

Twelve men in England form a Petty Jury, and generally fourteen are first impannelled. This is partly to provide against possible illness, or the right of a prisoner to challenge a juror. This "challenging" is the right of a prisoner to take exception to one or more of the jurors who are to try his case; but if he has an objection, he has to state it when the juryman is about to be sworn.

From constant practice, the working of the jury system for the most part is very perfect, but the writer ventures to suggest there is room for improvement in one or two details. Supposing now that all are impannelled, some are sent off to the Old Court, others are told to be in attendance the next day, and others remain in that, the same (New) Court. Here on the first two days the Mint cases against utterers of base coin are heard; and up to five or six o'clock our twelve patriots are doomed to sit in two old, straight-backed, church-pew-like boxes, on hard, badly-stuffed cushions, and in a painfully-cramped position, for want of proper leg-room. When the verdict has to be considered, under the present arrangement there is no possibility of two jurors at the respective ends of the box conferring together. Much, then, depends upon the intelligence and communicative power of what may be termed the "centre" men. If there is a doubt, these "centre" men have to listen in one direction and pass on the objection to the other section. In some instances, if the case is not very serious, it affords scope for the inevitable facetious man to be "funny." Thus, in answer to the query "What do you say?" the

whispered reply will be in imitation of the Welsh jury, "Not guilty, but mustn't do it again." If there is no reasonable probability of agreeing, the jury are instructed to retire, to consider their verdict further, and if this occurs toward the close of the day the prospect is appalling to the delicate, or to those whose "better halves" expect them home by the usual evening train. To a room without food, fire, or candle (by legal fiction nothing, fortunately, is said about gas), the twelve unfortunates retire, and perhaps nine are for a verdict of Guilty, and three are for Not guilty. In England the jury system is different from that of Scotland. In the latter, fifteen compose the jury, and a verdict of nine is taken. Besides, a verdict of "Not proven" can be given. Here, however, the twelve must agree, either for Guilty or Not guilty. Perhaps the three obstinates are retail traders, and on being pressed for their reasons, state that they don't see why the word of a retail man should not be taken as well as that of a wholesale man (the case under trial being one of obtaining goods by false pretences.) In vain it is pointed out that the wholesale man is on his oath, and that the prisoner (retailer) only pleads by his counsel or denial.

As the hours pass, an usher arrives to inquire, "Gentlemen, have you agreed upon your verdict?" Now is the time for the prudent, thoughtful man, if he belongs to the majority, to produce a parcel of sandwiches, and express a decided liking for staying up late. The matter is once more discussed, and finally an agreement is arrived at.

HOW TO MAKE MEN FOND OF HOME.

(A HAPPY HOME WELL ORDERED.)



OME life, its duties, amusements, atmosphere, and routine, all depend on those who form part and parcel of the family circle. Foremost among them is the master, who should be the first consideration. A wife's real happiness, and much of that of her household, depends on her and her husband being one.

Love is the ruling power of happiness—as it is the vital principle of religion—between husband and wife,

parents and children, brothers and sisters. Many women throw away their opportunities at starting. If they begin as they all should begin, and some do, with love on both sides, the wife has the most powerful weapon in her hand. It will be well for her if during courtship she has devoted her energies to studying the character and tastes of her future lord, instead of wasting precious time dwelling too much on her own sensations, and the wearying question—

"Loves me? loves me not?" Every human being has certain weaknesses and prejudices, which ignored bring them more annoyance than apparently important matters. Much of the happiness of home life depends on these being generally recognised and respected, and the wife who studies them has journeyed far on the right road. Little kindnesses breed much love, and our hearts go out even to strangers who show unselfish thought for us.

It is a great mistake for a man, in his early married life, to be overdone with domesticity. A few, perhaps, have lived with their relatives; but, as a rule, a husband's most recent experiences are of club and chamber life, and much society, which falls off often when he marries, unless his wife has a large circle of acquaintances. She, probably, is quite content with his company alone, while the man is apt to weary of the *toujours perdrix*. To enjoy home life, therefore, cultivate your friends, lest the woman dwindle down into a mere housekeeper and head nurse, with a spice of the dressmaker. Shut out from family life before marriage, many men have expe-

rienced but little family affection, and affect to disbelieve in it, and to give themselves up to excitement and money-winning. But deep in the heart of each one is a yearning for the love of some good woman, who, to keep his love, should be also a wise one. Club life and the world may have set a hardening crust over the husband's heart, but this is most easily broken through in those early days of love and marriage by tenderness, sympathy, and tact. Do not, however, make the sympathy futile by over-talking—a kindly pressure of the husband's hand, a little forethought, waiting until he wishes to unburden his mind, without forcing confidence, will best establish your claim to be a worthy friend and help-meet. Men are apt to consider women more or less playthings—mistrusting their power of keeping a secret. If, puffed up with the importance of his confidence, the wife confides in her dearest friend only once in her married life, she has irrevocably confirmed the impression.

Life's happiness and home happiness depend, as I have said, however, so much on the husband and wife having one heart, that no woman should consider the few first years of wedded life lost in securing this. Heaps of patience are required: faith, hoping against hope. In the hurly-burly of the world, men have so much to try their tempers and worry them, it is not surprising they bring traces of life's struggle home with them, just as the best of them will now and then unwittingly hurt a woman's sensitive notions of refinement, and pain her by want of thought. If she sulks, or expects them to own they are wrong, she sins against home happiness. If they are worth anything, they will make it up to her in their own often rough, awkward way, but it will be sweet to her, nevertheless.

Il faut se faire valoir is a trite saying. A good wife is a priceless treasure; and the husband is none the worse that he is made to realise she is a lady, and to be treated as such. Surround your lord with tender care and thought for his comfort, but it does not become you to fetch and carry, and wait on him hand and foot, or he will come to expect it as a right, and think the less of you rather than the more, therefore. What holds good between husband and wife applies equally to parents and children, brothers and sisters, and all those who form parts of home life. A kindly thought for others is the best of discipline, but it may be carried too far, and do positive harm to the person for whom you deny yourself.

"From kind concern about his weal and woe,
Let each domestic duty seem to flow,
Endearing every common act of life."

Lord Lyttelton's is sound advice. A wife should throw herself into the life of her husband, and make his interest hers, which does not mean the hurling at him of all kinds of questions as to his day's doings as soon as he reaches home. He seeks there an atmosphere of repose, and a smiling welcome, domestic worries kept in the background.

Appearances should not be disregarded in home life; husbands attach much importance to what others

think of their wives and their homes. It is part of the science of home life to present a good face to the world; it argues bad housekeeping to be seen at a disadvantage.

The most difficult position for a woman is to make home life run smoothly where her husband is indifferent; but even the coldest and most unloving are to be won by cheerfulness, patience, and good temper. Temper; yes, a very admirable thing in men and women is an even temper. A want of self-restraint mars home life more than anything else. Neither children nor servants should be permitted to give way to bad humours; but it is difficult to enforce in others what you do not practise, and a little tact and consideration for others' weaknesses will save a great deal of misery in this way. Some men are always inclined to be cross in the early morning, when their minds are intent on the day's work, possibly with some unpalatable items in the day's programme before them. Forewarned is forearmed; the fact that it is so should be duly recognised, and nothing done to ruffle or annoy them. Children also should be studied, and not be allowed to be over-tired or to over-eat—a fruitful source of ill-temper. The body acts so much on the mind that many mental troubles may be avoided by a due regard to health. A mother should especially make the knowledge of food a study: its nutritive qualities, its freedom from adulteration, and its due proportions.

Some of the lagging, often wearisome, hours of girlhood might be very well spent in preparing to be worthy mistresses of the homes young women hope to rule; more men would be inclined then to venture on matrimony. Young people should be kept busy and employed: it makes them happy and contented; and a habit of grumbling about trifles, so prevalent in many houses, should be stopped at once on the part of both children and servants. Half the battle is to put a good face on things, and hope for the best. If you take a chaise and pair to meet troubles, they greet you half-way; but hope for the best, and the best often enough falls to your lot.

A persistent life of pleasure does not get girls husbands, and the over-strain on both mind and body is apt to produce peevish restlessness and ill-temper.

Girls, as they grow up, should be encouraged to take their part in the housekeeping; children are proud of being trusted, and once made helpful, are a great comfort to their elders.

Parents must make sacrifices for their children; they are a solemn trust, which entails much self-denial. Because the elders have ceased to care for society is no reason that their offspring should be deprived of a healthy share of it. Many a son would have sown but a scanty crop of wild oats had he found evenings at home commonly enjoyable. Music, games, any amusement, in fact, which brings an interest and enjoyment with it should be encouraged. Children should be brought up with a sense of duty and a due regard for the responsibilities of life, but their happiness should be cultivated as much as their accomplishments and mental powers. God has given

us a beautiful world, pure affections, health, youth, and a hundred other means of happiness. He means us to be happy, as well as to bear with fortitude the trials sent to us; and young people should early learn to recognise this. Between them and their parents there should be confidence and sympathy.

A waste of time should not be allowed in any household; the employment of spare minutes brings profit to all. Many a pair of cuffs, or a nice warm comforter for the poor, may be knitted at odd moments, and give pleasure to the suffering.

Where it is feasible, gardening is an art worth the notice of young people. Home is much brightened by the presence of flowers, and at a very small expense pretty blooms and foliage plants may be reared in-doors and out.

Young people and children are the sunshine of home life. It is good for young and old that they should spend much time together; but the children's own domain should be well cared for, and prepared with a special view to their wants and wishes. The nursery walls should be gay with pictures; the room airy, well ventilated, with bright paperings, and the carpet easily moved. As they grow older, provision should be made for them to have plenty of room to play unchecked. The boys' holidays are not always a time of unmixed pleasure; but they will be much less so if sons are allowed to wander all over the house, and be constantly reprimanded for making a noise and being in the way. Rabbits, pets of all kinds, are dear to the hearts of boys and girls. They humanise, and teach many an unspoken lesson.

Above all things, do not be *constantly* lecturing your children on the necessity for economy. It is

well that they should know what they may spend, and abjure waste; but it takes the life and spirit out of the young to be continually reminded that they cannot do the same as others on account of want of means. They may be taught to recognise the inability to spend, without feeling the self-denial and the sting. Cut your coat according to your cloth; do not try to make two coats out of what is only enough for one: in plain speaking, do not attempt too much, and live with £500 a year as if it were £1,000. Nothing is so fatal to peace of mind, or so wearing. If you will have more pleasure, more entertainments, and more fine clothes than you can afford, good-bye to home comfort; and you will find each year less happiness in the domestic circle, and more desire to seek it elsewhere. But the making of your happiness in your home will give you a constant source of content; begin quietly, and go on increasing your expenditure as your means increase. There is no actual pleasure in spending money, and the little there is palls quickly; but there is an infinite satisfaction in making the best of everything. "Life without industry is guilt; industry without art is brutality."

Home life is brimful of interests and capabilities, and all alike should realise that they ought to contribute their quota to the general good, and that a healthy interest in the topics of the day will make their conversation more acceptable. Charles Kingsley tells us, "the meanest actual want may be the means of calling into actual life the possible but sleeping embryo of the very noblest faculties." Every day proves the truth of this; we may make small things great by our mode of application.

ARDERN HOLT.

A BRAVE DEED.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "A LOST KEY," ETC. ETC.



I.

ADA CARFIT was decidedly the belle of Sharborough; and as that small but bustling Midland town had a reputation amongst its neighbours for lovely lasses, the distinction was a great one. In figure, the girl was somewhat small and slight; but in feature she had attained almost to perfection, both of outline and of tint. She had a lofty, well-proportioned brow, around which rippled rich waves of auburn hair. She had eyes of dreamy blue, cheeks just sufficiently tinged with delicate carmine to throw into relief the pearly whiteness of her teeth. The worst of it was, she knew that she was beautiful, and the knowledge spoiled her.

Ada was the only child of a wealthy Sharborough manufacturer, and added to her other charms that of being a very considerable heiress. Naturally she had of suitors not a few. But Ladies Clara Vere de Vere can exist in much lower circles than that of the

poet's faulty heroine, and Ada Carfit had caught the vice of a proud coquetry. She relished her power over susceptible hearts, and did her best to extend it. The breath of homage was as life to her. She led her wooers gently on till the toils were all about them, and then, of a sudden, they found an impalpable, impassable barrier erected, and Ada's smiles were for newer comers. It was an amusement, half the zest of being, to her; she never wasted an anxious thought on what it might mean to her victims. Men were strong, and must protect themselves.

The last to enter the charmed circle had been a youth from the North, who in appearance and manners was certainly at a disadvantage with those whom he quickly came to consider his rivals.

Roger Herlestone was two-and-twenty; but his thick-set, burly figure, and his abundance of beard, made him look years older. He was heavy in feature, uncertain in movement, and awkward in address. As the nephew of Mr. Marston, of Marston and Marsh, cotton-mill owners, his prospects were very good.