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THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH .- PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, JULY 30, 1866.

but afterwards, in the peace of other thoughts, bearing no impress of my present troubles, my way seemed made plain before me, and the very

next day I put in practice my theory. I had been accustomed to rise only just in time for a 9 o'clock breaklast. Consequently my boy was brought down into the room unwashed and untidy, and in the same room all his washing apparatus and dressing-gear were laid out, at first much to my husband's annoy-ance; but as fire in another room would have been necessary, or I must have gone down to Bridget's kitchen, the point was given up. On this morning I rose without awakening my husband, at 7, much to the surprise of Bridget. My baby was led, washed, and dressed, and I I must have gone down to put on my bonnet and shawl, and treased, and r the garden for half an hour. He soon fell asleep, for children are always awake with the birds. I then brought him in, and laid him in his cot, and had every trace of his ablutions removed. I certainly left weary and faint, but the old adage of "Practice makes perfect" occurred to me.

It was the resolution which this proverb inspired that, when I found myself so wearied with my early and unusual work, kept me from com-plaint, when my husband came down, much surprised at the change so visible in the morn-ing's arrangements. The tea was made, the water boiling, the bacon smoking hot, and the child asleep in his cot, ready dressed for the day, making so perfect a picture that it is recalled now with pleasure. Frederick looked surprised, but forbore remark; he felt sure it was only a freak; to-morrow things would revert to their usual course. I have since found that I read his thoughts most truly. Seeing this expression in his face, I also was silent, and talked as it the new arrangement had been no more than usual.

Baby slept till 11 o'clock, during which time I helped Bridget with her work, much to her wonder. She protested against any need of help, but I persisted, and when we had finished, "Now, Bridget," said I, when baby woke and was ted, "put on your bonnet, you shall carry baby, and I will walk with you into Islington; there is no fear of any one coming; it will not be post-time till 2 o'clock. I will tell your master that we are going." My husband coming in at that moment

merely said, "I am going to Islington with Bridget to get some things I want; no one is likely to come while we are gone."

Our walk was a pleasant one; the baby was awake the whole time, and was quiet and refreshed. In an hour we had returned to home and its duties-Bridget somewhat bewildered, for I heard her say as she descended the stairs, "What's come to the mussis now ?" In furtherance of the unexpressed plan I had

laid down, I was determined to learn every-thing I possibly could in the way of cooking. Bridget's was a hap-hazard way of proceeding sometimes the food was well dressed, but oftener very indifferently so; some system I thought there must be, and this I was deter-mined to find out. The invaluable and experienced services of our old Maggie at home had precluded the necessity of my being instructed in the culinary art; but now how could Bridge help me, even if she were disposed, which I much doubted ? Her temper was peculiar; she disliked interference and being found fault with; all her efforts at cooking were, in her eyes, perfection, no matter how palpable were the failures: "Sure an' it's the fire won't burn, or, "The weather's heavy," or the fault was in everything or person but herself. Certainly this was untractable material from which to extract golden knowledge, but in the absence of better this must be done. She could boil potatoes and meat well-this was something to begin upon, certainly; so in the afternoon, while baby was sleeping. I made my appearance in the kitchen for the purpose of finding a particular cup, which I knew to be in my own room. Bridget was, as I expected, peeling the potatoes. "Why do you take two waters to wash them in ?" I asked.

'Becanse they wouldn't be white if I didn't." "Oh! I see," said 1; "you peel a potato, then wash it in one water, then throw it into the next directly. Yes, they do look very white. Ah! and all the dirt is washed off first before you peel them." 'Sure, an' I wouldn't be making ye ate the

moold, would I ?" "Do you cover them with hot or cold water when you boil them ?" I asked, still carefully feeling my way. "Why, if I should cover 'em with water they

dinner hour and say, "I am quite famished-is dinner ready ? It is past the time," "It will soon be on the table," was the reply

But, alas! whenever it came, if it had to be waited for, Fred's appetite was goue, and to my mortification, he scarcely more than tasted of the food Next to my early rising, which I tound to be indispensable for comfort, I endeavored to become punctual, and this was my vored to become punctual, and this was my hardest task. Again and again I tried, and iailed—I could not be exact. One day I was reading the "Life of Nelson," and it was said that he owed all his success to being always a quarter of an hour betterhand for any appoint-ment or object that he had in view; not that he actually kept the appointment at a quarter before time, but was always ready for it. The words seemed to stard luminously out from the page, and forced themselves upon my sense, so that they recurred continually to my memory,

and could not be forgotten. I had now become an adept in our homely cooking, and knew that overcooked food, particularly vegetables, were equally miurious with those which were undercooked. I puzzled my weary head a long time how to keep the vegetables hot without injury to them. Upon my consulting Bridget, to my infinite relief she

"That's casy done, anyhow, all but the peta-

"Well, then, dinner is to be ready a quarter elore four exactly, and it has to be kept warm till four; and I must come into the kitchen and see how you manage."

When the time came I had forgotten all this till Bridget came to say she was going to dish I saw her temper was not to be trifled with, up. or I should have said "not dish up." To my as-tonishment, I tound she had dished up; every-thing was ready to come on the table but her darling treasures, the "petaties;" they were steaming away as if over the funnel of a miniature steam-engine. The greens had been taken up and drained in the colander, the greater portion of the water remaining in the saucepan; a tea-saucer had been turned upside down in a vegetable dish, upon this the greens had been placed, and the cover of the dish put on; the dish placed over the nearly boiling water in the saucepan, kept the former as hot as possible without drying the contents. The meat had been taken from the jack and placed in an old dish on the top of the oven, and covered with a large dish cover, and over that was place cloth, well tucked in to prevent its catching smoke or blaze. The dripping-pan was removed and on the draw-out of the grate was placed upside down the dish in which the meat was to be served; the gravy, from which every particle of lat had been removed, was waiting the usual adjuncts before pouring it on the meat dish.

"The 'petaties' will be done on the minute," said Bridget, who looked at the clock. "In five minutes it'll be all on the table," And punctually to the moment it was, My husband, to his surprise, was called, and

he pleasure which flushed over his face when he saw the dinner steaming hot was ample reward for all my trouble. On lifting the cover which concealed the greens, my chagrin was great to see water quite over the rim of the

"That's nothing," said she; "I didn't think --" and instantly the dish was taken to the side table, and the offending water posred into a plate

"That's all right now," said I; "but, Bridget, I

did not see the puoding." "Surely you have not forgotten my rice. Bridget ?

"Oh, no. sir; that was baked yesterday; I've only got to warm if."

But, surely, that cannot be good; the milk will be sour.

"You always praise my puddings, and shure you've always had it so;" and she made good her retreat with a slam of the door. When Bridget was in this humor it was best never to notice it; it all came around in good time; and sne was invaluable in many respects. The pud-ding was very good, and finding it so, led me atterwards to preparing the sweets a day be-fore, such as tarts, mik puddings, and custard puddings. In after years I found this plan of great advantage; as, when visitors came unex-pectedly, a passable dinner could always be made up, with the addition of fish, or hash, or mince, and this without delay, or making it appear that the table so served was anything different from our usual meal. Cold vegetables, all but cabbage, would warm admirably. Cold carrots, sliced thin, DI nto grav batter in a basin, covered down and placed! in the oven for a quarter of an hour, made an ex cellent dish. Cold parsnips could be mashed with milk, a little butter, pepper, and salt. Cold broccoli be warmed by putting it into a basin, then standing the basin in a saucepan of holling water, and putting on the lid. peas and beans in the same manner. Cold unnip-greens, or spinach, the same: these two last, minced fine, and placed in the oven while a few rashers of bacon and some eggs were posched, and one of each placed on a sippet with the spinach or greens between, made dish most appetizing, and one which we rarely saw our guests refuse. Ah well, I got a bad name by all these contrivances, for some of my lady visitors accused me, though not to my face, of being very extravagant, and were quite sure that a downfall must come; but it never did. I went on my way rejoicing; though all these things came slowly to me, not in the second or third year of my wedded life, but when with two little ones and one servant; then there was

carcely a day that my experience or my neces-

At the end of the third year I began to be

many expenses, and with no help but our in-

come, that I did not see where the money was

to come from. To my infinite relief, my hus-

band brought me, one day, a new policy of in-surance, which this time, instead of for a thou-

attempting too much; however, I am glad that

even this pittance can be secured; all of the

twenty pounds which we appropriated for con-

Tears were rolling down my cheeks as h

olded me in his arms, and continued, "My own

bright smile, the loving glance, the cheery voice.

which in our courting days had ever welcomed

dearest, I forget sometimes that we are married

-I forget that we are other than the lovers o

reality, that you are mine only, my darling true

Those who may read this story may guess m

celings; not one word of utterance rose to my

to my room, to be alone there with my God-to thank Him even for all I had suffered-to pray

for that strength in well-doing which as yet, whatever brave show 1 might make, was but

pesetting sin was an indolence of body. I three

to sit and dream for hours, and to put off till

sometimes another; occasionally all were lit-tered and in process of cleaning at once. So that

f any one called upon us unawares, and from a distance, no spartment was fit to ask them into,

lips, which I pressed to his forehead, then

green and tender as an early rose-shoot.

But now, now

would never spring again.

wife.

tingencies is, as you must be aware, spent;

"This is all that we can do, Milly; it is useless

and pounds, was only for five hundred.

sity oid not teach me something.

When my second child could just run about, f Beitha Chapman came to pay me a somewhat lengthened visit. We had been school girls together, and at school our intimacy menced, which had continued all these long wears. At twenty-six she had married a widower of filty, with four daughters and one son. She was a girl of spirit and intelligence, devoted to her husband and loved by his chil-

Disparity of years she never thought of. dren. "Milly," she said one day, as we were talking over our married life, "I am the harpiest woman in existence; you cannot imagine how I reverence my noble husband; and my brothers and sisters (for I cannot help calling his children so) are the pleasure of my life when he is absent. "But how in the world do you manage such

an establishment?"

"Ob, easily enough," she replied, "You know my aunt who trained me was very systematic, must confess to having some dread when I first came home, for the former Mrs. Chapman was, I had heard, an excellent manager. The discipline of the house had somewhat fallen away since her death, and I soon saw that the servants were careless, and disposed to look upon my coming as an innovation upon their rights. Robert, in a day or two alter our return,

tain, if any of the others are not agreeable to you, and even old Fanny I will pension off if sue should be disposed to resent your interference in the present management. So co or discharge them, as you think fit." continue them

"Having this power vested in me, with only one reserve, and holding the reins of punctuality and early rising in my hands, my influence was despotic. On the morning after, I called all the tour servants into the dining room, and kindly but firmly, made them understand that each must be down stairs by six o'clock, and none up in the evening after ten, excepting the upper housemaid; that each one must individually keep to her own work, but that, if 1 requested either of them to perform some duty not exactly within her province, she must do it without demur; and al-o that their daily duties, of which would give them a list, must be punctually and thoroughly performed; of the latter mode I should myself judge. If they could not agree to these terms, it would be better for them to say so, and at once. Three of them at once accepted the regulations, and I have had little fault to find since. The cook turned restive then, but not afterwards. I had understood her chief fault was forgetfulness; the dinner would be well cooked, but frequently the appropriate sauces and vegetables would be omitted. Another circumstance amounting to a nuisance, I had to complain of the tradesmen, while waiting for orders, would assemble in the lower hall leading to the kitchen, and at this time the housemaids would join them and the laugh and joke were freely passed; besides, these morning gatherings became the headquarters for disseminating all the go sip of the house: who were visiting; who going; who cross; and who good tempered. This I was determined to put down, and I did."

"Why, how could you do this? It is just what I complain of with my one servant. Bridget will sup, for sometimes I really cannot at a moment tell what I should like for dinner, and while I am considering she is amusing herseit."

"The remedy is very simple," replied Bertha, "I merely transferred the practice of my aunt's house to my new home. I wrote out on a strip of paper a bill of tare for the day, and underneath this, at some distance below, I wrote the different orders, such as the butcher's, the grocer's, and the is-iman's, writing them very dis-tincily, and widely dividing them by a line, which line I afterwards nearly cut through, so that each respective order could be rapidly torn off and given to each party. In writing an order, say for the butcher, I distinctly defined the weight of joint, and whether I required much or little tat. The ish-monger sent in always his bill of fare, and two, minutes sufficed for him. These orders I also transferred to the weekly books; and the dinner bill of fare the cook came to my dressing-room for at 8 o'clock every morn-At 10 punctually I went into the kitchen, ing. and from thence she accompanied me to the larder, where I directed what was to be sent up for luncheon, what meat and pudding should be served up for the servants' dinner. I had the bread-pan daily wiped out. The order for the bread was written in the bread-book — what loaves to change if it were needed, what quantity to take in-each was put down separately,

brown bread,

for harm. You have accustomed him to this mode of passing the evening, varied occasionally by a walk, during which the same home topic TOES ON.

Here I broke in most vehemently, "You know nothing about it, Bertha. Why should you blame me for Fred's quietness? he wishes to

" In any home but my own, Milly, I am chary of offering to amuse the master of it; but you know my own devotion to Robert, and therefore will not misconstrue my motives ; to-night I shall try the experiment." I laughed consent, but felt sure no experi-

ment was needed: things were best as they were. Fred always looked tired and grave; why should he be disturbed? Evening came. seemed an effort for my husband to join in the conversation. Bertha sat quietly talking to me for some time, when she said, --"Milly, do you recollect any of your old

"Yes; but my voice is gone from want of

practice." "Never mind, come and try; perhaps it will

come back again.

I involuntarily turned to look at my husband; a shade passed over his face as he buried himsel deeper in his book. Presently the most exqui-site melody breathed round the room; no loud chords broke the charm-it was as if an angel had touched the instrument. My husband put down his book, threw his head back, and closed his eyes; still the same heavenly strains went on, and ultimately a voice seemed to rise in the atmosphere, so perfect in its nodulation, so charmingly liquid in all its tones, that I could not help exclaiming, "How delightful!" When it ceased my husband rose, came to the piano,

chasing away evil spirits; at all events your voice

has not run away." "Neither has Milly's," I replied; "it is stored away for the present." "I used to like Milly's singing better than

yours, but I never hear her voice now," he said with a sigh; "the children take up all her tame."

I was about to reply, but Bertha, I thought somewhat hastily, asked for some information respecting some people whom she had told me she did not care a straw for. I certainly fancied she was inconsistent; however, this led to de sultory but amusing conversation through the rest of the evening, which glided gradually away. I had not seen Fred so bright-looking for many a day: I could not but refore at this, though a jealous pang arose when I reflected that it was other efforts than mine which had aroused my husband into something like gayety. However, this evil spirit of jealousy I strangled pelore it had time for more than to show its ex istence. Fortunate, indeed, was it that strength was given me to resist the selfish feeling which poisons every enjoyment, for this evening the beginning of a new life. Insensibly a brighter nfluence encircled us. In conversation, read ng, and music, in which I bore my part, the days became scarcely long enough, and the evenings I looked forward to with delight. The children throve amazingly upon the diet which Bertha insisted tney should have, and Bridget was rarely unamiable; she was not called upon at unusual times to make a light pudding or the baby, and to beat up an egg in milk for the eldest child, 'and then missis always crying out about the expense: for, mem, she never will think that all the littles cost anything-'tis only the mate and the petaties she reckons upon."

Robert Chapman, Bertha's husband, had gone to the West Indies, accompanied by his son, to look after some property that had descended to him by the will of a recently deceased relative. The eldest daughter was visiting an aunt, and the three youngest were at school. Bertha had determined upon paying this visit to us, and had left the house under the care of old Fanny and the cook: the other servants were at board wages. On her first coming she had insisted upon paying some portion of our weekly ex-penses, but seeing how very little her plan was iked, and that to press the matter would have been cause of some offense, she desisted, though many a luxury found its way to our table. which, but for her, would have been unattainable. Fanny, by her mistress' orders, fre-quently despatched a hamper containing delicacies, which could not be retused, and which no remonstrance could prevent from appearing; so that at last we quietly gave in to Bertha's "whim," as she called it, and accepted the good things with thankfulness. In between these arrivals Bertha contrived to become housekeeper. She ordered the dinners, and managed the scraps so well, that Bridget replied to an inquiry I one day made as to dinner-"'Shure, 'tis a French dinner Mrs. Chapman will be atter sending up to day.' In short, everything went on so admirably, yet so quietly, that, as my triend's visit was now limited to three or four weeks, I felt much regret at her leaving; and, knowing that] should again fall into my unsystematic ways, I got her to draw up a programme (it I may use the term) of management, which I must give here, or my story will be incomplete. See, here

time when I had thought it impossible we could make a dinner of what appeared bare bones out of this bareness came, forth a repast which I and my husband enjoyed as much as when we began the week with a joint. This very day of our difference, occasioned by my petulance, some such a dinner was to be manufactured, and, as I saw Bertha still in the garden, I conjectured that she meant to leave me to my fate, and an hour previously to the dinner-time I went into the kitchen, where I was civiliy in-formed that the dinner was all arranged, and would be ready in time. My temper led me to believe that this time the meal would be What could be made of a tew scraps a tailure. of meat sticking to a mutton bone? Bridget had asked me for a shilling to pay for something Mrs. Chaoman had ordered; but what was the sum to do in finding provision for four persons' dinners? To my astonishment came, first, a pair of soles, which were not so very small, and of which some was left for Bridget. Then came a dish of what looked very like rissoles, only they were eeg shaped, and somewhat larger than egg; these were savory, and there was a plenti-ful supply, and they were accompanied by a dish of nicely mashed and browned potatoes. To this fare was added a rice pudding. I must confess to my bad temper quietly oozing away, though

my curiosity was none the less excited. In the evening, before returing, I went to Bertha's 100m, as I usually did, and fearing my courage would fail me, said at once:— "Bertha, in all seriousness, I am come to ask

you to give me a few rules for my guidance in house-keeping. I find since you have been with us that our meals cost less, and yet we have greater comfort; that my husband and children are in better health, and that altogether home is pleasanter. I know you are capable of guiding me, for you were differently brought up to my My mother did everything-saw to every thing; she was, and is, as you know, the sole de-pendence of the house in its management. Your aunt made you self-helpful, and thus gave wealth for your lifetime. I am very sorry, hastily said, for I saw she was about to interrupt "that I gave way to temper this morning; but forgive me, and be my best friend." Bertha looked at me with her eyes full tears, though smiles dimpled her cheeks.

"Milly, you will do very well," she said. ."On my return home I will write all I cannot now say. In three weeks, Robert will return, and I must for a time bid you farewell. While I remain let things go on as they have hitherto done, and when I get back I will write your 'Rules,' and send them.'

But, Bertha, about the nice dinner to-day; how did you manage it? The cost was cer tainly more than a shilling ?"

"Not much," she replied; "the soles were only sixpence the pair, and then I did not give the order to the tish-monger who frequently calls here for orders, but in my walk this ing I met a man with a truck, who had plenty of fish, good and cheap. I stopped and purchased them, he giving me a sheet of paper, and I brought them home. Do not look so aghast; what harm was there in that? I saved sixpence by the bargain, and I injured no one; I should do the same always if necessity required it. A limit of twenty-seven shillings a week is not at all suggestive of pride. The potatoes cost threehalipence. The meat came off the bone you despised so yesterday, when I asserted it could be made to do for a dinner to-

day," "The composition was a mystery to me, and I can get no information from Bridget; so if you will tell me all about that I shall be glad."

"Listen. Every scrap of meat was taken off and chopped very fine. I then measured it in a basin, and took the same quantity of breadcrumbs and a table-spoonful of flour, a little allspice, salt, and half an onion chopped very inte indeed. I mixed the bread-crumbs, flour, and spice together first, then mixed the meat well with it, then sprinkled the onion over, and stirred it all well together ; I then stirred in two table-spoonfuls of bacon fat. If you did not make Bridget take care of all the fat which drips from the bacon, I should have been obliged to have minced a rasher or two of that expensive With a very little milk I mixed these into balls, then pressed them flat and somewhat egg-shaped; I then rolled each in flour, and dropped them one at a time into a saucepan of boiling dripping, trying them each singly.

"A saucepan of boiling dropping!" I claimed; "why not have fried them in frying-pan?" exthe 'For two reasons. Do you think a domestique or cook of my experience could do without a saudepan? Certainly not. So I improvised one out of a small iron saucepan which Bridget seemed to have discarded as good for nothing but to boil a couple of eggs in; that was one reason. The second was that in your larder I found dripping a scarce article, so that the quantity which would have filled a small tryingpan was not to be had, and if sufficient could have been found it would have been wasted by evaporation, and been soon burned up; whereas in the saucepan, as soon as the fat boiled I threw in a bit of bread; when it readily browned I drew the saucepan to a moderate heat, where, however, its contents continued to boil. I then dropped in one of my meat eggs, so that it was entirely, and somewhat deeply, covered with the 1at, and as soon as 1t was brown I took it up with an egg-slice, allowed the fat to drain from it, and placed it on a pad of paper before the fire, so as to allow it to be-come quite dry. After the meat eggs were all fried, I threw the fat into a basin of hot water and stirred it up well; to-morrow morring this will be settled in a cake on the top of the water, which I shall take off and lay on some double paper to dry. The impurities the fat has ac-quired in being used will have sunk to the bottom of the water, and the fat will be ready for use again. The potatoes were mashed singly with a spoon against the side of a basin, a little salt and milk were added, and well mixed.] then buttered another basin, pressed the potatoes into it, set it in the oven for five minutes, then put an old plate on the top of the basin. turned the latter upside down, when the potatoes came in share on to the plate. I scored them over with a knite, and placed them on a

preciated. Her husband, in his first marriage, had been termed exacting; now, his wife's pre-vision left no room for exactions. He had but one fault—like the Israelites of old he was rapidly falling into idolatry, and his wife was the queen of earth and heaven. Her first letters to us were filled with such "loyous romatcing," my husband called it "high flown nonsense," which he could not realize, but which I, in a far off dream, seemed once to have known.

far off dream, seemed once to have known. In a month came my anxiously-looked-for epistic, which was to contain "rules" for my guidance. Yes, mine !--a wile and mother of two children. Had I ever seen any weakness of purpose in Bertha I should have had no confi-dence; but in all her management, in all the ordering of her own ways, she was to my human vision perfect; yet it was with trembling that I opened her letter; I felt that in every line I should be condemned—her precepts and my practice I knew would not agree. I need my practice I knew would not agree. I need not refer to any note-book to refresh my memory, but, setting aside all the love which welled forth from her heart, and found fitting place in her affectionate words, I give the rules them-

"Early rising-Punctuality-Despatch, Duties to be instantly performed, however in themselves disagreeable

selves disagreeable. "In every household, large or small, palace or eot, there must be a place for everything; and the mistress must see that everything be kept in its place. This matter is generally a prolide source of unpleasantness between domestics and mistress or housekeeper. There is rarely to be found any order or plan in untrained servants. Everything is put out of hand at the readlest vacant spot, till confusion everywhere is apparent, unless supervision be exercised day after day; in fact, it is a daily duty, and must be done despite the tossings of the head, or the thumping of various articles, or the bauging of doors by the enraged damsel, who tells you that 'no lady would do such things, and as I don't seem to give satisfaction I must go.' In nine cases out of ten this is the result; but either one must be subject to one's servants, or one must be mistress. It is in this point that young and inexperienced mistress breaks down. It is troublesome to be poking every where at the risk of stirring up a tempest, but, nevertheless, it must be done; and if the trouble be met every morning it will soon cease to worry the mistress or annoy the servant. To master this most essential duty, one has to conquer one's own unwillingness for the task, as well as indolence-hence the hardship. Some mistresses have a pecultar talent for looking after things; these get well served, and can never be made to understand the natural timidity and shrinking from an act which is felt to be unpleasant; but whether brave or timid, strong or weak, this necessary daily act is one of the first of house-keeping duties," On reading this I felt self-condemned; I dared

not look too closely into a region at the back of the kitchen, which, like Dinah's drawer, was a teceptacle for everything, from a nutmet-grater to candle-ends. In fact, had I now commenced my inquisitorial visit, Bridget would have pro-tested by leaving me. So I put this rule on one side, to be acted upon when Bridget's successor should commence her reign. I was found want

ing, too, in the next rule "Keep a rag bag, a paper bag, and a string-bag, all conveniently at hand; a small drawer with nails and tacks, hammer, pincers, and chisel; but all these tools, with the addition of a glue-pot, keep under your own eye, or, like pins and needles, they will nowhere be found when wanted."

Oh, the lectures I have had from Bertha about

wasting rags ! "It is a sin," she would say, "to destroy that which our paper manufacturers are at their wits' ends to obtain. Every particle of rag should be saved."

"Oh, nonsense ! it's such a little which I make, it cannot affect the paper question," was my laughing reply. Bertha looked at me gravely.

"Milly, Milly, a grain of wheat is but small, but numbers feed nations. A pound of rags is little to make in one year; but if every woman saved that weight, would there not be millions of pounds ready to be converted into one of the actual necessities of civilized life? The miser gathers his hoard penny by penny; you save in money, not by the sovereign, but by the shilling, and even by less."

Bertha had a most convincing way of putting things. I could not deny her arguments, and ip a rag-bag, and henceforth mad it a point of conscience to take care of the scraps. At the end of the year I was astonished at the accumulation which I sold, and transferred the money to my children's money-box. The "Never crowd too much work into a given time, by having three or four rooms cleaned in one day. Bertha showed me the folly of this proceedin before she left. We had but eight rooms; the two sitting-rooms underwent tolerable cleaning every day, and when one bedroom only was dis turbed at a time there were plenty of others for occupation; besides, Bridget could compass this much without effort. "Never allow dilapidations of linen, or articles of furniture to remain unrepaired; the latter give an untidy appearance to a house, and the former is subversive of all comtort. A pair of stockings may be mended in a quarter of an hour, more or less. This portion of time will scarcely be missed, while to mend two pair will take a longer time than can, perhaps, be spared." When I read this my eye wandered to my basket of linen-its contents accumulating daily; with a heavy sigh I turned away. "Four times a year have the beds and mat-tresses beat, and shaken in the open air; once a year, if needed, have the latter re-made. If the pedsteads or boards of the room contain unpleasant intruders, expel them at once by brushing every crevice with strong brine, and let it crys tailize on, and so remain, instead of removing it. Be careful in this process to brine the floors before taking the bedsieads to pieces."

be drowned, poor things, and wouldn't be at all maly; and if I was to put biling water on 'em they'd be waxy. I steam 'em. Ah ! missis, 11 takes a time to understand a petaty; they don't like much water."

"Well, Bridget, I have a fancy I should like to understand cooking, and you must teach me." "Tisn't after the likes o' me to tache ; but I do know a little ; and sure the house is yer own. and ye can do as ye plaze ;" and so it was settled I was to take lessons in cooking from Bridget : that was the ostensible object in coming into the kitchen while dinner was dressing ; but the real one was to make experiments, and bring

Bridget round to my way of thinking. In course of time I succeeded, too, in this object, but it was a long and tedious process. I consulted various cookery books, but they contradicted each other, and, besides, required so many expensive ingredients that were beyond, far beyond, our allowance.

CHAPTER III.

PUNCTUALITY-HOW TO KEEP & DINNER WARM-BERTHA CRAPMAN'S VISIT-HER MANAGEMENT.

It would become wearisome to detail the various ways by which I arrived at peace and comtort. You may smile, for I did become famous as a household manager-so my friends thought. I certainly often pondered upon the magical process, whatever it might have been, which enabled me to retain, to his dying hour, the love of my husband in its ireshest form; and not only this, but to create an ever-springing affection tar more reliable than when our marriage vows were spoken. But I can understand it all now.

have had many expenses not reckoned for, and which will not occur again, at least to the same extent; and for these, in the coming year, the In the early part of my married life, before my days of reformation, an intuitive feeling made me fear that my husband's love was driftmoney which would have insured for another tive hundred must be set aside to meet them. I have no tear now, little wite;, dearer, a thouing away-there is no other term to call it: there seemed not much visible outward sign, sand times dearer than ever." but nevertheless it was a fact. In all my life, to see and know an evil was, with me, to remedy To lament a bygone of any kind, which it was not in my power to avert or to repair, I always considered a weakness. If I could remedy the error I did so, and at once; and I never stopped at half measures, darling Muly, when we trat came here I missed in you all the thousand little charms which wound themselves round my vagrant heart before I asked your love; then, dearest-ay, even only a short year ago, I pined for the which only wrought confusion. Thoroughly did I enter upon the matter, whatever it wasburden with all my strength, and take up my walk straight on; hence it has been said of me "Whichever way she falls, it is on her feet." me. One sad year you buried them all out of sight, and I grieved to think that for me they The trials I have passed through need not be dilated upon here; they have been enough to make the bravest heart succumb, but mine never did; a higher Power uphold me: that I felt, and old, till the merry crow of that boy yonder recalls me to the reality, the plessing of the also that a miraculous strength seemed to pour into my spirit when it was needed: therefore i had no fear for the tuture, how dark soever the present hour, and it was always with the present I had to deal. My business now was to win ack my husband's interest in me-to live tor him alone; beauty of face or grace of form I never possessed; but the same charm which won him could, I thought, also keep him. My dress had been slightly neglected, for I had in my carelessness imagined that anything would do for home. "That will do, nobody's coming, was too frequently my mental ejaculation, and arother time, if I could, a present duty. It is useless now telling people this: they will never believe but that action, and energy of will and purpose were of my nature. "It is imposthus a crumpled ribbon or collar would occasionally offend my husband's critical eye, the offense seen more in its expression than by any atterance of tongue

and purpose were of my nature. "It is impos-siblei" say they; but it is nevertheless true, and Again punctuality was unheeded; it mattered not to me whether dinner was ready at the apwhat is mortifying. I am even now, and ever was, constantly falling into the had habit. My pointed hour, or ten or twenty minutes later, even half an hour I thought not of importance, and yet in my own home my mother was the soul of exactitude; in fact, her *fussings* on this children were around me before I had devised any certain method of managing my household affairs. Rooms were swept sometimes one day, point seemed to me to be a fault, and many times before marriage I mentally thought that to be so very punctual was to be very often trou-blesome-to idle people especially-for it was always a scamper with me to be in time for meals. always a scamper with me to be in time for meals. How often since I had been my own house-keeper had I seen my husband come home at the by those who surrounded me.

cakes; and I called both on baker and grocer, and gave them to understand that unless an order was in my writing they were not to deliver it. "What! did you write down the grocer's order, too? "Most certainly I did. It is but little trouble, and an hour in the morning will suffice for all; besides, how is it possible to keep a check upon the expenditure of a limited income it such were not the case,"

'But eight hundred a year is not a very limited income," I remarked.

"It all depends upon the requirements of a family whether it be considered large or small. There are four young people, myself and hus-band, four servants, and a boy, making in all eleven persons. The education of the younger children is not yet completed, and this swallows up a considerable sum; besides, Robert has claims upon him which I am not authorized to mention. So limited do we find eight hundred year that for the last twelvemonth I have had all cur dresses, excepting one, made at home." "Made at home! Don't you find it very ex-

ensive to have a needle-woman in the house? little nervous about the insurance; we had so They are always so slow.

You co not know, perhaps, that I am a great adept with my needle. It was an accomplishment my aunt thought of paramount importance, and insisted upon it that no needle-work should go out of the house. She got a clever dressmaker to come once a month, and, by dint of observation and some aptitude, I acquired sufficient of the art to cut out and make up a I pouted and was sadiy troubled at first dress. but how thankful I am now I can scarcely express.

"And you played so exquisitely, and your drawings used to be my envy; what a pity to lay down these acquirements, and degenerate into a mere household drudge! though I must say your appearance is not exactly that."

Bertha looked at me in amazement, and at las burst out into such a ringing laugh that the elder of the two children who were playing on the floor got up and ran across to her, rested her little arms on her lap, and said. "What did hoo laugh for?" while the totty babe crawled to her feet, saying as fast as he could, "An' me too." She caught them both up, and broke out into such a torrent of song that convinced me, however much she had neglected her music and dancing, her voice had been cultivated to the nighest extreme.

"Why, Milly," she exclaimed, "is it possible that you think a woman cannot unite accom plishments and usefulness? Surely they should go hand in hand together. You don't mean to ell me that you have given up your music-

that you never play, never sing?" "It is even so," I replied, a scarlet flush mounting to my face, for she sat with such pro-voking astonishment on her face that I felt myself no other than criminal.

Eertha, with a look of grave concern on he acc, sat musing for some moments, then said,-"Milly, will you be offended with me if

speak very plainly to you? When at school you will recollect, I was termed eccentric, and have been called so since-though I never could understand in what thought or movement of mine my eccentricity consisted. Do you rebeing laughed at when I said that I member my behaved all accomplishments were necessary to girls, and actual requirements in their educ. tion? Experience has taught me that my views are correct. Surely the years you studied music should not be as wasted time-to say Why nothing of the expense thrown away. Wh should a girl be educated at all if she is soot atter marriage to dwindle into a mere house-hold machine? I have noticed how weary your hushand is of an evening, and how he turns from the detail of your day's management and of Bridget's doings, stering for refuge in a book, to read which is poison to his already over-worked brain."

"Bertha, do not blame me for this ; you know he likes reading."

Yes, as we like food for our sustenance, no

she has headed it-"Early rising-Punctuality-Despatch, and place for everything."

How musical was her laugh as she wrote, at the same time making gentle excuses for such important words, as she termed them.

"Milly, dear, you must get out of your dreamy moods; whatever presents itself in the shape of outy, let it be grappled with at the right mo ment; if it be dicagreeable, never mind, grasp it at once; don't stay thinking about it. You know the old rhyme,-

"'Tender-handed touch the nettle, And it stings you for your pains; Grasp it like a man of mettie, And it soit as all remains.'

So, little friend, difficulties vanish before resolu tion and action.

"But, Bertha, I have not the strong will and power you have. With you to will is to do; with me it is different. I am naturally the slave of circumstances,"

"Milly, stop; don't acknowledge to such weak-ness. If you make yourself the slave of circum stances, they will rule you; but once bend cir cumstances to your will, and the victory is gained. I understand but two to which we must all bow-sickness and death; these excepted, we can be brave under all others. Be dauntiess in the right-

"Now, Bertha, how can I always judge what is right? You know how thresome Bridget is, and when I require things to be done one way, she will insist upon doing them in a different manner.⁷

"Bridget sees that your orders are merely the result of caprice, not of judgment or knowledge and this observation of her quick-witted intel-lect makes her flippant, almost impertinent Those below us must see some superior quality in their employers to respect. A self-styled architect who had no more knowledge than a bricklayer would not be able to govern his men. is with a mistress; if she really know: nothing of household management, there will be insubordination among ner domestics, and even contempt exhibited." "What can I do? Bridget will never act dif-

ferently now, however I may alter," I said, helplessly. "No, perhaps not; but at all events you can

begin upon a system, and leave Bridget to fall into your ways as she likes, or not; so that, should you be obliged to have some one in her the new-comer will not see your place.

detclency." "Well, then," I replied, and inclined to be angry, "since you can see, Mrs. Mentor, what I ought to do, perhaps you will give me a list of duties to be performed, omissions to be winked at, pleasures to be enjoyed, smiles to be indulged in, etc. etc., to the end of the chapter." "If you are sat rical, Milly, I have nothing

nore to say. It is for your good, not mine, that I have proffered my greater experience for you uidance; but let it all pass. I will take baby into the garden, and have a romp with both the children;" and, so saying, she turned away with a graver expression on her countenance than I had ever yet witnessed. My pride would not then allow me to apologize for my ebullition of temper.

Since Bertha's stay with us I had seen the advantage of order, neatness, and regularity, and our table was better served, oven when there were only scraps to make up a dinner, than it ever had been. Berths had the knack of turning everything to account; and many a

place in the oven to brown. "Now, Muly, off with you to bed; it's half into the middle of the night; we shall both lose our hearty sleep." "But about the rice pudding?" I answered

just tell me how that was made. I never liked rice before.

"Oh, that is a very simple matter. Bridget bought me a quart of milk, for which she gave threepence; and excellent milk I must say it was. I took two small pie-dishes, and put into each a very little more than an ounce of rice, about a small table-spoonful; this I poured hot water in, stirred the rice in it, then drained the water away, and repeated the process again. By doing this all the earthiness, or rawness, which is always attached to rice and barley is done away with. I then mixed with the rice in each dish a dessert-spoonful of sugar, and a slight sprinkle of nutmeg. I mixed a pint of milk with the rice in each disb, put a shaving of butter on the top of each, and baked it in the oven for an hour. But one thing you must remember-that after the dish is once put in the oven its contents must not be again stiried, or, strange to say, there is a likelihood of the milk burning; and also your udgment must be exercised with regard to the oven's hest; if it be of too slow and cool a temperature these puddings will take two hours instead of one to cook. The second pudding the children had at one o'clock, after their meat a few scraps of which I minced very tinely, and mixed with some bruised hot notatoes and a little salt; they had each a pretty tolerably thick slice of bread and but a scraping of butter

The pudding added to this made them an excellent dinner. Nearly half the rice was left for Bridget. Now, dear Milly, not another word to-night; away with you; I must lock you out.'

"Just tell me why you put such a scrap of butter on the rice? I should fancy you might just as well put none at all."

"You goose! If the butter were not there a thin skin would be on the milk, which would readily burn; you may call the butter oil if you like, for as oil rapidly stills the troubled water, so does the butter allay the ebullition of the milk. And now not another word, but good night, or rather good-morning."

Bertha left us in three weeks, and returned to her happy home. Happy, because she made it so; her cheeriul temper, healthy tone of think-ing, and active usefulness could not but be ap-

Bertha got that hint, I know, from my own mother, who used to say, in reference to it, that equally simple remedies for many nuisances lay always close at hand, if we had only the wit or knowledge to use them.

"Mark all linen with the best marking-int when, if it should be obliterated in washing, rest assured that the laundress has used chloride of lime in the operation of cleansing the clothes; the use of soda will only make the ink become blacker.

"Let every article be marked so that it becomes a perpetual register so long as the marks remain; thus-supposing there are six articles-say towels-of a particular pattern, mark your initials, the number 6 over these, and the individual number, with the date, under the initials; by thus doing, at any time, if you are in doubt about the towels, you can be sure you had six of this particular kind, and you can also directly tell which of the numbers, from 1 to 6. is missing. This manner of registering linen is so correct in its application, and a loss is so readily discovered, that the method should be one of universal practice.

"Rarely trust a servant to send the linen out to be washed, or to count it over on its return, unless you stand by. See the former counted, and set it down yourseli; and the same with the clean linen-see that it agrees in number and king; exchanges are often made, and never the better for the worse substitute.

"Every article ordered of your tradesmen write down in their books; never allow an order to be written by a servant.

"Keep all receipts and file them. At the end of each quarter sew them through the centre with strong needle and thread, and tie them; place a stilp of paper round each packet, with the date of month and year. At the end of each year place the four packets in one paper, tie it up, and label it with date, &c., and place it in a drawer or other convenient place.

"Enter in a book all the money you receive also all you spend, and also for what it has been spent, so that at the end of the year you may be enabled to see for what ourposes the money has

"Have no 'sundries,' which, in other words, mean 'forgets.'

"Do not go into debt. Do without even necos-sarles, if so it must be; but avoid debt as you

"Have no secrets from your hashand, either "Have no secrets from your hashand, either as to your expenditure or proceedings. If a husband be kept in ignorance of his wife's care