GOOD morning, Mrs. Bayle; I've just
snatched five minutes to run and see
you. I am so dreadfully busy and
overworked, I never seem to have a
moment for anything. How cool
and comfortable you look here! but
then, you don't know what it is to
be hurried and flurried, do you?
and Miss Norman dropped into a
low chair in the shady porch of an
old-fashioned farmhouse, and fanned
herself violently with some sheets
of MS. "It is such a comfort that
we have got the college furnished at last, and se-
cured such an admirable staff of professors. Does
not the prospectus read beautifully? but of course
you've had a copy sent you, and, equally of course,
you will send your girls. We were sadly in want of
some higher education for women in North Addin-
tagton. The ladies' schools were shamefully inefficient
and behind the times: indeed, there was no culture
possible. I don't think we can be too thankful
to the founders of the North Addington College: it
offers such wonderful advantages to our girls, opens
quite new possibilities for them; they can receive the
very highest education and take a good degree at
the smallest possible cost, and then there is the in-
estimable advantage of being able to keep your dear
girls at home."

"Yes, that certainly is a privilege, and I mean to
avail myself of it," Mrs. Bayle said quietly, when Miss
Norman stopped, literally for want of breath. "Hester
and Kitty are very useful to me, and I really do not
see how I could spare them, even to listen to the
edifying lectures of Professor Nowall on pre-historic
man, or Herr Addler on Scandinavian folk-lore."

"But, my dear Mrs. Bayle," Miss Norman gasped,"you do not mean to say you are not going to send
your dear girls to any of the lectures? As a mother,
as a woman, you surely would not stand in the way of
their advancement? You know perfectly well that
what was considered a good education a few years
ago, is now regarded as crass ignorance. Science,
art, and literature have all advanced with giant strides,
and we women must keep up with the times; that is,
such of us as have to earn our bread; and indeed in
these bad times we none of us know what we may
come to. Hester and Kitty are both bright, intelligent
girls; think twice, dear Mrs. Bayle, before you deprive
them of the opportunity of cultivating their minds—
of acquiring knowledge that may be useful to them
all their lives. I quite counted on your girls. I had
great hopes of Hester," Miss Norman said plain-
tively.

"And Hester will not disappoint you," Mrs. Bayle
replied, with a proud smile. "She is a good girl, and
in every way worthy of the interest you take in her;
but to tell you the truth, Miss Norman, I do not think
much of this college scheme."

"Oh, Mrs. Bayle! and I have been appointed Pro-
essor of Geology. I thought you would be so pleased."

"And so I am, and offer you my most sincere con-
gratulations. I am sure you will do your duty faith-
fully and well. But let me explain myself fully, dear
Miss Norman, so that we may rightly understand each
other. When this prospectus came a few days ago,
my husband and I talked the matter over. We have,
as you know, a large family, five boys and two girls,
Hester and Kitty being the eldest, and being girls,
had the first claim on us for education, and according
to our means we did our best for them. We kept
them at the best boarding-school in the county for
five years, and they returned six months ago, finished.
They sing a little, play a little, draw a little, talk a
little French and German, and write prettily; they
can enter and leave a room with propriety. I assume
they understand 'the use of the globes,' and possibly
have some smattering of chemistry and botany, and
other natural sciences. Judging by all the prizes they
took, they must have learned everything the very
select academy could teach."

"Yes, dear Mrs. Bayle; but think how very super-
ficial the education is compared with that of the
college," Miss Norman interrupted. "We have such
clever professors, and such a variety of subjects:
pure and mixed mathematics, ancient and modern
languages, natural sciences——"

"Yes, I see by the prospectus that you undertake to
teach a great deal, but how much of it would be of
use to my girls, Miss Norman? We are plain farmers,
and we live quietly and simply, and to live at all in
these trying times we have all to put a shoulder to
the wheel and work. When the girls came home and
exhibited their prizes and accomplishments, we were
honestly proud of them."

"Now, girls," their father said, "you have shown us
all the ornamental part of your education; let us
hear a little about the useful. Which of you can bake
the best batch of bread, or make the best tub of
butter, wash and iron, make a gown and mend it who
can best preserve, and pickle, and brew, and milk,
and feed the calves and chicks—eh, lassies? which of
you is cleverest, and going to be the greatest help to
mother? she's been all for many a year, and it's time
she had a rest. You are both fairly well educated,
and I hope, like sensible girls, that you will go on
improving your minds, and not forget your book-
learning; but I want you to be useful too, and help-
ful to your mother. I want you both to be good
housekeepers, so that you may know how to manage
your own homes some day."

"Both girls coloured and looked confused; but
Hester spoke up bravely: 'We are very ignorant,
father; we know nothing of housekeeping, cooking,
or plain needlework, but we are both willing to learn and anxious to be of use. If mother will only teach us, I'll take the dairy and poultry, if Kitty will take the baking and cooking; and I am sure we can soon learn, at least to help.

"The very next day they began, and since then they have gone on steadily learning. Now Hester takes entire charge of the dairy, and enables me to do with one maid instead of two; Kitty is a most excellent housekeeper: I have leisure to do my own needlework instead of paying exorbitant prices for it. We make all our own dresses with the help of a sewing-machine, and yet we are never too busy to have a little music in the evening, and no day passes that the girls can't find time to read for an hour. They are happy, contented, helpful, and a real comfort to me. Do you think, Miss Norman, that a collegiate course would make them any more so?"

"Possibly not, Mrs. Bayle, if you mean them to go on baking bread and making butter all their lives," Miss Norman said stilly; "but suppose they had to earn their bread, as so many women have to do nowadays, they could only go as domestic servants."

"It is much more difficult to find a good domestic servant than a good governess," Mrs. Bayle said pleasantly. "At the best of times the demand for good governesses is very limited, and judging by the advertisements in six papers that we have carefully gone over, the supply is greatly in excess of the demand. Highly educated and accomplished women remain out of situations for months and months, and then accept lower salaries than the cook or ladies'-maid, have to work harder, and have far less comfort and independence. There must be governesses, of course, and it is most desirable that they should be highly trained and efficient. Colleges in this age of culture are no doubt a necessity, but for my own part, I think the higher, or rather the highest education of women consists in a thorough practical knowledge of all domestic duties: a knowledge that makes a woman entirely independent of circumstances, or rather, mistress of them. A woman who cannot cook a dinner as well as eat it, make a dress as well as wear it, a woman who cannot turn her hand to anything when occasion requires, who is not able to train her servants practically, and teach them the value of economy of time as well as money, is not, in my opinion, educated at all, though she may be very much cultivated, and even have been to college and taken a degree. Look at Hester in her dairy, now—would she look any fresher, healthier, happier in a cap and gown, or be more usefully employed in poring over conic sections or reading questionable Greek plays? Take my word for it, Miss Norman, girls would be all the better, and homes all the happier, if more time and attention were given to domestic affairs, and if every woman knew how to be her own cook, housekeeper, and dressmaker: such things are far more easily learned than dead languages or mathematics, and are of infinitely more use to a woman in going through life."

Miss Norman rose, and gathering together her prospectuses, examination papers, MSS., and other impedimenta, said "good morning," mentally resolving never again to call at One Elm Farm, as Mrs. Bayle’s ideas on "higher education" were sadly at variance with those of the Professor of Geology at the North Addington College for the Higher Education of Women.

H. B. D.