified with nonsensical stories of ghosts, and old men, and witches; unless you wish to render them as unhappy about such things as you may have been, and perhaps still are, when alone in the dark. You never saw a ghost in your life, though you may fancy that you have; and it is cruel to terrify children with what you never *have* seen, and they never *will* see.

But it is not sufficient that a nurse-maid refrains from doing children *harm*. It is in her power to do them much good, if she is well-disposed. Should you be of an affectionate temper

my young friend, it will greatly influence theirs ; and should you know the value of instruction, you will think it a delightful part of your duty to speak of their Heavenly Father, and of Jesus Christ who died for them, reading, it may be, some beautiful passages of Scripture, or hymns, and inducing them to learn easy texts by heart ; by such means you will at once be strengthening your own religious principles, and laying the foundation for theirs. Thus they will do you credit, when they leave the nursery, and you deliver up your tender charge into other hands.

CHAPTER XIII.

SICKNESS.

It is probable that you will not live long in service, without witnessing afflictive scenes, occasioned by sickness in a family; nor is there any circumstance by which the real character and disposition of a servant can be more certainly known. If she is selfish or unfeeling, indolent or fretful, such unamiable qualities will appear, though especially distressing. If ever, my young friend, you have been sick yourself, the recollection of your own sufferings should make you extremely tender and attentive to the afflicted; and teach you not to increase the distress of a family by any misconduct of yours; nor act as though you thought it were a crime, rather than a misfortune, to be ill.

Should your assistance be required in the sick chamber, put on a cheerful countenance, and do not appear to do anything grudgingly: speak in a tender voice, and endeavour to be expert and

handy in all you do. If you are entrusted to prepare any little delicacy for the sufferer, do it in the nicest way; for nothing can be more offensive to a sick person than ill-cooked messes; what more trying to weak spirits, worn out with pain, than a sulky look, or an angry or peevish voice? Should you be called up suddenly in the night, rise immediately; for a life may be lost by a moment's delay. And do not complain of night watching; for what is a little temporary weariness and fatigue, when compared with the sufferings of those who require aid, who perhaps lie tossing to and fro, and can find neither rest nor ease?

In some families, the expenses connected with illness are very distressing; and a considerate servant will not take this opportunity to be wasteful or extravagant. On the contrary, when the watchful eye of the mistress is away, she may be extremely useful *out* of the sick chamber, as well as *in* it, by supplying her place below, and by defending the property from those who may wish to take advantage if they are dishonestly inclined.

The mistress is greatly to be pitied, who, when

she is herself confined, has not a faithful servant, in whom she can confide: and who on returning to her family, in a weak state, finds everything out of sorts; this destroyed and that missing: but we hope better things of you, my dear reader, and that whenever it should please Providence to afflict you, the kindness you showed to others may be amply repaid by affectionate friends, who will soothe your spirit, and mitigate your sufferings, with attentive kindness, and patient attention.

Rebecca Verney was one of the many, who reaped the fruits of that good conduct by which she gained the affections of her master and mistress. When she had lived with them some time, she became blind; and believing herself to be totally friendless, she was naturally thrown into great distress of mind. But they soon removed her apprehensions, by assuring her, that while they lived she should never want a home. Accordingly she remained in their house, with every prospect of being dependent upon them for life. But one day she happened to mention a lady of great fortune, to whom she was very distantly related; and her master, thinking that the lady

might possibly be as charitably disposed as himself, applied to her, with a statement of Rebecca's case: when, after having satisfied herself of its truth, she settled fifty pounds a-year upon her for life. She then became a boarder in her master's family, where she continued upwards of thirty years; and at her death, bequeathed him what she had saved, as a token of gratitude for his disinterested kindness.

CHAPTER XIV.

DRESS.

WHILE there are many servants whose dress is so neat and creditable that it is a pleasure to look at them, there are some who appear in a manner unbecoming their station; and who, instead of saving their wages for needful purposes, expend them on useless finery; we use the word *useless* advisedly, because it does not answer the purpose for which it is intended. If, for instance, a servant wishes to appear like a *gentlewoman*, she will be disappointed, after all her pains; for, as we observed before, "something more is wanting to complete that character than fine clothes." By going *out* of our station, we become objects of contempt; not by remaining *in* it, be that station ever so humble. Or if a servant imagines, when she goes to be hired, that she shall appear to advantage, in proportion as she is gaily dressed, she is much mistaken; for a

mistress naturally suspects, that a great deal of time and money must be spent in such fine clothes; and that she who is extravagant in her own concerns, will not be frugal in her mistress's. Besides, an over-dressed servant is a disgrace to a house, and renders her employers ridiculous, as well as herself.

Young women of this sort sometimes dress, to attract the notice of the other sex; but there are few prudent men, and such as are likely to make good husbands, who are tempted by it. A showy girl, it is true, may gain many a pretended admirer by her folly, who will joke, and romp, and talk nonsense with her: but a discreet servant is above such acquaintance.

Dressy girls are not aware how vulgar they appear, and how very far from being really *genteel*; when by a more consistent appearance, they would gain that respectability, which in a certain sense is *genteel* in every station. A young woman is not required to dress like an old one, or to make herself remarkable by her plainness; but she will always appear to better advantage without gimps, fringes, and artificial flowers, feathers, brooches, ear-rings, and necklaces. If

those who are so happy as to have learned to write, would keep an account of all the money expended on such unsuitable things, and cast up the amount at the year's end, they might often be surprised, and perhaps grieved at their folly. They would then perceive the reason of their wages being too small to purchase shoes, stockings, and useful linen. What a pretty sum the money so unnecessarily spent, would make in a few years! It would obtain many articles of furniture, should they marry; and be like a little fortune to a deserving man. Or it might be of especial service in sickness; or assist an aged parent, or a distressed brother or sister. Or should they remain unmarried, it would prove a comfortable supply when they grew past their labour; and procure them many a nourishing meal, and warm garment, which the aged poor frequently require and yet cannot obtain; often from their want of thought when young.

Having said thus much respecting what is *improper* in a servant's dress, it may be necessary to give her a word of advice respecting what is *proper*: of which, nothing can be more so, than warm clothing in cold weather. Many a young

person, by going out in a thin shawl, in winter, catches a cold that settles on her lungs, and ends in a consumption, which is but seldom cured. Truly the money is well laid out which goes to purchase flannel petticoats, worsted stockings, socks, and cloth cloaks. A piece of woollen or broad cloth, pasted within side at the bottom of shoes, will at once keep the feet warm (which is of the greatest importance to health), and save the wear of the stockings; and while speaking of these, we will just mention that some young women can line the feet of cotton stockings so neatly, with calico cut the cross way, as not to be in the least clumsy; by this means they require little mending, and will last as long again as those which are not so lined. And now for your caution and instruction, between this and the next chapter we shall relate the following story.

Mary Tomkins was once hired by a mistress, who would not have given her house-room, if she had not been destitute of a servant, when there was sickness in the family.

Mary was extremely pretty, but had spoiled her appearance by the tawdry manner in which she was dressed. She wore a feather in her bonnet,

with a tassel dangling on the left side ; and beneath it, lying on her forehead, was an ugly bunch of artificial flowers, of all manner of colours ! (and nothing, you know, could be more vulgar :) she had, moreover, a brooch in her handkerchief, and large gold ear-rings ! In this trim she applied to several places, but in vain. One lady asked her what that glittering ornament meant in her handkerchief ; and a gentleman almost turned her out of doors, saying, such a creature should not enter his house. As she was therefore in want of necessaries, having been long out of employ, she readily engaged herself to go to her new place immediately ; for both mistress and maid being in such circumstances, a hasty bargain was made, and few questions asked on either side.

For once, however, the mistress was deceived by outward appearances, though such indications of a trifling and unsteady mind are mostly correct. Mary proved a valuable servant ; persuasions could not alter her way of dressing, yet she gave, in other respects, no occasion for complaint. In a few hours the appearance of the house was changed ; and all the dirt and litter removed that had been gathering for months !

So little time does it take to render a place comfortable, if people do but know how, and are in earnest! As Mary was one of those who could not sit down in an untidy kitchen, she was equally restless while any apartment of the house remained so : for she loved cleanliness for its own sake, and her greatest faults arose from this disposition ; because she was always out of temper and sulky, if any careless footmark soiled the boards, which she took such delight in having clean. That so dressy a servant should prove notable and cleanly is a rare instance indeed ; and so far from its encouraging any to imitate her, it should operate as a warning, when it is considered, that with all her capability, she was in danger of being reduced to want by her unseemly appearance.

She however possessed most of those qualities which have been so strongly recommended in the former chapters, and which are very engaging in a servant ; and as the family became increasingly attached to her, a hope was entertained that she might continue long, and by degrees be reasoned out of her fondness for dress. But they were not so fortunate ; a severe and lingering illness at the

house of a step-mother, had obliged her to incur debts, which she was unable to pay, and which there was little prospect of discharging while her money went as it did. The mother came after her so frequently, using such abusive language, and altogether behaving so disorderly, that to part with Mary became absolutely necessary: and again she experienced great difficulty in getting a place. At length, however, when a worthless gentleman who visited at her master's thought proper to take her home, to be the mistress of his house, she made no objection.

And now Mary thought herself fortunate indeed; for she could have as much money as she pleased to ask for, and in this respect she was not at all backward.

She had silks and satins, feathers and laces, rings, brooches, and necklaces, in abundance. She went to the play, and to the opera, drove about from one watering-place to another, backward and forward, from town to country, and from country to town. She was admired and flattered, by Mr. Webster's companions, wherever she went; and she very likely thought that what had been said to her respecting dress

was all nonsense ; that her being so smart, had been the making of her ; and that she could never have made her fortune without dress, and a pretty face, such as she always knew hers to be.

It is really extraordinary, considering how Mary had been brought up, that she should be so soon, and so well able, to entertain the company which Mr. Webster frequently brought home : but she was naturally clever, and the mantua-makers and milliners had so far improved her, that after she had lived in this way some time, she might have been mistaken for a gentlewoman, while she remained silent. It is true, she had no ladies of character to make remarks upon her dexterity in the entertainment of company ; for they could not sit down to table with such a one as Mary at the head of it !

Years thus rolled away, and made no material alteration in the circumstances of Mary ; she improved in everything but character ; that had long been lost, and she became less and less sensible of its value. She, however, conducted the house and servants as well as an individual, who was frequently absent, could be expected to do : for

when in a different, yet far happier station, she lost nothing which could be obtained by observation and attention, and so far reaped the benefit of it. She amused herself with working a bed, and decorating the house with many ingenious and tasteful ornaments, an art which she had by some means picked up : but while thus engaged, the roses in her cheeks began to fade ; nor could the assistance of paint, nor expensive ornaments, long conceal this from Mr. Webster. Her eye did not sparkle as formerly, and if it had, he had been too long accustomed to see it, to admire it now. He became gloomy, and less generous than formerly : was seldom at home, and scarcely allowed her a sufficiency to keep the house in his absence. At length he began quarrelling with her on the most trifling occasions ; and after freely acknowledging, that he was completely tired of her, he told her to find another situation. But alas ! a situation, for one of Mary's character, was not so easily obtained. Affairs in the meantime grew worse and worse ; till at length, having repeatedly told her to be gone, he turned her out of doors, and ordered the servants to admit her no more !

She was allowed to take her clothes, which with a little money she had about her, was all she possessed in the world. She would not easily have believed, when first she became acquainted with Mr. Webster, that he ever could treat her so cruelly: yet there are many that *can*, and *do* act exactly as he did.

She had a sister, who has not yet been mentioned, but of whom it is necessary to give some account. Her name was *Hannah*, and she differed as much from her sister Mary in disposition, as she did in person. It was well for her, that she had no particular fondness for dress; for as she was extremely plain, she would have rendered herself still more ridiculous by it than her sister Mary did. Hannah's temper, and manners too, were very unengaging: and it is a question whether it could ever be said after she left her mother's cottage, that she was beloved by any one. But *she loved herself*, and spared no pains to serve her own individual interest, whatever became of others. Had she continued twenty years in one family, she would have probably felt no more attachment to them, nor they to her, at the end of that time, than at the

beginning. No one was better qualified than Hannah, to sing the old song :—

“I care for nobody, no not I,
And nobody cares for me.”

Of the importance of keeping her places, she was, however, thoroughly aware ; and not at all inclined to hazard being out of place, and spending what she took such pains to hoard. It was, consequently, requisite that she should appear to possess some good qualities ; and as she was of a strong make, and what is called an *iron* constitution, industry and activity were to her a very cheap way of obtaining her end. It was no wonder, therefore, that she generally continued a long time in her places ; she could do as much in an hour or two, as some do in a day ; and people are glad to get their work done almost at any rate. But she well understood how to value her labour ; and was not disposed to lift the weight of a straw for nothing. She made the most advantageous bargains she possibly could, whenever she hired herself ; vails and perquisites of every kind were never forgotten, or omitted ; nor any opportunity lost, whereby a sixpence, or even a penny, could be honestly gained. She

was honest ; for she wisely thought, that honesty was the best policy : and that was another inducement to her masters and mistresses to bear with her unpleasant disposition, and keep her from year to year.

Though of such a hardy constitution, she was extremely fond of indulgence ; and was as dainty, as if she had been in the last stage of a consumption. She had a great dislike to mutton ; and was always excessively out of humour when nothing else was provided. She could not eat a steak that was not hot off the gridiron : accordingly when any went from table, they were generally left about to spoil. She disliked bread if at all stale ; and could not eat the outside of a loaf, or salt butter. These were some of the things which she did *not* like ; but among those which she did, was fine strong green tea, plentifully sweetened with the best loaf sugar, and cream ; with many other good things, sufficient to show that she was no mean judge of what was nice ; though one thing she loved, which is not nice, and that was *snuff*. Here her frugality failed ; for she could not resist spending threepence or fourpence a-week

in this nauseous drug ; and how much her masters might have of it in their dishes, history does not record.

Such was Hannah Tomkins, when a shop-keeper in the neighbourhood thought that she was the very identical person who would suit him for a wife. He had been a widower only a few weeks. His former wife was a sickly creature, worn out with hard work, hard fare, and hard usage. He never could believe her to be in any danger ; but said that she was fanciful, and vapoured, and indolent. Her illness was so tedious, that he used to say, he wished there was an end to it, one way or another : and when the end drew near, happening to go into her chamber, he found the nurse in great alarm, as her mistress was in the agonies of death : but this he did not believe, and saying she was only a little faint, he sent for a pennyworth of oysters, and half a pint of porter, to bring her to herself, as he said. Before the oysters and the porter arrived, she was released from this troublesome world ; and he from the expense under which he had so long groaned. By some accident, the nurse and her assistant in moving the coffin let it fall, and the

corpse fell out upon the floor. In great alarm, she called her master ; but he expressed his surprise at her terror, saying, that nothing was easier than to put it in again ; which he accordingly did, with as much unconcern as he would have replaced any of his goods in the shop, had they met with a similar mischance.

Such was the lover of Hannah ; but indeed there was no love on either side. Hearts like theirs are incapable of love or friendship. It was a match of pure convenience ; and everybody allowed that they were well paired.

He was a money-getting man, as honest as his wife, because, like her, he thought it profitable to be so. He sold his chandlery wares both good and cheap, in order to ensure customers, and sufficient profit : and he was civil and obliging, with the same design. He had no taste for jokes nor fun, yet he occasionally used both, for the sake of tempting those who had, to his shop, and making them think, it was equally desirable for a bit of chat, as for tea, sugar, or snuff ; hence many an idle creature went there for the sake of gossiping, and laid out her master's money instead of going to the family grocer.

Some women would have been very unhappy with such a husband ; and would have thought being in service a great deal better : but not so Hannah. The getting of money had always been her prime object ; and as in this respect, her husband and she were perfectly agreed, she cared little for the rest. They fared hard, and would scarcely allow themselves common necessaries : but there were times, when her dislike to *mutton* seemed to be nearly conquered, and when even a *steak* that was *not quite* hot, might have been acceptable ; but neither one nor the other did she taste from year to year, little in short but tea, and bread, and vegetables.

She once fell through the floor of the shop, the boards having given way : in this situation her husband found her, with only her head and shoulders to be seen ; when instead of affording her any assistance he addressed her thus : “ Why, now, I never knew such a woman in my life : you are for ever in mischief. It will cost me I know not how much to mend the floor.” He then marched off, and left her to scramble out as she could, or to drop through into the cellar !

Let those of my young readers, who are

conscious that their dispositions are inclined to be selfish and unfeeling, endeavour to conquer them while young; lest as they advance in life, they should bear too near a resemblance to Hannah, or her husband.

To this house poor Mary bent her steps, when she was turned out of doors by Mr. Webster. Her sister did not at all recollect her, for they had not seen each other for many years, and sad it is to think that own sisters should ever live so estranged! When she made herself known, with the miseries of her situation, Hannah loaded her with reproaches. "Ah!" said she, "this comes of your *dress*: I always said how it would end; had you been as steady as I have been, you might have done as well; what should hinder? No fine gentleman ever tempted me; but as you have made your bed, so you must lie in it. I have nothing to give; for though we make shift to get a bit of bread, times are hard, and we have no more than we work for. It would be well, if every one could say as much." She then cut her a slice of bread and cheese, and drew her a pint of new small beer, from a vessel in a corner of the shop; desiring her to make what haste she could,

lest her husband should come home, and find her there ; as he would not much relish visits from poor relations. Mary turned away in an agony of despair, and left her sister's charity upon the counter !

She made many attempts to get employment at her needle, but almost in vain : her fine clothes were in consequence soon gone, to buy bread ; and she became the inhabitant of a miserable garret, in a house where she heard nothing below, but fighting, and swearing, and the shrieking of children. Here she became nearly crazy, and was seen for months, wandering about the neighbourhood slipshod, with a stuff bed-gown, a ragged night-cap, and the locks which used to be curled, and trimmed so nicely, now turning grey, and hanging about her ears ! She used sometimes to knock at Mr. Webster's door, entreating only to see him for a moment, though she was constantly driven away by the footman, and threatened with the constable. But what aggravated her sorrows, was the *young lady*, now the mistress of the house, who generally stood at the parlour-window, laughing at her. Poor *young lady* ! it will be your turn by-and-by.

At length Mary was seen no longer ; and having never been heard of, there is too much reason to fear, that she either perished in her miserable lodgings, or died in the parish workhouse. Alas ! poor *dressy* Mary.

CHAPTER XV.

BEHAVIOUR TO PARENTS.

WHEN you leave your parents' cottage, and go out into the world to get your living, they have the same claim upon your duty and affection as they ever had : they are your parents still, however you, or they, may be separated. Undutiful children are regarded with just abhorrence by man, and they are marked as the peculiar objects of Divine displeasure.

Should the conduct of your parents be such as in your conscience you cannot approve, still you are bound to remember the words of Scripture, and to treat them with becoming respect ; even should they have set you a bad example ; if they wish you to do evil, you must herein disobey them, because you have another parent, even God, who is angry with the wicked every day, and who will assuredly punish sin, whosoever may have taught it. If, unhappily, you have been

brought up under such instructions, you will have had many opportunities of observing the bad consequences of evil ways, and you may derive benefit from them, when determined to pursue a different course. At the same time, endeavour, in a modest and humble manner, to reason with your parents at convenient opportunities, on the impropriety of their conduct: but whether they listen to you or not, be ever ready to assist them in all their distresses, to the best of your ability; and perhaps, your dutiful and respectful behaviour may prove a better lesson to them than all you could say.

But if you have been blessed with good and virtuous parents, what do you not owe to them? Has your father spent his strength, and the prime of his days for the maintenance of his family? has he constantly brought home his hard earnings, to supply your wants, and to make your infancy and childhood comfortable? Has your mother nursed you in your helpless state, and has she endured all the pain, and sickness, and fatigue, and sorrow of a family; and now does her strength begin to fail? No wonder—you can never know what her sufferings have been, till you are in her

situation. It is now time for her to rest,—at least, she should enjoy peace of mind in the prospect of her family's well-doing. Do not grieve, or vex her spirit, by your undutiful behaviour, or misconduct; nor for a trifle leave your place, and return home, to devour her scanty morsel; but while you sit down to a plentiful meal yourself, forget not your aged parents, who perhaps, even now, labour as hard as you do for their homely fare; and let such considerations, at least make you contented and thankful for your own privileges.

Now is your time to make some amends for any undutiful behaviour of which you may have been guilty heretofore. Soon you and your aged parents must part, and when they are under the green sod, it will be too late. Then they will not see your tears, nor hear your broken sobs, nor will they be cheered by your well-doing or improved conduct. Then they can give you no more good advice; whatever you then are, or do, will be alike to them. The consequences of breaking the fifth commandment, which says, "Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy

God giveth thee," cannot be better exemplified than in the following history.

James Marshall was the darling son of his parents. To ensure his present enjoyment, and his future prosperity, was the business of their lives, the first wish of their hearts; though they did not seem to know, that the way in which they indulged him was not calculated to promote his happiness; yet they might have seen this, from its effect upon him, for he was constantly discontented and uneasy, in spite of all their indulgence. His father he despised, and his mother he ridiculed, and treated with slight and neglect; not all her tenderness and care could gain her a kind look or a civil word. They were decent people, and possessed some considerable property, which they had partly obtained by their industry, and partly by money which had been left them. This they were disposed to enjoy, by affording every comfort, consistent with their station; but James was never contented. Nothing that they could procure was good enough for him either to eat or to wear; and this temper they rather humoured and indulged, than opposed and corrected, as they ought to have done.

They were, however, wise enough to know the value of a good education, by the want of it themselves; but they went to the other extreme, by keeping their son at school till he was too old to be put apprentice. Upon finishing his education, as they had not fortune sufficient to support him in idleness, they began to think it proper that he should apply to some business. Many trials were made, before he could fix upon anything to please him, for indeed, he liked nothing that required application and industry. He was at length set up in a shop; but his father had too soon occasion to observe, "that he certainly kept the *shop*, for it did not keep *him*." Nor could it, when most of his time was spent on the skittle-ground, at cards, or in anything but his business!

In course of time, however, he thought proper to fall in love; and marrying soon after, he so far improved as to become industrious, and to set about providing for his family in earnest, in which however he found a good deal of difficulty. His poor mother had been dead many years, nor did he ever shed one tear over her grave, or breathe one sigh of remorse, for the ill-treatment he

had shown to one of the most indulgent of parents.

As his father became infirm, James thought that the best way of securing his property was to take him home to live with him; accordingly the poor old man sold his furniture, disposed of his house, and discharged his faithful house-keeper, who had made him comfortable ever since he had been a widower, and then went to end his days under the roof of his *dear Jemmy*, as he used to call him.

There was a little building in the yard, which was furnished with a bed, a table, and a chair; and here, because he took up too much room at the parlour fire, James Marshall placed his father! The chimney smoked, the room was damp, and the walls mouldy, for no human being had lived there for many a year. His food generally consisted of the cold scraps that had been left the preceding day. Of a hot joint he never partook, and there were continual remarks made upon the amazing quantity he devoured.

He soon became so very lame, from the rheumatism, as to be unable to walk; and an

unfeeling apprentice who was sent to pull him across the room, would often throw him down violently on the bed, and leave him to undress himself as he could. This was hard indeed, for he had enjoyed a warm house, a comfortable fire-side, soft bed, and nourishing food, at a time when he could have endured hardships much better than at present.

In this way he spent his lonely hours, never hearing his son's or daughter-in-law's voices, but to chide him. He could hear the children playing about the yard; and they would sometimes put their heads in at the door, to abuse and ridicule him, in imitation of their parents.

He had a grand-daughter, the child of another son, long since dead. Her visits were always rendered miserable by the forlorn situation of her grandfather: she had no relish for their good dinners, while she knew that he was dining upon cold scraps in an outhouse: but she could not help him as she wished to have done, for fear of offending her uncle; though she sometimes stole in, and consoled him in the best manner she was able. She might have been once seen, standing with her arm around his

neck, while his aged head lay on her bosom, and he looked up in her face, with an expression of silent sorrow ; her tears fell fast, and mingling with his, rolled down his furrowed cheeks, he would have spoken, but fearing to be overheard, he lifted up his swollen hands, and expressed by signs, the intensity of his suffering. At that moment, the grand-daughter heard her uncle's voice, loudly calling for her, and hastily kissing the poor old man, she bade him farewell. This was their last meeting. A few weeks put a period to his sorrows, and gave his *dear Jemmy* possession of his property. Let us see how it prospered in his hands.

He made a grand funeral, but this did not prevent the murmurings of the neighbours, whose disapprobation was expressed loud enough to be heard by the chief mourner, as he rode slowly along, behind the feathered hearse. They said among other things, that such expense would have been far better bestowed upon his father while living, than when dead ! But these reproaches could have little effect upon a heart like his.

He had now reached the summit of his wishes,

and expected all to go well. No such thing : —for though he enlarged his shop, and increased his stock, and procured more assistance, his stock did not sell, and his custom failed : he was cheated and plundered by his assistants ; persons broke in his debt, and at length he became a bankrupt himself, for he was “ *cursed in his basket and in his store.*” His children, however, proved the chief instruments of divine displeasure. His only daughter, after very irregular conduct, became the wife of a poor and wicked man. One son enlisted for a soldier, another went to sea, and those who remained were neither able nor willing to assist their distressed parents ; nor did they leave any room for questioning their inclination to place them in an outhouse, had the opportunity offered.

James Marshall died, unregretted by his family. No feathered hearse carried him to the grave ; but while he was hurried along on the shoulders of four poor neighbours, his shabby family paced after him with unconcerned and vacant countenances ; for his death was unaccompanied by either gain or loss.

His wife, who had been a dressy dame in her

time, was seen wandering and muttering about the streets in an old red cloak, and leaning on a crook stick. Glad would she have been to have sheltered her head in the outhouse, and to have eaten of the cold scraps which she once thought too good for her husband's father.

“Have you not heard what dreadful plagues
Are threaten'd by the Lord,
To him that breaks his father's law,
Or mocks his mother's word?”

CHAPTER XVI.

CONCLUSION.

MY young friends, have I bestowed upon you labour in vain? It will be so, if you are not convinced that your welfare has been the main object in view; but if you feel this to be the case, then you will pay that attention to these pages which alone can give them success, and you will treasure up those admonitions in your heart which may have the most beneficial effect on your life. I assure you, that it would afford many of your masters and mistresses the sincerest pleasure to see your characters improve; not merely as it would add greatly to their own domestic comfort, but from the more important satisfaction of witnessing the prosperity of their fellow-creatures.

You have learned from what has been said, that you will injure both your character and your circumstances by frequent change of places; and

the benefit of the opposite conduct is enforced upon you, in the history of Lydia Miller. Happy will it be for you, whether you marry, or remain single, should you die such a death, and should your latter days be like hers. Nor will you become stubborn, nor unteachable, when you perceive what a certain hindrance such a temper will be to your improvement. Of the evil of a bad disposition you must be convinced, whether you allow it in yourself, or suffer from it in those with whom you are connected; and though the good fortune of Jane Batson should never be yours, there is enough to encourage you to imitate her temper, which is its own reward.

Truth is so lovely in itself, and withal so advantageous to those who practise it, that one should think it were almost needless to exhibit the hatefulness of the opposite vice in the character of Hannah Perry, afterwards Mrs. Jenkins. It is true that *all* liars do not come to poverty, any more than *all* good-tempered girls marry well: but they are certainly exposed thereby to many inconveniences, to many scrapes and difficulties which perhaps are known to none but themselves. However this be—

“ Every liar
Shall have his portion in the lake
Which burns with brimstone and with fire.”

The same may be said of dishonesty ; some have even become rich by dishonest gains, but they have not been happy. You see their fine houses, clothes, and carriages, but you do not see their hearts. The worm at the root of all their enjoyments, placed there by an angry Providence, is concealed : and you may be assured, that you are really happier with honest gains, than those who are feasting upon the property of others, though they should disdain even to look upon such a one as you. You have probably lived long enough in the world to know that Sophia Ladbrooke, and the young woman, who, from living happily with her husband, lost his affections, and ruined her family, are not the only instances of the disastrous effects of drinking. Nor does the danger of improper acquaintance require any additional cautions to deter from it : its evil consequences are seen every day, and a prudent servant will reap the advantage of such lessons.

Till you become frugal, my young friend, you are unfit either for a servant or a wife : you are

of little value, married or single ; therefore, habits of frugality have been urged upon you ; and to confirm them, bear this short sentence in your mind, “ Wilful waste makes woful want :” the truth of this, hundreds and thousands have proved to their cost. Jane Perkins was not wasteful, though she lived in the family of so rich a lady ; or it is probable that she would have still remained a kitchen maid. That lady would never have taken into her favour a wasteful servant. *Good* rich people are not half so extravagant as *bad* poor ones.

The apostle says, “ If any will not work, neither let him eat ;” and I hope, my young friend, that with you the virtue of industry needs no recommendation : and that you are heartily willing to purchase the necessaries and comforts of life, by your honest exertions ; while you feel grateful to that Providence, which has given you strength to labour, and crowns your endeavours with success. It is hoped that what has been said in favour of management, regularity, and cleanliness, will place them in so advantageous a light, that if you have never before thought on the subject, you will be induced to make trial of

them now. Should this be the case, there will be no occasion to caution you against relapsing into bad habits again, when you have once felt the benefit of the opposite conduct. No doubt, the history of Sarah Leven will confirm you in your good resolution ; and convince you that the poor need not be so miserable as they frequently are, were they more managing and cleanly : and that a comfortable fire-side, and a decent, though homely meal, is not so difficult to obtain, as some people are apt to imagine.

Susan Gardner, who made so excellent a mother, and whose two sons became such worthy characters, obtained all her valuable knowledge by *observation and attention*. She had not a bad *memory* ; neither with a bad memory are you charged. Most of those who accuse themselves of it, are not just to their own powers. And it is fervently hoped that you will prove the truth of this assertion, by due attention to your proper business, and by *remembering* the various instructions that have already been addressed to you, as well as those which have yet to follow.

Should this friendly advice have been well received thus far, then may the smiling, or even

the weeping babe, be safely entrusted to your care : if you are sober and steady, cleanly, teachable, and obliging ; if you would not waste, nor destroy the smallest portion of your employers' property, you will watch with unremitting care over their children, who are dearer to them than all else they possess. You may be safely trusted, you are a worthy girl, and will prove yourself such, whether our babes play and laugh in your arms, or sleep on your bosom. You are a worthy girl, and will not neglect, or be wilfully cruel, to any creature that may come in your way ; nor grudge a moment's trouble to feed a famishing animal, who perhaps has not another friend in the world. Methinks I see you in the sick chamber, or among the family below, at such a distressing time : as regards the first, you are tender and attentive ; with respect to the second, you are diligent and watchful ; either the nurse, or the housekeeper, as occasion may require. Ah ! when you are sick, may you never want a friend ! And your appearance, too, how very respectable it is ! So neat and creditable, that one might almost venture to hire you, even without inquiring your character. No tawdry feathers, or flowers, dis-

grace you. You must be changed indeed, before you will be seen wandering about the streets like Mary Tomkins, in her stuff bed-gown, and with her hair about her ears. One cannot even for a moment suppose such a thing ; but rather, that you will remain a respectable servant, or become a valuable wife, and a good mother. And if an aged parent should retire under your roof he would dwell in comfort ; and not in an out-house, as the father of James Marshall did.

Such is the person we wish you to be ; we wish it, my young friend, most earnestly : but something more is wanting, to give us a reasonable ground of hope concerning you, that your good conduct will be lasting, and that is, *religion*. As well might we expect a house that has no foundation to stand, when the stormy wind blows upon it, as that you should keep all your good resolutions without piety. You have a master, even God, to whom you owe higher duties than to any of your fellow-creatures. In comparison with Him, the greatest masters you can serve on earth, are less than servants, or even worms. On them, and on you, His watchful eye is ever fixed, as though you were the only creatures under his

care. He is acquainted with your actions, words, and thoughts ; for even a sparrow does not fall to the ground without His knowledge. Nor can you go anywhere, without His observing you. The darkness and the light are both alike to Him.

“There's not a sin that we commit,
Or wicked word we say,
But in his dreadful book 'tis writ,
Against the judgment day.”

He is one who requires your best services, and commands you to love Him, the Lord your God, with all your heart, and soul, and mind, and strength. And this you justly owe to Him, for all his benefits and his mercies towards you. He has placed you, it is true, in that station where you have to labour for your maintenance ; but it is He who gives you strength to labour, while if He chose to command it, your strength would fail, and you would droop and die. Or He might plunge you in deep distress, and make you to be in want of the necessaries of life. The food you eat is of his providing ; for every beast of the field is his, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. He created every herb yielding seed, and every tree yielding fruit, all that sup-

ports and gratifies you when in health ; all that heals you when sick, comes from Him. He gave wisdom and contrivance to build the house which shelters you, with all the numerous conveniences with which it is furnished. Nay, whatever degree of wisdom and prudence you may possess, by which you are rendered useful to others, or by which you provide for yourself, is of his bestowing. Now as this is the case, it is of the greatest importance that you have Him for your friend, in whom you live, and move, and have your being ; and with whom you are as clay in the hands of the potter : for should He be your enemy, it were better for you had you never been born. This is what the *Bible* teaches : where God has also revealed, that on which our eternal salvation depends. It is of all books the most valuable, because it points the way to Heaven ; by exhibiting that Redeemer, without whom we could never hope to arrive there. But lest you should be one of the many, who merely think the *Bible* a good book, without knowing how it came to be so, it may be useful to explain it to you.

In order that we might be made acquainted with a great many things, which we could not

have known by any other means than a revelation ; such as the existence of God, the creation of the world, the way by which mankind became such sinful creatures, with the redemption of sinners by Jesus Christ,—in order that we might be made acquainted with all these things, and a great many more, which are necessary for a true Christian to know, God revealed such important truths to certain good men, who wrote them down in that book which is called the *Bible*. Every word of which must be true, because it is the word of God ; every word must be important, because it is the message from God to man. That we might be convinced of its truth, as well as of its importance, the coming of Jesus Christ was foretold by the prophets, many hundred years before he appeared in the world ; which was certainly what they could not have known, unless God had informed them of it, and this proved all they wrote beside, to be true.

The history of the Saviour, his sufferings and death, was written in like manner with the rest of the Scriptures, by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, who were called Evangelists : some of whom saw our Saviour when upon earth, and were much

in his company ; and all, as well as the Apostles, wrote under the direction of God : so that they could not be mistaken, like other men. Now if the dearest and most respected friend you have upon earth, were to send you a letter giving an account of any matter in which you were deeply concerned ; though you might value it highly, and generally believe it to be true, yet you could not be certain that it was free from the mistakes which every human creature is liable to make. Your friend's letter might express much affection, and promise you much good ; yet the best of friends sometimes fail, and are unable to perform their promises. But the *Bible* is a letter from *God* to you ; not offering you earthly riches, which are so very uncertain, and unsatisfying, but durable riches, and righteousness, even heaven itself, and God for your portion. He says, "Ask, and ye shall receive ; seek, and ye shall find ; knock, and it shall be opened to you." And He will be true to his promise : heaven and earth may sooner pass away, than one jot, or one tittle of his word can pass away unfulfilled.

God hath revealed in this book, that He hath appointed unto all men once to die, and after

that the judgment. Yes, you must die! For as He sent you into the world at the moment He had decreed; so, when He has determined that you shall live no longer, He will call you out of it, whether you have performed the task that He set you or not. Unless the Lord come previously,* as he will in an hour that we think not of, you may be summoned in a moment before your Maker; when your body must lie down in the dust, and in whatever state you then are, whether a saint or a sinner, so you must for ever remain.

“There’s no repentance in the grave,
Or pardons offer’d to the dead;
Just as a tree cut down, that fell
To north or southward, there it lies
So man departs, to heaven or hell,
Fix’d in the state, wherein he dies.”

In one or the other of these states will your spirit remain till the judgment day, when the Lord will descend from heaven, with ten thousand of his saints; and with a shout, and the sound of a trumpet, he will call the dead from their graves. It will be very tempestuous round about

* 1 Thess. iv. 13.

him, and the whole world will be on fire! But if you lived and died a real Christian, such as the Bible describes, and not merely called so, because you were once baptized; if by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God in your heart, you have been convinced of your lost condition by nature, and of your inability to do anything of yourself, towards deserving the favour of God; and have therefore been led to the Lord Jesus Christ, to do all in you, and for you; if the duties you have performed, have not been to earn heaven thereby, but rather to show your love to the Redeemer, who has said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments;"—then fear not, for the Saviour will take care of you amid the terrors of that awful day. Though you passed through this world, and departed out of it, a servant, He will own you before men and angels, for the Lord knoweth them that are his. And while on the wicked He rains a horrible tempest, and says, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting burnings, prepared for the devil and his angels," to you He will say, "Well done, good and faithful *servant*, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." In publishing these truths to the world, many

good men have spent their lives ; many are sailing over the seas to distant lands, enduring the greatest hardships, and braving every danger to carry the Bible, and preach the gospel it contains, to those who never heard it ; and many have been put to death in former times, by wicked men, for declaring the truths of this sacred book, which they could not bear to hear.

The Bible, moreover, teaches you all that is necessary to make you comfortable in this life. The conduct which has been recommended in these pages, is all enforced by the Bible. It is calculated to be a light to your feet, and a lamp to your path, in all your wanderings through this world. There you are encouraged to seek the divine blessing and assistance in your undertakings : and you are assured that your humble supplications God will hear, from heaven his dwelling-place, and that He will in no wise despise your prayer. Our Saviour, who, when an infant, was laid in a manger, who, when he grew up, had not where to lay his head, and who was a man of sorrows, and acquainted with griefs, knows how to pity the afflicted, and regards not the outward circumstances, but the heart ; for He is

no respecter of persons. The rich and the poor are both alike to Him, for He is the Maker of them all. *He* is no respecter of persons ; for He hath made of one blood all the nations of the earth, yet he requires *us* to respect our fellow-creatures, according to the rank in which his providence has been pleased to place them ; and commands that we should give honour, to whom honour is due, and tribute, to whom tribute. He regards the *rich* as well as the poor, and has wisely decreed, that there should be both in the world, in order to prove mutually serviceable to each other. If every one would act agreeably to his wise designs, what a happy world we should have !

Surely it is a mercy that you have been taught to read ! Who taught you ? Did your parents, either by their own instructions, or by sending you to school ? Then, so far they were good parents ; and they have given you a fair portion, of which no accident can deprive you ; such as may qualify you for situations of profit and respectability, which otherwise you could not have obtained. Now, you perceive, why it was that you were compelled, probably much against

your inclination, to learn your a, b, c ; you could not then discern its use ; and your tasks, instead of being pleasant, were perhaps irksome to you : but now that you are able to join the letters together and make words of them ; now that you can employ your leisure hours, in such a useful and instructive way, you not only excuse, but are thankful to your teachers for the pains they took, and the trouble they occasioned you. And so you may one day view the conduct of your great Father and Teacher, God. Many things in your present lot, which you think hard, and of which you cannot discern the meaning, will be explained to you hereafter ; and you will perceive that they were all designed for your good ; unless, indeed, you should be one of those unhappy creatures, on whom both prosperity and adversity are equally thrown away ; and who have not a wish or a hope beyond this mortal life.

But did you learn to read at the Sunday school ? then how thankful ought you to be to those, who have been at such pains and expense for your instruction. This is another proof of the importance of what you are taught ; for wise people would not so exert themselves for a trifling

object. How good and pious are those ladies, who instead of spending the Sunday in pleasure, as many do, or at any rate in enjoying themselves and their books at home, when public worship is over, leave their comfortable firesides, in all weathers, to devote their time to the ignorant; patiently bearing with the various humours of their scholars; and determined if possible to do them good, even against their inclinations. One would imagine that the poor were rather conferring favours, than receiving them, when we see how very unwilling some of the parents are to let their children attend, and what excuses they make for keeping them at home. The expense of such schools is not trifling, and many there are, who exert themselves to support them, in a way of which the poor can form no idea.

But did you teach yourself to read? are you one of those who, discerning the value of knowledge, obtained it by your own industry? This is a favourable trait in your character; and it affords us pleasing expectations concerning you. Go on, my young friend, with the work of self-instruction, embracing every opportunity for the attain-

ment of your purpose. And I trust, that He who has so far enlightened your understanding, and excited in you a thirst for knowledge, will raise up friends, who will supply you with such books as are calculated to promote it. I wish you may be able to procure Mrs. More's Cheap Repository. It is a book which will both instruct and amuse you. And do, if possible, learn to write. But I must once more caution you against devoting even to improvement the time which ought to be employed in your master's service. The Bible will teach you the impropriety of this ; and that you have no right to spend that time in pursuits, however laudable, which is not properly your own. A dexterous and managing servant will seldom be at a loss for an occasional half-hour, which she may honestly take to improve herself.

Finally, my young friend, I would recommend to you the strict observance of the Sabbath, so far as your situation will permit. It must fall to the lot of some servants to have more to do than others on that day ; because there are things which absolutely require to be done ; but happy is that servant, who lives in a family where this sacred day is religiously observed ; and where

she has the means of public and private instruction. For others, who have not such advantages, and who for want of them are exposed to much temptation, we can only pray, that they may be delivered from the evil ; and be finally brought, through all the dangers and trials of this mortal life, to the enjoyment of an everlasting Sabbath, in the kingdom of God.

THE END.

