

Wednesday, April 10, 1872.

Training Girls.

Training girls for household duties ought to be considered as necessary as instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic, and quite as universal. We are in outhouses more than half of our existence, and it is the household surroundings which affect most largely the happiness or misery of domestic life. If the wife knows how to "keep house," if she understands how to "set a table," if she has learned how things ought to be cooked, how beds should be made, how carpets should be swept, how the furniture should be dusted, how the clothing should be repaired, and turned and renovated; if she knows how purchases can be made to the best advantage and understands the laying in of provision, how to make them go farthest and last longest; if she appreciates the importance of system, order, tidiness, and the quiet management of children and servants, then she knows how to make a little heaven of home—how to win her children from the street; how to keep her husband from the club-house, the gaming-table, and the wine-cup. Such a family will be trained to social respectability, to business success, and to efficiency and usefulness in whatever positions may be allotted to them.

It may be safe to say, that not one girl in ten in our large towns and cities enters married life who has learned to bake a loaf of bread, to purchase a roast, to dust a painting, to sweep a carpet or to cut and make her own dress. How much the perfect knowledge of these things bears upon the thrift, the comfort, and the health of families may be conjectured, but not calculated by figures. It would be an immeasurable advantage to make a beginning by attaching a kitchen to every girl's school in the nation, and have lessons given daily in the preparation of all the ordinary articles of food and drink for the table and how to purchase them in the market to the best advantage, with the result of a large saving of money, and increase of comfort and higher health in every family in the land.—*Half's Journal.*

A Poor Customer.

"How much butter?"—"One half pound, if you please."—"Half a pound, sir."—"And those oranges?"—"Half a dozen, sir."—"You go by halves to-day. Well, what else? Be speedy, ma'am, you're keeping better customers waiting."—"Half a peck of Indian meal, and one French roll," said the woman; but her lip quivered, and she turned to wipe away a trickling tear.

I looked at her straw bonnet, all broken at her faded shawl, her thin, stooping form, her coarse garments; and I read "poverty" on all—extreme poverty. And the palid, pinching features—the mournful but once beautiful face—told me that the luxuries were not for her.

An invalid looked out from his narrow window, whose pale face longed for the fresh orange, for whose comfort the tea and the butter and the fine French roll were bought with much sacrifice. And I saw him sip the tea and taste the butter, and praise the flavor of the butter, and turn with brightening eyes to the golden fruit. And I heard him ask her, kneeling at the smoking hearth, to taste them with him. And as she set her broken pan on the edge to bake her coarse loaf, I heard her say, "By and by, when I am hungry."

And by and by, when the eyes of the invalid sufferer are closed in sleep, I saw her bend over him with a blessing in her heart. And she laid the remnant of the feast carefully by, and ate her bread unmolested.

I started from my reverie. The grocer's hard eye was upon me. "You are keeping better customers waiting."

Oh, how I longed to tell him how poverty and persecution, contempt and scorn, could not dim the heart's fine gold purified by many a trial; and that woman, with her little wants and holy sacrifice, was better in the sight of God than many a trumpet-tongued Diva, who gave that he might be known to men.

An Embarrassing Situation.

An exchange informs us that the old philopena tribe has been revived again in Alabama, where the young lady takes a double almond in her teeth, and the young man bites it off. That sort of thing used to be popular in Doylestown, Pa., but it is hardly ever tried any more since the painful accident which occurred at a philopena party last winter. The lady who held the almond between her teeth was somewhat advanced in years, and not a little dilapidated. The almond was uncommonly tough, and the man who nibbled at it was in deadly earnest. He closed his teeth on it and pulled. It would not give. He pulled harder, but made no impression. He clinched his jaws upon it and gave a desperate wrench. It is unpleasant to relate what followed; but, as truth crushed to earth will certainly rise again anyhow, whether we try to keep her down or not, we may be pardoned for saying that as a consequence of the violent efforts of the young man he found himself standing up in that room holding in his mouth a nut in which were fixed a double set of porcelain teeth belonging to the aforesaid maiden. It was embarrassing in the certain sense for all parties. The young man thought it would be soothing to the feelings of the company if he went home. Other and less perilous games are in vogue at Doylestown, this year.—*Max. Adler.*

The New York Legislature has forbidden the use of pretty waiter girls.

Mrs. Mark Twain has presented Mr. Mark with ten pounds of girl.

Cowardice asks: "Is it safe?" Expediency asks: "Is it politic?" Vanity asks: "Is it popular?" but conscience asks: "Is it right?"

Woman, it is said, are self-indulgent only in the matter of dress, and men are self-indulgent mainly in things of personal ease or in their appetites.

If you want to talk heavy science say "proton," "hydrogen," instead of "ice." It sounds bigger, and not one man in a thousand will know what you mean.

The New York Nation, in reply to a correspondent who asks if it is proper to beat a newspaper man for failing to say that the subject is surrounded with difficulties, especially if the person libelled is small, weak, or unskilful; and thinks that nobody ought to attempt the corporal punishment of an editor without having previously seen him.

The Maine Farmer, alluding to the subject of "high cultivation," so much talked of and written about, says that there is much more talk than improvement. A man looks over his farm, of many acres, and finds the whole neglected, but not being able at once to render it to all portions of the farm, he makes an effort to improve any part. The right way—right, because alone practicable—is to commence with a few acres at a time. Get these in good heart the first year and the increased product from them will aid in experimenting on another section the succeeding year. In this way the farm will soon become renovated, and, properly cared for, will not run down again as long as grass grows and water runs.

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AN EXTRA TRAIN WILL RUN ON

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