

stand all you would say. I won't press you any farther to-day. Only, you will promise me one thing, Christine, not to let any one else steal your love?"

"I think I may safely do that," said Christine, smiling. "There are not so many people, Sir Wilfred, who would want a plain, insignificant-looking girl like me."

"You are the dearest and best, the loveliest and cleverest girl in the whole world!" exclaimed the young baronet, breaking forth into a lover's rhapsody. "And you are mine, Christine! You *shall* be mine! The miracle you speak of will get itself worked. I have an idea how. Part of it, at all events, will be easy enough," he added reflectively. Then, after a pause, "Christine, I accept your decision. I will not ask you to *marry* me so long as your family is not properly provided for. But you will consent to be engaged to me now, will you not?—*conditionally*, you know?"

"Certainly I will not. There must be no question of any engagement between us," returned Christine

decisively. "We must both forget that this conversation has even taken place, or I shall be obliged to return home to-morrow."

"Ah, no! Pray do not say that!" he urged. "I will not tease you, Christine. But I solemnly vow that I will never love or marry any one but you; and I am convinced that all will come right in the end. You will, at any rate, promise this much—that I may ask you again when the objection your quixotically noble, but too proud, nature has raised, shall be removed?"

"I promise that *if* it should ever be removed, you may—may renew the subject," answered the girl, with a deep blush—"provided that until then you will make no further reference to it of the most distant description."

"Very well, I will promise," he said; "but I must seal the bargain: just once, Christine." And before she could prevent it, he had imprinted a kiss on her brow—the first kiss of pure affection.

END OF CHAPTER THE FORTY-EIGHTH.

## HOUSEHOLD GOVERNMENT.

(A HAPPY HOME WELL ORDERED.) BY ARDERN HOLT.



ORDER is Heaven's first law," and without a thorough system, and well-thought-out order, no household is really comfortable, or characterised by that certain sense of repose and fitness which is one of the greatest charms of daily life. It takes time to ascertain by experience what are the best laws to lay down in a household, when to relax them (for they must be relaxed sometimes), and when to remain firm and insist on their observance.

There is not the smallest doubt that household duties should be done at stated times.

We will imagine that the family assembles for prayers at a quarter to nine o'clock, summoned by a bell or gong—one or the other should always form a part of the Penates. Breakfast over, the cups, &c., should be washed up, the bed-rooms made tidy, the beds being well stripped and aired first. It is only by early rising that the sitting-rooms can be prepared in time. Besides the daily dusting, one room should go through a thorough cleansing each day; and the servants upon whom these duties fall should be furnished with a list of the work they are expected to do, and the sequence in which they are to do it. The plan of not fastening carpets down to the floor enables them to be shaken more frequently, and no sweeping should be allowed to be undertaken without the use of tea-leaves, or else the dust is scattered all over the room, and more harm than good is done.

So much of the desirable appearance of an establishment depends upon the personal neatness of servants, that in engaging them it is well they should thoroughly understand what they may and may not wear. It is possible, perhaps, in the country to dictate to them what to put on out of the house, but, unless they accompany some of the family, this cannot be done much in London, and many a mistress hardly recognises her nice trim maid if by chance she sees her out on a Sunday in ill-cut garments—a very weak imitation of her own. Within-doors, however, the servants should be enjoined to wear plain and simple dresses suited to their work, and neat caps and aprons. Just now many of the latter are made with bibs, and give an additional trimness. For bed-making, specially clean linen aprons should be kept; a rougher kind for hearth-cleaning.

In setting up the necessary household brooms, brushes, house-cloths, glass-cloths, dusters, &c., be sure to have enough, and give out a sufficient quantity of cloths weekly, and see that they are used only for the purposes intended. But unless servants have proper things for their use they cannot do their work satisfactorily. Housemaids' gloves, cloths for stretching in front of the fireplace while cleaning the hearth, prevent dirty finger-marks and unexpected black marks.

So much of the comfort of home depends upon servants, that a wise mistress will study them and value their co-operation. They are much what we make them. They are human beings, with the same

feelings as ourselves, differing only in associations ; they require patience, tact, and temper. Be honest in the characters you give of them ; half the domestic difficulties arise from a want of honesty among mistresses in the characters which they give each other of the servants they discharge. If the domestics are worth their salt, you will find them doubly to be trusted if you repose trust in them ; leave something to them, and interest them in their work. See that their meals are regularly served, and that they are undisturbed during the time set apart for them. Insist on order and punctuality—the work done at stated times laid down for it. As a class, they lack order and punctuality. They require tact and patience ; scolding is rarely effectual ; but it does not do to look over things. Feel for them and with them when you can, and you will see in their turn they will think and help you. A little judicious praise is a wonderful incentive.

A difficulty which occurs in all households is with regard to servants' friends. To forbid them ever to have a friend to see them would seem to be heedlessly unkind, and is a rule which I am inclined to think would be ignored when it suited them. Still, to admit any one into your kitchen is as likely as not to lead to robbery, for servants are not too particular how they make their acquaintances. My own plan now is—and I have tried many—to allow the servants to see such friends as they ask permission to admit, with the understanding that if they abuse the privilege, and have any one without asking, even this will be discontinued. I always invite their confidence, and if I find any servants of my household are respectably engaged to be married, I allow the young men to come occasionally to the house, and perhaps on Christmas Day, or some festival of the kind, invite them to dine in the kitchen, and I have never yet found my trust misplaced. I should not like my own daughters only to see their affianced husbands out of doors, and, though the circumstances in the two cases differ materially, as a woman I consider we ought to enter into the feelings of those other women who are serving under us.

Nothing should be allowed to be ordered into a house except by the mistress. Gentlewomen are something better than mere housekeepers, and they should carefully avoid giving their whole time to household cares, a state of things which argues a want of organisation. An hour a day, or at most two, ought to be sufficient, and very complicated domestic arrangements take up a great deal of time without any adequate result. My plan is a very simple one. As soon as breakfast is over, I go down into the kitchen and proceed at once to the larder, so that I have before me all the eatables in the house. I then proceed to write down in a book the names of the several meals for kitchen and dining-room, and below this a list of whatever has to be ordered, whether it be meat, fish, coals, flour, hearthstone, blacking, or even additional glass or china. On Monday, when the tradesmen's books come in, there is nothing to do in verifying them but to look to the daily order

book. Tradespeople soon learn that extra pounds of meat cannot be charged for unawares, and I never allow any joint to be brought into the house without a ticket of its weight, which the cook verifies. But here, again, so much depends upon your servants ; if by kindness and respect you can insure their co-operation and help, it will materially lessen your burdens.

Nobody is happy without an aim and object in life, and the home duties of a mistress should supply an ample field. She should take a broad and liberal view of things, and while "cutting her coat according to her cloth," and as much as possible shielding her husband from the constant demand for money, which few masculine tempers can stand, should refrain from the wearying petty economies which often enough are not worth the trouble and discomfort they entail, and before deciding on the necessity for them, count the cost. I have known ten valuable minutes wasted in untying a knot to save a piece of string not worth the sixtieth part of a farthing, to say nothing of the injury to nails and temper ; and the general peace of a household upset by a constant demand for matches, which were never forthcoming when wanted, because, to prevent waste of the same, a sufficient number of boxes, value less than a halfpenny apiece, were not given out ; this same mistress paying all the time a halfpenny a pound more for all the meat she ordered than she justly ought.

Many a pound instead of pence might be saved if women would use their intellects and study the provision market lists of prices, published from time to time in the papers, and bring their tradesmen to book for their exorbitant charges. Magazines and newspapers ought to be a mine of wealth to a good housekeeper. Genius, so the sages say, is only a great capability for taking trouble ; and, with a little trouble, a woman will learn by the advertisements and letterpress what new things are brought out, and what new theories and improvements are started, and she can hardly fail to get some useful wrinkles therefrom.

A great point in household government is not only to be careful about cleansing and punctuality, but to take care of things. A careful mistress will make carpets and furniture last twice as long as a neglectful one. The sun streaming into a room works sad havoc with carpets, curtains, and chintzes. You should know exactly at what hour in the day the sun shines into certain rooms, and see that at that time blinds are pulled down, and, moreover, if you wish your house to look well from the outside, all pulled down at equal lengths. We judge so much from appearances, and the outside aspect should not be ignored. Clean blinds, tidy curtains, the backs of looking-glasses well disguised, the doorstep cleaned daily by early morning, the knockers and door-handles bright, these speak well as a preliminary introduction to a well-ordered house.

I am no great advocate for keeping everything locked up ; at all events, until I find servants dishonest I trust them as much as I can. I do not, of

course, mean that I allow them to go to the stores, but when I find tea out of the tea-caddy goes, I think dismissal is the best course. I know exactly what my consumption is, and should detect at once if they did diminish. When a mistress does not feel sure on these points, she must keep her key-basket always in view.

Servants work all the better for occasional holidays, but it is an inconvenient plan to allow them one day a month, or any particular holidays at stated periods. They generally occur at most inconvenient times, and if you are compelled to keep them at home, it becomes a hardship. It works better to let them ask for holidays, and give them whenever you can.

There must in every house be a place for everything, and it should be some one's duty to see that a supply of string and wrapping paper, ink, pens, writing paper and envelopes are in their right place. Nothing that can possibly have any future use should be thrown away; relegate it to the box-room, where perhaps after seven years you will find a use for it. Let there be a shelf in your box-room; a variety of odds and ends will then be ready to hand, and more easily found.

Keep your periodicals, and bind them for family

reading. Servants enjoy them much. Or send them to some hospital, where they would be a blessing to the suffering. Books of this kind should never be allowed to lie about useless and get lost.

The management of fires during the winter, if arranged with some forethought, need not entail half the hard work on servants that it otherwise does. Small fires are no economy; pile them up twice or three times in the day, and they need only be touched very occasionally. The cinders should be put up, and the hearth dusted with a hearth-broom kept close at hand. They say, you know, that a clean-swept hearth and a good dinner are a wife's best friends, so it is an important matter. But there is a great art in laying a fire; it should be done lightly with dry wood and plenty of draught, and not over-much paper. Above all, see that your chimneys are swept at proper intervals; no good cooking can be done with the chimney choked with soot, and besides there is the danger of fire.

Gas differs so much in price in different parts of the country, that it is difficult to lay down any fixed rule; but if it be at all moderate, during the summer months at all events, a gas-stove will be found a great economy.

## HOW TO PAINT ON GLASS.

### SECOND PAPER.



DESIGN FOR HALL LAMP.

YOU come now to consider the style of decoration with coloured glass, the "mosaic enamel" method. This requires greater artistic knowledge than the other, not as far as tracing, &c., are concerned, but as regards the composition of the pieces. It must be executed with due respect to the true principles of art; its adaptability to the form of the

space to be filled, the position it will occupy, its accordance with surroundings, its harmony and general tone of colour, must all be taken into consideration if a good effect is to be secured. No easy task this to the novice. A few hints may be given, but only practice will enable any one to design well; even artists' opinions differ so vastly on the subject of decoration, that no rules can be laid down authoritatively. We must grant, without exception, that no one who desired to execute a painting in the best style would choose glass as the ground on which to work; but, on the other hand, glass is alone suitable when it is requisite to admit light. The only safe plan then is to ornament it with this object in view. Designs filled up with fine details, not to be seen at a short distance,

are obviously in bad taste; they confuse, and render the whole indistinct. "A pure correct style of drawing, united to simple vigorous colouring," says Fromberg, in his "Essay on the Art of Painting on Glass," "are the qualities which the painter on glass must before all things endeavour to attain." Fitness is as important here as in any other kind of decoration, and fitness for glass ornamentation means that true drawing, broad free treatment of the subject, and harmony of colouring shall receive the artist's first attention. The size of the window-space is first measured exactly, a sheet of drawing-paper is then cut rather larger, and on this the subject is sketched. The outlines must be as free from complication and crookedness as possible; two or more green leaves may occupy one portion of green glass, if by this means too minute pieces can be avoided. The tracing brown will sufficiently define their form. The glass which is to bear the representation of a flower will not be cut out so as to follow the curve of each petal, but being somewhat near the shape, they will be marked out in brown, only the tips of each will reach to within an eighth of an inch or so of the edge; the space between every petal will be filled in with brown. In this process we must look upon the brown as a ground colour for those parts round which the lead cannot be bent. Another sketch is now made from the first, giving merely the lead lines; this is termed a cut-drawing, and is used as a guide by the glass-