

Vera, I cannot allow it. London houses are dirty enough—we need not go out of our way to make them worse."

Aunt Ruth closed her lips tightly—a sign she considered *the discussion* at an end. But I was not to be put down so easily.

"Yes, he is dirty," I admitted; "but I will keep him in the attic—he shan't come near you." Then I told her of the orange he had given little Dicky, and Aunt Ruth smiled. She has a genuine love for a kind action.

"Well," she resumed, but not so firmly now, "I don't like it, Vera, but it is Christmas-time, and I suppose I must let you have your way—it is little pleasure you get, poor child. But you see we know nothing of the lad, and people do tell such dreadful tales of London boys."

"Oh, I will look after him," I said joyfully. "How kind you are, auntie." And eager to begin I ran away to my studio, as I persisted in calling the box-room. It was only a week since I had been allowed to set up my easel there, and I had done nothing as yet to make the place habitable.

As I opened the door the air felt cold as a well—like most attic-rooms with a north aspect, it had a way of being either an ice-house or a furnace. But that did not daunt me. A studio in Rome, I reflected, might present the same attributes—though if, as people say, there is an inherent beauty in all things Italian, it could scarcely possess so dingy an outlook. Peggy, our little maid-of-all-work, came at my call, and we set to work in earnest. Two hours later my "studio" really looked promising. Peggy had scrubbed the floor and cleaned the grate. She had piled up the boxes in a corner of the room, while I, having extracted a red curtain from one of them—one that we had brought from home and had no present use for—had nailed it up so as to screen them from view, and make a background for my sitter. My easel was soon placed in a proper light, and gave quite an artistic air to its surroundings. Two chairs, a stool, and a deal table completed the fittings. For ornaments I must wait.

It was not fatigue that kept me silent that evening, although I let Aunt Ruth think so. My mind was busy arranging the details of my picture. A dozen different groups suggested themselves to me, for most of which I fear Murillo was responsible, and on that very account they had to be discarded. At last I decided to paint little José as I had seen him first, holding the half-open orange to the sick child's lips. Peggy should sit for the mother—though her cheeks were so aggressively rosy, she would hardly look the character—and as for Dicky, there were plenty of children about; it would be easy enough to find a model for him. At any rate no one could accuse me of plagiarism.

After breakfast the next morning I ran over to the orange-stall and had an interview with Biddy. José had been sent on an errand. At first she would not listen to my proposal, but when once it dawned on her that the boy was not to sit to me for nothing, she was eager for him to begin. "It was high time," she said, "that he should do something for his living, the lazy little rascal. His father," she added, "had left him with her and gone to sea, and never a penny did she get from him, in spite of his fine promises. The mother had been dead about two years—a poor feckless thing, always complaining of the cold, and sitting in her chair with her hands in her lap. They had lodged in the same house, that was how she got to know them."

"She must have been a good-looking girl," I put in.

Biddy shrugged her shoulders.

"Ay, good-looking enough," she snarled, "for those who like coal-black hair and fiery eyes. Yes, she turned all the men's heads round Limehouse. José takes after her, though he hasn't her hot temper; that I will say for him. He is like his father—he'd give you the coat off his back, if he thought you wanted it. You will bring the money to me, please, miss; the child will only waste it."

"Very well," said I, determined all the same that José should have a share of what he earned. "Then I shall expect the boy at nine o'clock to-morrow morning." And I hurried away.

From there I made my way down Oxford Street to buy a canvas, my shallow purse forcing me to choose one of moderate dimensions, and so avoid a frequent mistake of young artists. On the way back I met José, and told him not to ring when he came to the house, for I would be on the watch and would let him in; the truth being that I wanted to smuggle him upstairs unknown to Aunt Ruth—for a second glance told me she was right—the child was much too dirty to be a desirable visitor, except from an artist's point of view.

The bells of a neighbouring church clock chimed the half hour, but little José did not appear, and I began to think he must have played truant. Dozens of ragged urchins were swarming about our door-step, but not the one I wanted. I had almost given him up, when on the other side of the street I caught sight of a child making signs to me. A nice little fellow he was, in a sailor suit and straw hat, his black hair falling neatly over his collar, and his eyes demurely cast down, like a Sunday-school child on his best behaviour. I wondered what he could want with me, till at length he raised his hat, and then I recognised my model. I beckoned to him at once, and he came bounding across the road.

"Why, José, I didn't know you. Have you been waiting long?" I cried as I opened the hall-door. "Why did you change your clothes? I wanted to paint you just as you were yesterday."

"Yes, Biddy told me so," he replied, opening his great eyes full upon me; "but Mrs. Hutchins, our landlady, you know, said you couldn't mean that. I was not fit to go into a lady's house as I was. So she gave me a good washing, and lent me her boy's Sunday clothes. Don't you like them? They are ever so much nicer than mine."

"We must make them do," I said resignedly. "Come upstairs with me; it is getting late. Now sit on that stool, there's a good boy, and try to keep still. Here is a bun for you. You can eat it while I take your likeness."

I sketched the little figure in crayons, reserving the canvas till my model was more picturesquely attired. I was very well satisfied with my morning's work, but José, who had expected to see himself depicted in all the glory of colour, was sadly disappointed.

As Aunt Ruth took the trouble to mount to the attic for the express purpose of inspecting my model, it was quite as well his landlady had taken him in hand. She actually kissed him, and when he was gone praised him to the skies. Certainly he was a most winning little mortal. Those great brown eyes, so brilliant and withal so tender, that bright smile and dulcet voice would break some girl's heart one day, for love is lord of all in every rank of life. But that was looking a long way ahead.

While my brief holiday lasted, I made José come to me every day. He did not appear a second time in borrowed plumes, but he was never again quite so picturesque an object as he had been on the morning I first made his acquaintance. Later I learned that the kindly creature to whom the little waif owed much of the brightness of his short life, had seized the opportunity and put the jacket I so much admired into her wash-tub, from which it emerged more ragged than ever, and of a dull-grey colour. It had been blue once, the child told me. His father had bought the suit for him the last time he was on shore. And there was a beautiful sash belonging to it, real silk, that came all the way from Spain, he added, with a manful effort to keep back the tears the mention of his father brought to his eyes. He would have put it on to have his likeness taken in, but it was at the pawnshop. Biddy had to take all his things there, because father sent her no money. She couldn't help it, but it was such a pity.

That was always his excuse—she couldn't help it. And for a time, I believed it to be the true one.

(To be concluded.)

A YOUNG SERVANT'S OUTFIT, AND WHAT TO BUY FOR IT.



words on the subject may not come amiss to young servants and to young mistresses, who could advise girls in the expenditure of their money.

Girls first going to service and receiving but

GREAT deal is written about dress, but I do not think I have ever seen anything written on the subject of working apparel, and frequently money is spent on this to so little advantage that perhaps, a few

small wages, would so often do better if their mistresses would, without dictating, take a little kindly interest in their dress, telling them the kind of material to buy. I do not include the girl who is just beginning to work, and going, as many girls do to commence, as daily or weekly servant, and who then has her mother to look after her clothes, and spend her very small earnings for her to the best advantage she can; but it is the girl who has left home, frequently has come from a distance, or if the home is near, the mother is often too much occupied with the family round her to have much time to devote to the girl who is off her hands.

The greater number of girls get regular

places at fifteen or sixteen years of age, with wages ranging in different localities from five pounds to ten pounds a year, sometimes to twelve pounds if they have been trained at all previously, but they generally leave home with a very scanty supply of clothes, and those frequently quite unsuited to their work, often other members of the family's things, made to fit as best they can, and even if the supply is pretty good, a growing girl taken from a comparatively poor home, well fed (for the first duty of a mistress taking a young servant is to provide her with an ample supply of suitable food; not to forget that she is growing and working, so needs plenty to eat), and kept fully employed at what is really healthy work, grows

and spreads so quickly, that she is continually finding her frocks and everything else too short, or too tight; so, in any case, she must expect to have to get an entire outfit for herself during her first year of service. I have made and give a list of what I think she will require.

This list is possible if she is gaining eight pounds a year, or more. A girl who receives, say, five pounds a year, cannot possibly find herself in muslin aprons, caps, and afternoon frocks, and have her other clothes fit to be seen; shoes are always a very heavy item for a girl who is on her feet all day; I have, if anything, allowed too little in my list for shoes and boots. A mistress paying low wages, if she wants a girl really well-dressed, must help her, by finding aprons, or shoes, or something that will save buying.

I have in the following list given the quantity of stuff ordinarily required by a medium-sized person.

	s.	d.
For 2 cotton gowns—		
16 yards of print or other material at 6½d.	8	8
3 yards of unbleached calico for lining bodices and sleeves, at 2¾d.	0	8¼
Hook, braid, &c.	0	6
Making, 2s. 6d. to 3s. each, say 3s.	6	0
Afternoon dress—		
8 yards of serge at 9d.	6	0
Bodice lining, braid and hooks	1	0
Making	3	6
8 yards of double warp unbleached calico at 6d. for two night-gowns.	4	0
5 yards of unbleached or scoured calico at 5d. for two chemises	2	1
4 yards ditto for 2 pairs of drawers	1	8
5 yards of Welsh flannel at 1s., for two petticoats, 2½ widths in each, hem and tuck.	5	0
3 yards of dark material for over-petticoat at 5d.	1	3
3 yards of cotton (coloured) for summer petticoat at 5d.	1	3
5½ yards of Swiss check muslin (for 4 aprons) at 7d.	3	1½
4 yards of flax at 9d. for 4 aprons, it is 52 inches wide, so bibs and bands come off the width	3	0
2½ yards of Forfar at 6d., for two coarse aprons	1	3
1 pair of strong leather or levant boots	8	3
4 pairs of house shoes at 2s. 11d.	11	8
1 dozen bordered linen handkerchiefs	2	6
Total	£3	11 4¼

Besides these things a girl will need hats, a jacket, collars, stockings, stays, caps, haberdashery, and naturally, as soon as she can get one, she is pleased to have a coloured dress to wear when she goes out to church or for a holiday; but the substantial necessary garments should be bought first. As soon as possible the stock of underclothes should be increased, as one garment on and one in the wash is not always convenient, but girls are generally obliged to start with few.

As soon as a sufficient stock of clothing has been obtained, and it is possible, one shilling should be put into the post office savings bank every month, so that, in the event of being out of place, there should be a little money in hand, unless, of course, there is need at home, and some of the wages

have to go to help a little with the younger brothers and sisters, then a shilling a month as pocket-money, and the account for the year, the wages being eight pounds, would stand thus:

	£	s.	d.
Clothes, as in list	3	11	4¼
Savings Bank	0	12	0
Pocket-money	0	12	0
Out-of-door clothes and sundries	3	4	7½
	£8	0	0

I have calculated that a girl will be able to make her own underclothing; it could, of course, be bought ready for wear for very little more, but comes much more expensive in the end, as cheap ready-made garments wear out very quickly, neither the calico nor the work being as good. The best calico to buy for hard wear is unbleached or, as it is called in the trade, grey calico; it is much stronger than bleached cotton, it does not look so nice at first but it very soon washes white. Scoured calico is preferred to the ordinary unbleached by some people, it is a little dearer but also wears well. Unbleached calicoes are from 2¾d. to 6¾d. a yard. The better ones are generally a little wider than the cheap ones. White, or bleached calico is only a trifle dearer for the same qualities.

Many people now buy flannelette, instead of flannel, for petticoats. It is cheap and warm and answers very well for some persons; but a short time ago I found a delicate girl who had been specially ordered to wear wool next to her skin, had clothed herself in flannelette and thought she had obeyed the doctor's orders, whereas she had done nothing towards carrying them out, for flannelette contains no wool; it is made entirely of cotton, woven in a way to feel soft and warm. It is a pleasant material to wear, it does not irritate the skin as wool often does; but it must not be regarded as flannel.

For servants' morning gowns four kinds of material are used: galatea, Norman stripe, Oxford shirting, and the old-fashioned print. I believe of these, galatea is the strongest; and in navy blue and white stripe, or dark red and white stripe, they wash well, and do not shrink as much as shirtings or prints. "Norman stripe" is often made in dark colours which look very well under linen aprons; they are not generally quite as firm and thick as "galatea stripe." I have found them wash well. If Oxford shirtings are chosen, be sure and select thick, closely-woven ones; it is a great mistake to buy a cheap, loosely-made one, which the first time of washing shrinks much more than the calico-lining and consequently soon splits in wearing. Some prefer the old-fashioned prints. In these the pink, red, and lilac are the best washing colours; select closely-woven ones. A print always looks nice; but if much dirty work has to be done, I think they are more quickly scrubbed out in the wash than thicker materials. They are also less tough, so tear more easily if caught. These materials are all about the same price, ranging from 5d. to 7d., according to the quality.

I calculate eight yards for a girl's dress, so that the skirt should be cut long enough to turn in a piece at the waist for letting down. When it can be done, it is much more economical to buy three dresses alike; then,

when the bodices are worn or out-grown, the third dress can be cut up to make two new bodices and sleeves. In this way three dresses will last two years well. Gingham are also used for dresses, but they are more suitable for upper servants.

Most ladies prefer a girl's afternoon-dress to be black, but many do not object to navy-blue, or very dark-green; I think serge is the best to buy, and, if tolerably thick, needs no lining in the skirt, and as it can be easily brushed and shaken, wears and keeps clean. Have the bodice and sleeves of a black dress lined with cotton, that is black on one side, it will not then show directly it wears thin.

It is always well to have a couple of coarse brown aprons for doing grates in and for other dirty work; Forfar, or other unbleached flax, may be used for these. For linen aprons a special linen is made. For afternoon-aprons I always recommend girls to buy a Swiss check-muslin, in preference to nainsook or jaconet, for the threads in the check being firm hold the starch much longer, and, consequently, they are not so soon flimsy. The thin muslin aprons that look so nice when they are new, often are limp directly they are put on, when they have been washed. There are, of course, really good aprons, embroidered and others, that wash well and are made of plain muslin, but they are too expensive for girls to purchase them.

One of the heaviest, or the heaviest I might say, expense for a girl is house-shoes. I believe the so-called French cashmere lace-shoes are the best; they are really manufactured of a sort of thread, and are very durable, and make the feet look neat; they can be toe-capped with leather when shabby. Or a plain dull-leather shoe wears well, though it is not as neat-looking as the cashmere, which are from about 2s. 6d. to 2s. 11d. a pair. Never buy the English cashmere boots or shoes with the patent leather toe-cap, it cracks directly if you have any kneeling to do. Shoes should be managed so that the afternoon ones are not worn in the morning; one pair should be kept under another, for if a girl has to kneel about, toes of shoes are quickly shabby.

With regard to out-of-door wear, the aim should be to have cloaks or jackets of good material, rather than to have garments with trimming on, for as they must be inexpensive, if they are much ornamented, the material must of necessity be indifferent.

Caps are generally bought ready-made, but I notice most girls take very little care of them; they buy them cheaply, so do not think how many they use in a year, if not worn carefully. An economical cap is made with a yard of lace, about three and a-half or four inches wide, cost 2d., plaited up to one inch in even plaits at the straight edge, and a little black bow put over the stitches. The two ends of the lace must be hemmed; made this way it is very easy to undo, wash, and remake.

Everyone should keep an account of their expenditure; a penny note-book, ruled for cash, is all that is needed, and every penny spent should be put down in it; girls will be surprised, after a little while, how this practice will prevent their wasting money. I know that, as a rule, those who keep account get more for their money, and are therefore better off than those who spend it and do not know how it has gone.

