best meat in the world; and sometimes the best way of dressing it is the least costly,?

is certainly true that no more healthful food exists, even when plentifully eaten, than potatoes, greens, turnips, carrots, and onions, when properly cooked. They are also very autritious, and added to a very small portion of animal food, will cleause and purify the blood,

This little book-"Gomfort for Small Incomes' -it is hoped will in almeasure render a mistress able to cook her own dinner, if her "plain cook" should be ignorant or turn restive.

## COMFORT FOR SMALL INCOMES.

CHAPTER I.

Old Servants-New Faces-How to Keep a Dinner Warm-Early Troubles-Again New Faces-How Places Acquire Bad Names-The Subversion of all Order-To Lock or not to Lock-Servants' Allowances-Implements and Cloths for Servanta' Use-Kitchen Necessaries Essentially Requisite.

When I first went to my new home after our bridal tour of only a fortnight-for my husband, a surgeon, having his way to make, deemed it impolitic to remain longer from his patients—I found everything belonging to household matters that sould give me comfort had been arranged by my mother and my husband's stater, Anna Wynter. My chief cause for thankfulness was in two servants, who had lived for some years with the latter when she kept her father's

With these domestics, mother and daughter, the lass about eighteen, everything went smoothly. I could listen complacently to the narratives of the trials with servants of my lady visitors, and in my heart deemed that they, and not the domestics, were in fault. I argued that it girls were treated kindly and considerately, they would be well behaved and grateful, and that mistresses alone were to blame for taking any with indifferent characters. For these presumptuous thoughts I have been well punished since, 'The same measure ye mete to others shall be meted to you again," has been amply verified in my case. I have repented of all such uncharitable constructions.

For four years my happiness was complete. My two children were healthy, loving little crea-tures; my husband's practice was increasing, and my servants were all that could be desired —obliging, clean, industrious, and methodical. Susan was nurse and house-maid combined, and her mother was a good and faithful house keeper. One day, about three months previous to the birth of my third child, as I was in the kitchen arranging for dinner, and giving directions for some particular cleaning, cook said, "If you please, ma'am, Susan is going to be married to Alfred Jones, the wheelwright, as soon as you can get suited, and they are going to Australia, and I am to go with them."

My dismay at this announcement may be conceived. I had nothing but good wishes to offer both, for the intended husband was not only industrious, but had recently come into property worth £300, and in their taking the mother with them they were subfilling their duty. There was nothing for it, but to promptly supply their place, which I thought could be easily done; only there might be a little confusion at first,

soon to be got over. Just a week before my confinement the new servants entered upon their duties. I had an excellent character with them from a lady who lived a few miles distant. They wanted higher wages than she could give, and that was the reason for the separation. The house of the lady was scrupulously clean, so that I was satisfied on this important point. Within a lew days after their arrival I had misgivings as to their capabilities and competency for their situations; the rooms looked dusty, the grates dull, the knives statued, and there was a general air of discomfort exceedingly annoying to me. I knew that for a month I could not interfere, and thought it best not to commence fault-finding, but to bear with all shortcomings till I could be about again. My chief care

was for my husband and children.

Allen could rarely dine at our regular time; he could never say when he would be at home. I did not grumble at this, but devised a remedy whereby he could at any hour have his principal meal at a moment's notice. His dinner of meat, potatoes, and gravy was arranged in a soup-plate and covered: other vegetables in a second plate, also covered, and both were kept hot over two saucepans of nearly boiling water, so that not an instant was lost in serving when it was needed. At the same time that the family cloth was laid another was placed on a separate table with dinner-service, knives and forks, and the usual condiments. I do not say that the dinner had all the fresh flavor which belongs to one eaten at the right time, but made the loss unperceived. My little ones dined with me every day, but the house-maid waited, cut up their food, and attended to their wants, and as they were taught never to touch the things on the table, nor to ask or cry for anything, it was a peaceful, comfortable meal; and if my husband was fortunate enough to join us then, he was never worried, though come when he would, if not present when the dinner was served, he found it cut off and sent to keep warm. He was first cared for, whether present or absent.

For his tea boiling water was always ready; and up to this time I had never any trouble about it; but with the new servants a different order of things was introduced. I remonstrated without effect two or three times at the neglect. and it ended in my having the kettle brought into the sitting-room, and then I could see if the water was kept boiling. I did not mind this in the winter, and in the summer I hoped a change would come.

Time went on until my baby was born, and I was able to sit up. The children had been brought to me each day, but I had observed that nurse was absent previously fer a longer time than she ought to have been. I suspected how matters stood; but the little things were well in health, and I forbode inquirles, though it was evident from their rough hair, tumbled frocks, and unsmoothed pinatores, that but small care was expended on them, Still, silence was the best policy.

When I first came down stairs I saw, with dismay, the dirt and disorder which reigned supreme. I thought the nurse might have seen to much of this, and said so, but she turned

way without reply.

'This is something like," was Allen's remark at his dinner that day; and as I looked up, inquiringly, he went on:—"I have been treated to some frizzled dinners during your absence, which I didn't quite like; I suppose things will go right now." Nurse heard this, and coming over the research.

over to me, said:-"Another week and you will be stronger, ma'am; don't say anything yet."

Three days after both servants came to me,

just as I was down stairs.
"If you please, ma'am, our month is up to

day, and as your place don't suit us, we wish to

"But surely you should have given me notice of this before," I said. "We were only on a month's trial, and we never gives notice, then," was the reply. "You cannot leave for a week," I said. "I

have no servants, and must seek some."
"Well, ma'am, we don't mind staying two or three days to oblige you, but we must go away

on Saturday."
This was Wednesday, and the following Monday, at a village three miles off, an annual revel was held, which I thought explained their haste to depart. In the atternoon, though not strong enough to do so, I went into the kitchen to take a survey. The sight that met my view was by by no means encouraging—dirty corners, stained tables, lustreless coppers and tins, and a close, unbealthy, drain-like smell pervaded the place. Things were bad, indeed, but complaint could only make them worse. I did not even maist upon the house being cleaned, for they would have left me on the instant. Moreover, I was afraid to complain, fearing they might give me a bad name. Saturday on ne without my finding their successors. The nurse that was with m was a comfort, and so we managed as we best could; but now her stay could only depend on her services not being called for. With my former servants I had never made any kitchen

allowances—they were treated just as my mother's had been: they made their tes from our supply; sugar and butter they used at their own discretion; they were neither extravagant nor wasteful.

During my month's absence from the household I had directed that no bills should be paid till I was about again, but that everything ordered was to be entered in a book. On in-specting this I was astounded at the quantity of articles consumed-tea, sugar, bacon, and butter enough for a family of a dozen people, and I had no remedy but to pay for the robbery. Nothing was leit, not even a piece of soap or jar of dripping. My husband and myself were sur-prised at the unprincipled mistress who had given such excellent characters with these servants; and as her residence lay in the way of his daily route, he volunteered to call and remonstrate upon the deception which had vic-

The lady received and listened to him with all courtesy, and exploined that she had answered all my inquiries satisfactorily, but it was out of her way to volunteer information; that the girls had left because she could not give high wages, as she did much of the work herself, such as dusting, making pastry, and also constantly overseeing them. Besides, she never deprived girls of characters for want of cleanliness, because that was only a matter of opinion; the dirt some ladies would not tolerate, others would think scarcely worth notice. Servants were not to be had as formerly; there was no one to train them. If girls were honest, it was all that must be looked for, the mistresses must make them do their work well.

"But their extravagance was great. Allen, did you mention this?" "Yes, but Mrs. Slater said it was better to allow the girls the articles they would require for their own use, look up all the rest, and give

out a daily supply for the family's consump-"Lock up!" I exclaimed; "I never did such a thing in my life, and how can I tell how much they will eat and drink? I don't think even

mamma knows, for I am sure she never put her servants on allowances." "Then call on Mrs. Slater and ask her; she is shrewd woman and I don't think the minxes would have served her as they have you."

This advice did not quite suit me. I said I would consider. Meantime I sought and obtained two other servants, one an elderly woman, the other about twenty, both with good characters. All went on pretty well for a time, but it is necessary to recollect the provert:-"The eye of the master is of more worth than both his hands." I now began to find that the housekeeping was running beyond the sum allowed for it; the consumption of butter, tea, and coffee was nearly as much again as in the previous year: for ourselves we consumed no more than usual, but there was waste or peculation somewhere. I said at last to the cook that, as my expenses were increasing, I must devise some plan to lessen them. "I will give you and Mary sufficient tea and sugar for a week, and you had better give me the key, and I will regulate the consumption.'

The storm of words this proposal raised I long remembered. She quickly replies that "no lady would do sich things," and as she was not to be trusted she would leave that day month; and leave she did, successfully using all her influence with Mary to accompany her. The next lady this cook went to she told her our place dia not suit her, as we were mean enough to starve our servants. So soon is a bad name given to a place by unprincipled characters.

The next help I obtained from a registry office in a neighboring town. I was very averse to this course, but a fortnight with but a day-woman's assistance made me glad to get servants from any source. This time I determined to contro the expenditure, and the verbal agreement I made with them was most precise. I was to give them so much money beyond their wages, that they might find themselves in tea, sugar, and washing. After obtaining personal and sat-isfactory characters. I ield like one from whom a great burden has been tifted. Now, I thought there can be no cause of dissatisfaction. Alas! alas! things went just the same. If I left the room with the tea-caddy unlocked, its contents speedily vanished; the suger went faster than ever; and the butter, of course that was always consumed in the parior, and the eggs were used in the puddings.

Mamma came to spend a week with us, and to her I unfolded my trouble. I had shrunk hitherto from telling her my misery, fearing she might think I was a bad manager, but she consoled me by saying that good servants for middle-class families were not to be had-they had all emigrated; among the higher class it was altogether different.

"But what ought I to allow for a servant's consumption?" I asked. "This is my great

"Just the quantity you consume yourself, excepting in the article of tes, and of this I would give them an extra allowance, because a cup of tea is to them as refreshing as a glass of wine, and when they are working hard a stimulant of this kind is very grateful. Give me a pencil and I will write down what is a liberal but necessary weekly allowance for each servant:- A quarte of a pound of tea; half a pound of sugar; half a pound of butter. The washing, too, if you put it out, must be limited for them, or you will have white sleeves and frilled or worked petticoats to pay for.

'You may fancy the tea is rather extravagant. but it is only two teaspoonfuls at breakfast and the same at tea for each; if they choose to drink coffee instead of tea, by all means let them have it-three quarters of a pound to each. Bread. cheese, and meat, of course, as much as they please, but no waste. Bread is a very profife source of disagreement; the tops and bottoms of the loaves, the well-ingered crusts that have been left from grating bread crumbs, are all wasted-thrown or given away to beggars, who in their turn despise them and throw them in any convenient secret place; they never them. Don't suffer bread to be used in this way for crumbs. Cut off the lost as thick or thin a slice as may be needed, pare off the crust, and set it by to be eaten at the first opportunity peel off, also, the hard or outside and give the birds, then the remainder break up and rub through a colander-there will be no waste; and in outting bread for dinner, pare off a very thin slice of the outside, as no one likes this, and if needed cut the loat to within a finger's length of the bottom, then divide it into six pieces, and there will be no waste.

"The cutting of bread should, as in olden time, be seen to by the mistress." One loat ought to be consumed before another is cut, and new bread on no account be eaten. I am glad there is no side-door to your house. knew one lady with a large grown-up family who, closing this up, her bread bill was re duced four shillings a week. All the pieces had gone to the beggars, who threw them away." "But, mamma, I allowed the last servant money to find their tea and sugar; why could

they not be content, and not take mine ?" "Why not, indeed? simply because they do not consider the taking of these articles to be theft, so save their money, and supply them-selves from your stores, to which keys are no barriers. I know au instance where for a fortnight a lady regularly filled her sugar-basin and tea caddy, kept them locked, but used none herself, yet the contracts were daily abstracted; of course the thief was discharged. I observe you keep beer in the house; if you can trust your servants with the key, it is all very well; but unfortunately the love of drink is so powerful,

that it is a dangerous experiment."

"Why are girls so tiresome, to want all this supervision? I am sure I would gladly let them have all they desire if they would not

"I can't tell you why they are so; all you have to do is to prevent, as much as possible, wastetul expenditure. You must not expect to keep your servants for years, as many people once could; they are altogether become a different race; they cannot be left to their own guidance, but must be ruled. It is not sufficient to give them the order of the day, and arrange times for doing their work, but you must also

see that it is done." "Mrs. Reeves tells me that she keeps every drawer and closet locked; it seems to me a despicable act—it looks so suspicious."

\* The word lady is derived from the Saxon, and

AND SERVICE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF

"The best way to avoid giving offense, Janet, is to adopt a good plan, and then keep to it. If every place and drawer are unlocked when a servant first comes to the bouse, and after a eek you suddenly lock up, it is a grave matter of offense to an innocent girl; she leels herself suspected, and is unhappy; but if it be your constant practice, this habit of locking, why no offense is given, none taken, and an honest gir would prefer to live under a methodical mistres rather than under a careless one; though I have known a cook to leave a good situation because the key of the store closet was not intrusted to her keeping, and a house-maid because her mistress kept her drawers locked. Servants who show these impertinences should be discharged at once.

"You will find soap and candles speedily disappear in unthrity hands; both must be limited. Soda, also, though very mexpensive, will be lavishly used, to the detriment of most things; and a superfluity of matches will be wasted, either in burning or in throwing them on the floor, to the danger of their igniting and etting some body on tire. Give a liberal allowance of food and drink, but save when you can in the little things, for they insensibly amount to

a good sum in the year.
"I remember when we lived near London how much was wasted in wood for lighting fires. Most servants used a half-penny bundle for our fire, or they would let the fire get low, and so burn wood to make the water boil, just like the makeshift ways of the poor. Now one half-penny bundle should light three fires. With every new servant I had, there was at first discontent in this matter, till I showed how it could be done with even a less quantity. I generally finished my lesson by saying, 'You will thank me for this when you become a wife, at which there was a titter and good-humor returned. All this happened before you were born, and when I could only afford very indifferent help. For eleven years, you will recollect, I kept Sarah and her sister, so that you saw none of this trouble."

"But now, mamma, about the soap and candles; surely I cannot limit these."

"Indeed you must, or you will have half a pound or soop left to soak away in no time, two or three candles lit up at once, and the ends be thrust into the grate to light the kitchen fire with no heed to the grease which drops on the hearth below, and when the hot cinders fall, fills the house with a detestable odor."

'Now then, mamma, tell me what is really necessary for one servant's weekly supply. mean not only in food, but in soap, candles, and soda, and the cloths I must give them for their work. Money goes fast in this way, and they declare they have not had them, and that I make a mistake when saying they have tell me, and I will write it down at once. Say for a general servant."

'Tea, a quarter of a pound. Or coffee, three-quarters of a pound. Sugar, halt a pound. Soap, half a pound.

ii to wash her own clothes, a second half Soda, one pound

'Candles must be calculated according to whether there is gas or not used, and whether work in the morning has to be done by candlelight; but never give out more than half a pound at a time, and observe that the pieces are burned in the candlestick.

"Seven cloths for wiping crockery; two house flannels—one for the doors, made of old flannel doubted and strongly quitted together with coarse cotton, and a second for the stepsa piece of much-worn felt carpet answers best; two dish-cloths, a kitchen roller-towel, and one table-cloth; two scouring leathers, a scrubbingbrush made of fibre, and a pail; also a large but not too rough towel for her bed-room.

"A housemaid, in addition to the requisites of tea, sugar, etc., will need only half a pound of soap in a fortnight for her upstairs work, for rooms should never be scrubbed with soap; they get greasy and dark. Salt is excellent, as it is rough enough to temove the diri, and is will keep the rooms sweet and clean and destroy bugs and fleas.

"Then, she will require two flaunels, one for cleaning paint, and the other for her floors. "A cocount fore scrubbing-brush; a painter's brush for cleaning out the small corners of her stairs, etc.; a round dusting-brush; a baluster-brush, hard on one side and soft on the other; an American sweeping broom for carpets, and a hair-broom.

Two rather coarse but thin cloths for ral ing wet floors dry; two soft window-cloths, and a soft leather for polishing windows and glass; some rotten stone for cleaning windows, not whiting; also a supple leather for plate; a soit plate-brush; a somewhat harder one for scrubbing the crevices of silver articles; a box of platepowder-powdered hartshorn, prepared from bones, is the best.
"Four grass-cloths; four check, or linen dus-

ters; idur cloths for wiping silver forks; also two towels in the bedroom; a house-maid's pail, and the ordinary tin sail and cover in use in every

"Both servants must have provided a yard and a half of common American cloth, for laying down before a fireplace, not to injure the carpets when cleaning the grate.

But, mamma, I have a piece of felt carpet nailed down on the space which the rug covers, for I am quite sure the servants would not take the trouble to bring up the cloth.' "Perhaps this is a better plan, but you must not lorget three sheet-like wrappers for cover-ing over the couches, piano, and chairs, in the

sitting-rooms, previous to sweeping them, and also to cover the beds on a cleaning day. "There may be other little things which do not at this moment occur to me, which doubtless I shall recollect; but remember one thing, do not give out too many cloths of any kind, or they will, when dirty, be either burned or thrown away, as I suspect yours have been.

In the kitchen there should be a circular wooden bowl and a semi-circular chopper, sharp at the edge, for chopping suct, or mince, or potatoes, or onions, or parsley, in half the time consumed by any other method, and in a more perfect manner. Also three irons, one with a very long handle for burning sugar; two wooden spoons-one for the flour-tub, and one for mashing vegetables and truits; three tin strainers—one for straining milk or custard, one for gravies, and one with a pointed end for pouring meited butter through into a sauce-bowl or tureen; three baking tins—one a large oval tin for baking meat, a smaller round one with fit ting cover, for hashes, stews, or haricots, and the third, an oblong square, with a narrow rim, for Yorkshire or plum-puddings. I do not mention cake and other tine, these must be had as the family may used. Those I have mentioned are absolutely necessary for use and comfort, and so are scales and weights."

"But I thought, massma, the Yorkshire puddings were always baked under roust beef. "Not always; it is sometimes inconvenient; a large fire and a good-sized joint are necessary for this process. A Yorkshire pudding is equally good made in the following manner:—Put three table-spoonsful of cold beef dripping into an oblong square tin, and let it boil in the oven; meantime beat with a whisk in a basin a pint of milk, two eggs, and a pinch of salt; add by degrees six ounces of floor, till a smooth batter is obtained, then strain and pour it into the boiling dripping; bake it in a very hot oven for an hour, then, half an hour before the meat is taken from the fire, set this tin in the dripping tin, and let the meat drip upon it. To my liking, Yorkshire puddings are better and lighter

this way than any other. "There is an equally good but sweet pudding, for which you will find the round tin, without the cover, useful. Take a pint of milk, one egg, a little nutmeg, and two ounces of moist sugar, beat them together, then add by degrees three piled table-spoonsful of flour, till it is a smooth batter; slice four apples quickly, lest they turn black, put a table-spoonful of dripping-or bacon fat is best-into the round tin, make it very hot, strain in the batter, then bake in a very hat even for an hour. This pudding should be eaten with cold butter. Now, with those direcms, I do not think you will fail to make good butter puddings; but, remember, they must be served very hot, otherwise they are worth

[To be continued in our next issue.]

-A lady is about to appear as a trapeze performer in Loudon.

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WAR DEPARTMENT, SURGEON-GENE-RAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., August 19, 1866
An Army Medical Board, to consist or Brevet Colonel J. B. Brown, Surgeon, U. S. A., President; Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Wirtz, Surgeon, U. S. A.; Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Herer, Surgeon, U. S. A.; and Brevet Major Warren Webster, Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A., Recorder, will meet in New York city on the 20th of September, next, for the examination of candidates for admission into the Medical Staff of the United States Army.

Applicants must be over 21 years of age, and physically sound.

Applications for an invitation to appear before the Board should be addressed to the Surgoon-General, United States Army, and must state the full name, residence, and date and place of birth of the candidate. Testimonials as to character and qualifications must be turnished. If the applicant has been in the Medical Service of the Army during the war, the fact should be stated, together with his former rank, and time and place of service, add tes-timousals from the officers with whom he has served

should also be forwarded.

No allowance is made for the expenses of persons undergoing the examination is it is an indispensable prerequisite to appointment. ble prerequisite to appointment.

There are at present sixty vacancies in the Medical Staff, forty-six of which are original, being created by the Act of Congress approved July 28, 1866.

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