

Walker & Deiningers, Proprietors. B. O. DEININGER, Associate Editor. Millheim, Thursday Feb. 15. Terms—\$1.50 Per Annum.

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REFORMING THE HOUSEHOLD.

"Just what I have been expecting for about seven years," said Miss Pauline Worthington, looking up from an open letter in her hand with a frowning brow. "Is not your letter from Herbert, Lina?" questioned Mrs. Worthington, a tiny silver-haired old lady, with a gentle expression. "Yes, mother, Essie is very ill with low, nervous fever, and they want me to come a day until she is better. The carriage will be sent at three o'clock, mother." Then, more emphatically: "I think it is about time Bert's tyranny over that little martyr wassended. He is killing her."

Herbert, you surprise me. Only yesterday I heard you say you did wish there was ever anything fit to eat on the table. "One doesn't expect every word to be taken literally," said Herbert, rather sulkily. But not an hour after, finding a streak of dust in the sitting room he declared emphatically it was not fit for a pig to live in. What was the consequence? Coming into it the next morning, he found the curtains torn down, the carpets taken up, the floor littered with pails, soap and brushes, and Lina in a dismal dress, her hair tied up in a towel, directing two women, who were scrubbing vigorously. "Good gracious, Lina!" he cried, "what are you doing?" "Why, Essie had the whole house cleaned only the other day," he added, contemptuously. "Well," said Lina slowly, "I thought this room a marvel of neatness myself, but when you said it was not fit for the pigs I supposed you wanted it cleaned."

"The room was well-nigh," was the curt reply. "Or mercy's sake don't turn any more of the house upside down." At breakfast a tiny tear in Louie's apron caught her father's eye, and by his own angry statement, "she never had a decent stitch of clothes, and he did wish somebody would see to her." Two days after a formidable huen draper's bill was sent to him, and Lina explained it in this wise: "You said, Herbert, that you would have a decent stitch and you would send somebody to see to her, so I bought her a complete outfit. I could not see any fault myself, but of course I got more expensive articles, as you did not like those already provided. I am glad you called my attention to the poor neglected child."

"Poor neglected child!" echoed astonished Herbert. "Why, Lina, Essie fairly slaves her life out over those children. I am sure I never see any better dressed or neat." Lina merely shrugged her shoulders. A month passed. Essie gained strength in the genial atmosphere surrounding Louie and her mother, while Lina ruled Herbert's house with a rod of iron. Herbert began to experience a sick longing for Essie's gentle presence. Lina took him so literally in all he said, and yet he could not rebuke her for doing what he openly wished. An arm chair with a tiny spot of dirt being declared absolutely filthy, was upholstered and varnished at a cost of ten dollars. A dozen new shirts Essie's last labor of love, being said to set like meal bags, were bestowed upon the gardener, and a new set obtained. Every window was opened after a pettish declaration that the room was as an oven, and an hour later the grate was fired up to smothering heat because he declared it cold enough to freeze a polar bear. In short, with apparently an energetic attempt to correct all shortcomings, and put housekeeping upon a perfect basis, Lina in one month nearly doubled her brother's expenses, and drove him to the verge of distraction. But Essie, well and strong again was coming home. On the day of expected arrival Lina, with a solemn face invited her brother into the sitting room for a few moments of private conversation. "Herbert," she said, very gravely, "I have a proposition to make to you. You are my only brother, and I need not tell you I love you very dearly. I have really grieved me to the heart to see how much there is to find fault within your beautiful home." Herbert twisted himself uneasily in his chair, but Lina continued: "You know that mother is very dependent upon me, Louie having the house and children to care for, but I think she would sacrifice her own comfort for yours. So if you wish, Herbert, I will commence permanently to keep things in order for you. Here Lina was obliged to pause and struggle a laugh at Herbert's expression of utter horror and dismay. "You are very kind," he faltered, the instincts of a gentleman battling with the strong desire to tell Lina she would certainly drive him into a lunatic asylum by six months more of her model housekeeping. "Not at all. A man who had made an unfortunate marriage certainly needs all the aid and sympathy his family can give him. The last straw was laid upon the camel's back, Herbert spoke hoily: "You are entirely mistaken, Lina. I have not made an unfortunate marriage. If ever a man was blessed in a wife, I am that man!" "You amaze me, Herbert!" Lina cried, in well feigned astonish-

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