

directed the tablet to be erected. "He was," says the inscription, "a truly honest Englishman, in his domestic concerns discreet and frugal, in all acts of hospitality magnificent and noble, ever jealous to maintain and defend the true principles of religious liberty and loyalty. He died in 1756."

About the floor of this interesting church there are several brasses, but there remains only space to record the inscription on one of them. It is to the memory of "M^{rs} Alice Baldwin, late gentilwoman to the Lady Mary, Princess of England, who decessid the 10th daie of July, anno 1533."

SOME HINTS ON "MOVING."



HAT "three removes are as bad as a fire," expresses the opinion of the majority of housekeepers on this most unpleasant and wearisome piece of business; and certainly our advice to those who wish to make a limited income yield the greatest share of comfort would be:

Avoid moving as much as possible. A certain amount of loss and expense will inevitably result, though care and experience must produce great modifications of these evils, as of most others. Much of the discomfort, too, may be obviated by a little forethought. Frequent removing is for many reasons not so easily to be avoided in the present day as in less bustling and, if we may say it, more substantial times, and it is always wiser to encounter the risk and trouble of a general flitting than to remain in a house or neighbourhood which has indisputably proved itself detrimental to the health or comfort of the family occupying it. This being the case, it is obviously necessary to be careful and deliberate in choosing both the tenement and the locality in which we are to dwell—a matter far too little thought of now, when facilities for removal are so multiplied that people are often tempted to ignore the expense and trouble it actually does entail.

The subject of "choosing house and home" having been very fully treated in an article which appeared in this Magazine a few years ago, it will be unnecessary for me to dwell more particularly on these points, yet I would fain offer a few remarks suggested by my own experience. The first, and perhaps most important, is: Don't be tempted to select a house in a hurry, and so fall into the snare of being compelled to take anything that will supply the requisite extent of accommodation at something near the amount of rent you intend to pay. This is generally a most fatal error. You are lucky indeed if your new abode improves upon acquaintance; more often it gradually reveals to your intimate knowledge of it a series of evils and inconveniences, unthought of in your hasty survey, or considered as something that could well be put up with when you were anxiously wondering whether you should really find anything at all before quarter-day. It is wonderful from what a different point of view we regard the discomforts of the house we are living in to those of the house we contemplate taking, under such circumstances especially. The result of this "putting

up" with decided evils is inevitable. In a short time we are weary and disgusted, and find ourselves drawing to the conclusion that it is unbearable, and we really must move again.

The first point, then, that I would impress on the minds of my readers is: Take your time in selecting a house, and rather stay in the old one a quarter longer than rush to worse evils than you are already enduring. Form in your mind a list of the requirements you desire to find, and do not be persuaded to decide upon anything that is in direct opposition to those requirements. At the same time it is necessary to warn house-hunters against expecting impossibilities, such as ample accommodation, artistic finish of detail, wide halls, and extensive grounds in a suburban neighbourhood at a low rent. The purely artistic desiderata should always be made subservient to the health requisites, although positive ugliness is very much to be deprecated, and should be avoided if possible; but health first and foremost, and comfort next: then when these are provided for we may begin to indulge our artistic tastes.

It is not every one who is free to choose the locality he would live in; and although we know that a gravel soil is most desirable, we may be compelled to reside on a clay one, but we can be particular about drainage, ventilation, aspect, arrangement, dry walls, watertight roofs, sound gutters, well-made foundations, properly constructed chimneys, and the like considerations. If you do not feel yourself qualified to judge of these matters, it is quite worth while to employ a reliable surveyor to report to you on the sanitary condition of the house. His fee will probably be one or two guineas, but they are guineas well spent, provided you select a competent person, not interested in the letting of the property.

Where there is a large family, or where washing is done at home, a commodious, well-arranged wash-house is very essential to the comfort of the inhabitants, as in all cases are airy, dry pantries and cupboards. Halls should be so constructed that a through draught can be obtained—that is, with doors or door and window at either end. I know that this sounds suggestive of bitter draughts and banging doors in winter time, but these can easily be avoided—the one by india-rubber tubing nailed round the doors, the other by a little firmness on the part of the mistress; whereas the accumulation of heat and smell of cooking which rise from the kitchen, and hang about the walls and corners of a hall blocked at one end, can only be removed by setting the street door wide open for a

considerable time, and either engaging a hall porter to guard the hats, coats, and umbrellas, or running the risk of having them carried off bodily.

That doors and windows should fit accurately is highly desirable; yet this is a point of comparatively minor importance, as such evils can easily be remedied, and too much air in a house is certainly a less deadly error than too little. Attics are by no means to be despised, provided they are light and airy, and are to my mind much more desirable than the damp, gloomy basement which figures in so many suburban houses. The objectional practice of making these underground rooms into nurseries or bed-rooms cannot be too strongly deprecated. Far better turn the children into a large light attic than into one of these vault-like apartments.

I have always found it difficult to decide whether very new or very old houses were the most objectionable, but I think on the whole the latter are the worst. In new houses you have to guard against imperfectly dried walls—which may, however, generally be remedied by the somewhat costly expedient of continual large fires, supplemented by lime-washing and repapering when the damp has been thoroughly drawn out—green wood, which will shrink as it dries, settlements of walls, and such-like evils.

You must allow in your estimate of expenses for the fixing of shelves, brackets, hooks, and all the minute paraphernalia of household comfort, as you will generally find a quite new house destitute of all these arrangements. It is more than probable that you will have to bear the cost of laying gas-pipes from the road into the house; for although the small pipes are in their places, deluding the unwary into the idea that all is complete, it is a very frequent practice with builders to leave the connection with the main pipe to the first tenant; and if the road be a new one, and a byway which has not yet been taken in hand by the parish authorities, your expense will be considerable. You will also probably be called upon to pay for the placing of a meter in the house; and although this is usually only a deposit, it is an unexpected demand at an awkward time.

Too many of the old houses in London (and for that matter some of the recently-built houses also) are open to very serious objections, unless you have reliable knowledge of the kind of people who last occupied them. You will generally find them more or less infested with vermin, especially if situated in a row or terrace. The intolerable nuisance of a house in which the bed-rooms banish sleep, cups and saucers retain an odour of beetles, ants disport themselves in the sugar, loaves appear with holes nibbled by mice, clouds of moths float gaily about your rooms with the first rays of summer sunshine, and in a short time establish themselves in your bedding and furniture, even if you succeed in keeping them out of your furs and flannels, is hardly to be credited; yet I can assure my readers that it has been my unhappy fate to live in a house where to the live stock already mentioned were added swarms of crickets—which hopped on to the servants

as they sat at supper, and were by no means the desirable companions that poets would lead one to imagine—besides cockroaches, and rats. I succeeded in materially diminishing the hosts arrayed against me, but not until the continual worry and fatigue and sleepless nights had resulted in a tedious illness. Rotten flooring, leaky roofs, old-fashioned and badly constructed drainage, blocked pipes, dirty cisterns are some of the points to be warned against in old houses, the advantages being that they are generally more commodious, more substantially built, have better halls and staircases, larger gardens, and lower rents. The bath-room is a wonderful convenience of the modern house, especially if fitted with hot and cold water supply; and I feel sure that any one who has once known the comfort to a family of such an arrangement will endeavour never again to be without it.

As regards the actual matter of moving, the first thing, of course, is to secure the means of transit. There is no need to point out the advantages of pantehnicon vans, but one or two hints may be useful. The proprietors profess to undertake all risk of breakage or damage, but unless you have a written agreement to that effect you will find it extremely difficult, in some cases, to make them repair any loss. There is generally an extra charge for the men's food and beer, but my experience is that they always demand more of the latter article, and if refused are often disobliging. It is also extremely undesirable that they should be loitering about in public-houses on the way. It is therefore advisable to give them what refreshment you conveniently can before the vans start, and certainly reserve any money they may request for this purpose until their arrival at the new house, where, if it is possible to provide them with a rough meal, you will, I believe, not be any loser by the arrangement. Your opportunity for doing this depends of course very much on the distance the vans have to come. I have found it a good plan to have a piece of salt beef boiled the day before, and let them have this before starting, with a proper allowance of beer, brought to the house. By this means an enormous amount of dawdling and gossiping was avoided.

It is an excellent arrangement, when it is feasible, to have the carpets fitted to the new house the day before. At any rate, any *new* carpets you may have decided upon can be sent on and put in the respective rooms, for you will of course have had the house cleaned down ready for your arrival—although this rough cleaning, especially if performed by some unknown charwoman, will probably require considerable supplementing in the nicer details under the mistress's own supervision. If the house has been occupied before, you will have done well to have the chimneys swept, which may be done at a very reasonable rate by making a contract with the sweep to take the whole number you decide may require it at a uniform rate.

If the carpets are already fixed the men can bring in the furniture, and place it there and then in very fair order, under the mistress's or some competent person's direction; and although it may require some

alteration afterwards, you will very quickly have some sort of resting-place. I have found that dining-rooms and bed-rooms very seldom require any material re-arranging, as the furniture is of a nature that renders it easy to see at a glance how it may be most suitably placed.

And here let me say a word in favour of square carpets and stained floors. The saving of expense and worry when moving to a new house is incalculable if you have adopted this plan. You may have to turn your carpets over to other rooms, but you will generally find that they will all come in with little or no alteration, and thus the mortifying process of cutting about good carpets is entirely obviated. Besides this advantage, the plan is so much more clean and healthy that for this reason alone it is most highly to be recommended. I consider it most desirable for bed-rooms, and in my own experience have arrived at the conclusion that fitted carpets are an entire mistake. These loose squares or strips can be taken up and shaken whenever required, and dusty corners need never exist. For bed-rooms I have found the best plan is to have one straight long piece made to go along the length of the room, and two pieces detached, up the sides by the bed, leaving the space under the bed uncovered. Thus, in an ordinary-sized room you will have three moderate-sized pieces of carpet instead of one cumbersome affair, the shaking of which is quite a formidable undertaking.

The staining of floors round the edges of rooms is not a very difficult matter, and can very well be done by the boys of the family if thought too time-taking for the maids. A regular cabinet-maker or French-polisher will usually charge a great deal more than he ought. Vandyke brown and linseed oil may be used for the staining, taking care to mix it to a full dark shade, which looks better than a lighter tint. It can scarcely be too dark, and should be applied evenly with a small sponge, care being taken to leave no unsightly patches. When this is dry a coat of size must be laid on if you propose varnishing your floor. The polishing with turpentine and beeswax is so time-taking that I prefer the varnish for small establishments, where the servants' time is pretty fully occupied. The size is prepared by being placed in a saucepan with a very small quantity of water, and allowed to dissolve. It must be applied very hot with

a brush, and I should add that the result will be better if a coat of size be placed on the floor before the staining as well as after. When this is thoroughly dry, one or two coats of hard varnish must be added. One will look very well, but two will look better—only pray be careful to let each application dry thoroughly before the next is put on. A great wrinkle with a varnished floor is to give it an occasional rub over with the very smallest quantity of linseed oil on a soft rag. This will keep it in beautiful order, and if done every two or three weeks, at the end of a year it will look brighter and better than it did at first.

If you have been wise you will have taken care to have some coals in the cellar of your new house. Should the season be winter, it would be well to instruct the charwoman to have fires ready kindled in the rooms you intend to use immediately. The kitchen furniture should have been the last articles put into the van, as they will now be the first to come out; and your servant can very soon begin to busy herself in preparing a meal, the knives and forks and spoons for which, if she be sensible, she will have carried in a hand-bag. In the case of your new abode being some distance from shops, tea, pepper, salt, and several other commodities may be added with advantage. If your carpets are already placed you will very quickly have a habitable dining-room—probably by the time the meal is ready to be served. The men will speedily put up your bedsteads, and with some one at hand to instruct them will readily place wardrobes, chests of drawers, &c., in their respective places. You will be surprised to find how soon one or more bed-rooms may be put in quite nice order if the carpets are already placed.

Those windows that have Venetian shades will give you no difficulty. The curtains can be put up at any convenient season; but if they are not so furnished you will find great comfort from having blinds fitted before your arrival. Such arrangements, by a little forethought, can easily be made on a previous visit to the house. And now, having the kitchen, dining-room, and sleeping-rooms in comfortable order, you may retire to rest, feeling that it has not been such a very formidable affair after all, and with very good heart to set to work on the morrow to reducing such chaos as still exists into the proverbial "apple-pie" order.

GARDENING IN AUGUST.

WE are in the full career of our summer enjoyment. The boys are home for the holidays, devoting the bulk of their time to cricket and the largest of the hairy gooseberries; or should they be driven in-doors under protest by stress of weather, it is but to terrify the old nurse by carrying off the baby, tormenting their sisters at the piano, and then distracting papa in the library by jumping down eight or ten stairs at

a time. The sudden appearance of *Paterfamilias furiosus*, *Times* in hand, scatters them far and wide, to congregate presently in the pantry, from which however they as quickly emerge on catching sight of Bandy Thomas, the old gardener, going to the kitchen for his lunch. Bandy Thomas is quite a favourite and has already acceded to their request to be allowed to help him, though he has his usual secret misgivings, not to say alarms, as to the value