

along with the young boarder, on just such an invitation as she now claimed to have received. And of course, there was no one in that group who knew anything about it, only that, as Tom sometimes remarked, "you couldn't always swallow what Serene said, for she could tell some awful bouncers when she had a mind to."

There, now, mother, look at Rinthie. Dont she look swell? I have begged you piles of times to let me fix up your hair, for I knew what a difference it would make in your looks, you never would, though, and I know I could make you pretty near good looking if you would let me fix you up, couldn't I Tom?"

"Yes, Serene I believe you could; for you are stylish, if you aint pretty."

"Go long, Tom, you know I'm a Joe dandy. I've been told so by more'n one, you can't tease me, not much. Rinth, if you only knew how stunning you look, now, hold on a minute, let me put on my earrings, there how's that? Aint she a hummer?"

Parintha's cheeks flushed with the unusual words of praise, coarse though they were, for she had never in her life before heard her own appearance commented upon in a favorable manner, and she was pleased in spite of her own good sense and knowledge that such things are mere outward appearances and don't affect the character. But she was young, she was a woman, and who can blame? Not I.

She said good night to them all, and taking her lamp hurried away to get out of the room ere the Professor returned. She was weary and longed to be in her own quiet chamber and think a few quiet thoughts, before she retired for the night.

She passed through the hall, but just at the parlor door, she met the professor himself, coming out of the parlor. She remembered her ridiculous looking hair, and colored beneath all her freckles. But the color was not unbecoming, for her face was usually rather pale, and the dim light she carried did not bring her hated freckles to the surface. She was really an imposing looking woman, with her hair massed upon the top of her stately head, and her large nose looked well proportioned with that dignified pose of her head, while her red brown eyes burned and flashed with unusual emotion.

The professor stood in quiet astonishment; he drew his near sighted lids together and scanned the apparition with grave scrutiny.

The girl could not bear it any longer. She said at last, "Kindly let me go up the stairway."

"I beg your pardon," instantly stepping aside, "But I would like to thank you, Miss Parintha, for your kindness in remembering me to day. It is very good of you. I can't tell you how much I appreciated it."

"You are more than welcome; if the gift was a humble one, it was so because my talents and abilities are necessarily confined to humble things."

She started to go on up the stairway. "I beg your pardon, but may I ask a favor of you? I have been trying to get an opportunity for some days. There is to be a party next New Year's Eve, and I would like you to go with me. May I hope that you so favor me?"

The girl's eyes fell, as she answered slowly.

"Serena told me you wanted me to go along with you and her, and I was very much obliged to you for your kindness."

The professor reflected a moment. "Oh yes, I did say to your sister that I hoped to take you all out very often, but it is you whom I wish to be my partner this time, and I shall be quite happy to have her accompany us, if she so desire. May I hope you will not refuse me?"

The young man looked up into those glowing red brown eyes, now shining and luminous with some inward emotion, and his own clear cheek flushed and his handsome red lips trembled as his hand closed over her own brown fingers with a determined clasp, and he leaned so near her bent head that his soft smooth cheek felt the touch of her own; his voice thrilled with a sudden joy as he whispered.

"Thou queen among women, where is thine heart? Thou hadst no present this day of all presents. Will thou accept me as thy Christmas present?"

Parintha trembled, her feet could scarcely bear her weight, but she only said gravely, "You will knock the lamp out of my hand, professor, if you are not careful."

Prudent, tender, and womanly; I love thee for those very traits, my queen. Put thy lamp safely down, thou thoughtful one. May God help me to be worthy of such a woman. "Shall I, too, not be a veritable home-made Christmas gift for thee?"

And so Parintha Ann had the desire of her heart, a happy home-made Christmas.

HOMESPUN.

WONDERFUL GLASGOW.

The following concerning Glasgow, which ranks today among the foremost cities of the world, is taken from the Pasadena (Cal.) Weekly Star of Dec. 9th:

In naming Glasgow, Scotland, as the most advanced city in the world there is not the remotest possibility that any one will challenge the statement who has studied the subject of municipal government long enough to become familiar with the facts relating to it; and as to the matter of running the government of the city without an assessor or tax collector, the official announcement that the income from the public utilities owned by the city is now sufficient to pay all expenses of the city government and to provide for important public improvements after January 1, 1897, will be sufficient to satisfy the most incredulous person in San Francisco. And yet the city of Glasgow does so many things for the general welfare of the people, such as have never been dreamed of in San Francisco, that few readers of the Call can be prepared to believe it all actually true, and they are therefore invited to investigate for themselves.

On June 11, six months since, the city of Glasgow celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the passage by the British Parliament of the "Glasgow Improvement Trust Act," which opened a new epoch in the history of the city, says the "Annals of the American Academy." But in 1854, twelve years previous, a number of philanthropic citizens formed an association for the purpose of effecting some changes in the unfortunate condition of the slum population, and this was in fact the beginning of the reform movement which after years of

futile private endeavor resulted in the act of Parliament which empowered the city as a corporation to undertake the work which philanthropy and private effort could not accomplish. "It was natural that Glasgow should take the lead," says the Annals, "as the conditions there were probably worse than in any other of the cities of Great Britain." It was from this condition that Glasgow has risen to the highest rank among the foremost cities of the world.

In the space which remains I must deal with results only. The slums districts are practically eradicated. The city condemned the disease-breeding tenements, bought up the property of the slums districts, erected the best modern sanitary buildings several stories high in place of the former hovels, with one, two, three, four and five room apartments, which the city rents to tenants at about \$3, \$4, \$7, \$11 and \$17 a month respectively, and right in the center of the city, while the water and gas rates which are paid to the city are merely nominal and reduce the cost of living to a minimum. The city now owns over 1,000 of these "dwellings" or suites of rooms, and houses over 6,000 people, an average of six persons in each. The income derived by the city even at these low rates not only covers the interest on the investment, the care of the buildings and all needed repairs, but also is gradually accumulating a sinking fund to extinguish the debt incurred in the purchase of the condemned property and in constructing the new buildings.

The social, sanitary and financial success of this work of changing the slums into modern scientific habitations emboldened the city to extend its operations to benefit another class of unfortunate people, widows and widowers with small children, who were obliged to go out to work and had no one to take care of their children. For these people they erected a large and commodious building containing 175 bedrooms, a number of general common rooms, nurseries, bathrooms, small kitchens in which to prepare food for infants, and recreation rooms for the children. A number of nurses take charge of the children during the entire day and the children enjoy themselves in the open air instead of being, as formerly, locked up in small rooms while their parents were at work. With all this the charges are very low and include light, heat, washing and care of the children, namely, for a mother and one child 79 cents per week, or with two children, 95 cents, with three \$1, and 12½ cents for each additional child; for a father and one child, \$1.04 per week; with two children, \$1.21; with three, \$1.37½, and 16 cents for each additional child. Board is provided for adults at 5 cents for breakfast, 8 cents for dinner and 6 cents for supper, or 19 cents per day. Thus a widow with three children can live very comfortably for \$3.38 per week and a man with three children for \$3.75.

But the end is not yet. At a meeting of the town council June 18th last, a motion was carried with but three dissenting voices out of seventy-two members to apply to parliament for power to appropriate property for the express purpose of providing sanitary modern dwellings for all the working classes.

JOSEPH ASBURY JOHNSON.
SAN FRANCISCO, December 3, 1896.