

Holding a sheet of newspaper before the grate in order that the draught it made might cause the dust to be taken up the chimney, she gently cleared the ashes out, then with her gloved hand picked out the larger cinders to be put back again—"as they light much more easily than fresh coal," she said. The paper placed at the bottom was lightly squeezed together, then the sticks crossed and re-crossed above it, the cinders with a few fresh "cobblestones" over them.

"It would be a very sulky fire that would refuse to burn after that," said Alice.

The hearth-brush and shovel next came into requisition, and then a soft black rag gave a final rubbing and polishing to the grate and fire-irons, while a damp washleather made the tiles shine again.

"There, you see, that is not such a formidable affair after all, is it?" said the demonstrator, rising and drawing off her gloves. "Now I will leave you to finish this room while I do the same in the next."

Half-an-hour's work saw these rooms and the hall done for the day, then they were free to consider "the main work of the day," as Penelope called it; "these are only the preliminaries, you see."

"Now as neither laundry nor bakery claim our attention, and we have nothing in the dairy to do yet awhile, I propose that the remaining two hours before lunch be filled up in the garden; shall we seek out Silas and ask whereabouts we may begin, for I want us to have at least two hours' garden-work every day?"

"If I were only a boy I should say hurrah!" said Alice delightedly. "What a joy to be allowed to do anything in that lovely garden!"

"But don't forget that it is to be not merely play-work," said Penelope warningly; "that is why it will be well that we should keep to those parts which are likely to be of real use to you when you have suburban or town gardens of your own to manage. The whole

subject of gardening is so fascinating, but if one attempts it all it means—and deserves to mean—the devotion of all one's time and energy. The branches that will chiefly concern us now, I think, will be potting and planting, seed sowing, training and pruning of bushes and small trees, weeding and trimming, and a little general greenhouse work."

"And what about fruit-picking?" suggested Alice, a little mischievously.

"Ah, well, that is of course understood without saying, only I think it belongs more truly to our housewifery department than to the gardening."

Old Silas, though gruff as ever, proved to be in an amiable mood this morning, and he willingly allowed them to sow the peas and beans in the drills he was busy making; then when those had been raked over, there were carnations to stake and tie up, and some borders to prepare for the planting out of geraniums and foliage plants a little later on.

Penelope pointed to the onion bed, already thick with weeds.

"If either of you wish for a sun-bath, try the effect of weeding that for half a day; it is most wholesome I can assure you! Silas, why is it that weeds grow thicker where onions are than anywhere else?"

Silas scratched his head, but he did not "rise" to the point.

"I dunno as they do, missie," he said. "I find the weeds—I call 'em tares—has a special faculty of growing everywhere. I conclude as it's a dispensation o' Providence, so I don't grumble, though it's true they aire trying at times."

"You don't give them much chance of trying you, however, Silas," Alice said sweetly, giving an appreciative glance around at the exquisite order of the beds.

"Silas never allowed grass to grow under his feet," Penelope explained. She loved to give this bristling old hedgehog a poke now and then.

"I could imagine Sir Walter Scott delighting in that old man," said Madeleine when their work took them out of earshot. "Is he a specimen of your Haven folk?"

"Scarcely a specimen so much as a type," Penelope replied; "every single soul among them has its own individuality, it seems to me, though perhaps I accentuate their peculiarities because I love them all the more for possessing them; but at any rate human nature has few conventional trappings here."

"You quite excite my interest in them, for I, too, have a *penchant* for 'characters,' perhaps because my world has been bounded and governed entirely by conventionality," said Madeleine.

"Then I think you will find my poorer friends—though they are apt to appear rough at first—prove to you as helpful and bracing mentally as the Haven breezes will be to you physically; we will go down this afternoon and make acquaintance with some of them."

Time passed quickly as they chatted and worked, and ere the two hours had passed their sharpened appetites caused them to think it might be well to investigate the larder with a view to luncheon. But old Janet had forestalled them; she was not minded to sit in a chair all day, she said, so had laid a white cloth on the dining-table and spread out cold meat and fruit, adding baked potatoes and some clotted cream of her own turning. It had evidently pleased her soul to do this, and they were all heartily pleased to recompense her by doing justice to the tempting fare.

When lunch had been cleared away an hour's quiet rest for the writing of letters or reading was prescribed; after that they might exercise their faculties of curiosity or sympathy both, if so disposed; there was no hard-and-fast rule to bind them, this "school" having a variety of purposes to fulfil in its teaching.

(To be continued.)



MAN AND WOMAN.

MAN.

GOD gave the man the titles of chief, of governor and defender of the family. It was in order to enable him to render his family happy, both by the product of his labour and the activity of his protection, that He has given him a tall, proper shape, a majestic countenance, a robust constitution, and a vivacity that cannot endure being idle. It is for the same reason that the amusements of his infancy have been tumultuous and noisy. When manhood has matured his desires, and conveyed order into his ideas he assumes a sedate look. But pray take note of him in his apparent state of inaction. A secret fire devours him. He is hatching some project, I'll warrant him, if he is not even already about the execution of it. He must needs be active without; he will look after everything, see what passes, and how everyone behaves about him; and is resolved to preserve plenty and security in his abode, if he can. He sometimes repairs the disorders of seasons, and sometimes remedies the decay of his buildings. If he happens to interrupt his works by any diversions, the most sedentary are seldom to his liking. He will prefer

running or coursing, playing at quoits or tennis, hunting or fishing. His pleasures are so many exercises. Nothing but action can strengthen and make him alive. He resembles those vigorous plants that perish in the shade and never thrive but in the open air. All his inclinations and his whole character, by their keeping him in this wholesome state of agility, enable him to make his estate and his family prosper, either by the means of lawful defence or the perseverance of a profitable labour.—*From the French, 1748.*

WOMAN.

ALTHOUGH woman has, in her quality of a rational creature, a right to the domain of the earth equal to that of her husband, she is nevertheless second in rank in the family. She is submitted to her husband, she is his help-mate but it is a help like himself. She is dignified in her family both by her personal right and by the power she holds from her husband. But she has not received the same measure of strength and activity. This is a wise precaution of Providence who aimed at confining her within the circle of lesser cares and at making her choose for her portion domestic operations, whilst the husband should

watch and be active without doors. It was in order to render her assistance, always lovely to the husband, and her presence ever desirable to the whole family that God has endowed her with graces and a mild disposition. She is obeyed because she pleases and because she is so much loved and esteemed. The husband has a more commanding tone, but the authority of the wife is neither less beneficial nor less efficacious. Beauty and a tender constitution, which renders the wife naturally fond of retirement and sedentary yet excuse her from none of the hardest labours. She would think herself dishonoured by charms that should make her an idol deprived of the use of arms and legs, or an insipid divinity always nestling in her shrine and waiting for the incense and homage of her adorers. Although the good order and the neatness and peace causes to reign all her house over be blessings very desirable in themselves, yet she desires above all things, that after the labours of the day he shall find rest and happiness at home. She is resolved that he shall always find tranquillity and mirth as well as order in their habitation. She knows no surer means to make him fond of his own home.—*From the French, 1748.*