

upon me. Springing out of the boat, I drew a pistol to resist him. Wolf was also on the alert, and rushing forward with a bound, and barking furiously, he gave pursuit to one who now appeared, and who, making the best use he could of his legs, was hurrying to a clump of trees in the interior of the ravine. Seeing that my assailant was more frightened of us than even I was of him, and desiring to protect Wolf, in case he should be turned upon, I hastened after him, coming up to them just as the agile creature, having gained a tree of some altitude, commenced climbing it so dexterously that I stayed my course to watch him, vaulting from bough to bough. He at last turned to regard his pursuers, and I then saw he was nothing more formidable than a mischievous and grinning monkey, who showed his animosity by flinging down upon us all the branches he could break off, whilst he returned Wolf's furious barking with the most discordant cries and frightful grimaces. I was not sorry to find my supposed barbarous foe was a more harmless one than I had feared, and some of the things that had seemed strange were now explained. The timidity of the cow when left alone in this place, the spilling of the contents of her pannier, were to be attributed no doubt to the mischievous gambols of some monkey.

I called Wolf, not wishing either to tease or infuriate the hideous fellow, for I knew he could do harm if incited to it. So long as he and his comrades were contented to confine themselves to mere pranks they should remain unmolested by us.

Returning therefore to the boat, I commenced the repairs. Having the requisite tools, I sawed off a plank of sufficient length to cover the hole, nailing it firmly on, and afterwards caulking it to the best of my power with torn sail-cloth. Again harnessing the cow, and applying the rollers, I was able to drag my little vessel to the water's edge, where I sat down to await the returning tide to float her off.

Having discovered a second oar amongst the wreckage, I was fully prepared, and when the favourable moment arrived, seated myself in readiness in the boat. It was soon afloat, and I was glad to find that my repairs were effective. A sail would have been a great help; this, however, could be added on reaching Cliff Nest, where the greater part of my stores yet remained. I now turned in the opposite direction, the sea being calm enough to admit of my exploring the coast. Half-an-hour's row brought me in face of the rocks where I supposed the cave might end. One or two of these, of enormous size, hid the base of the cliff from me, but rounding these I observed that the rock was water-worn in all directions, and that the approach in rough weather must be impossible, as the waves would rush in and out of those caverns with tremendous fury. Perceiving a fissure in the cliff, which had split it from the summit to the base, I directed my boat towards it; it proved to be a sinuous passage ending in a little inland sea of exquisite beauty, and most

probably of uniform calmness, even during the severest storms, as it was completely landlocked with towering cliffs on all sides. Had it been accessible to the land, here would have been a splendid harbour. I made the circuit of the pretty lake before leaving it, and observed on one side a cavity in the rocks so low that I could not enter it sitting upright; but the spirit of adventure was upon me, as well as the hope of penetrating to Cave Castle, so lying down in my boat, I pulled myself in by the overhanging rock, and in a few minutes was in total darkness. I was now able to sit up, so lighting the candle which I had brought with me, I began to look around. Column after column arose before me, and rowing further amongst the wondrous pillars, I recognised the subterranean chapel of Cave Castle! What more could I desire? Two entrances to my home, both equally hidden, and a safe harbour for my boat, where no one would ever find it, for who would dream of entering such a hole as that?

By this entrance I resolved to bring in all my stores, piling them up on the gravelly beach, until I could find room for them above; in the meantime I must rest, and leave for the morrow the continuation of my labours.

(To be continued.)

VARIETIES.

UNPROFITABLE DAUGHTERS.—There are four good mothers that have four bad daughters: truth hath hatred, prosperity hath pride, security hath peril, and familiarity hath contempt.

HANDSOME AND GOOD.—A handsome woman pleases the eye, a good woman pleases the heart: the one is a jewel, the other a treasure.

REASONABLE BEINGS.—If we do not reason we are bigots; if we cannot we are fools; if we dare not we are slaves.—*Dr. Black.*

IN FULL ACTIVITY.—"I have lived," Dr. Adam Clark once said, "to know that the great secret of human happiness is this: Never suffer your energies to stagnate. The old adage of 'too many irons in the fire' conveys an abominable falsehood. You cannot have too many—poker, tongs, and all: keep them all going."

AN ALPHABETICAL NOTE.—All the letters of the alphabet are contained in the 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra: "And I, even I, Artaxerxes, the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily."

HAPPY PEOPLE.—It is a good thing and a wise to be able, with a few books and a little needlework, to give any room, however strange and desolate, a look of home; to be able to pursue our usual employments anywhere at a moment's notice; and a blessing beyond wealth, beyond beauty, or even beyond talent, is that cheerful temperament which can rejoice in the sunshine, yet be merry in the shade, which can delight in the birds' singing in spring, yet solace itself with the heart's own music when winter is at hand.

A NICE GIRL.—A person being asked why he had given his daughter in marriage to a man with whom he was at enmity, answered, "I did it out of pure revenge."

THE FAIRY OF THE FAMILY.

By DORA DE BLAQUIERE.

THE LINEN OF THE HOUSE.



N these days we do not appear to take nearly so much care and thought for the linen of the household as was formerly the case, when every mistress dwelt more at home, was more amongst her maidens, and was more dependent on her own and their labour for its supply. Sometimes in some quiet English home we yet hear of linen "spun by my great grandmother;" and when you think of it you know that a hundred years or more ago all ladies had their spinning wheels and made much of their own linen, which, judging by what remains of it, is well-nigh imperishable in its honest and unbleached texture. The linen of the present day, highly stiffened and bleached to a snowy whiteness, has not a quarter of the wear in it, and unless well looked after, the laundress and her chemicals will make great havoc, and the servants not much less either, by careless usage when soiled.

The durability of good linen is evidenced by its existence on mummies, and a celebrated German writer, Seetzen, says that he found several napkins inside the bandages of a mummy which he unwrapped, and that he used them, and had them washed and done up several times, thus making use of linen which had been woven more than 1,700 years before.

The household linen divides itself naturally into four heads, viz., of the table, bedrooms, pantry, housemaids, and kitchen. To this, perhaps, many housekeepers would naturally add blankets, curtains, bed fittings, furniture, and stable linen.

Beginning with table linen, the first item of knowledge generally gleaned by the inexperienced purchaser is, that linen damask for table use is divided into two qualities, the single and the double, and that the price of each article respectively depends on its quality, on its size, and its pattern. Double damask is much firmer and stouter than the single, and presents a much handsomer appearance, as it throws up the design better, and its strength for wear, as also its price, are nearly double that of single damask. The design of the patterns selected may form a large item in regulating the expenditure, as amongst linen manufacturers it is not unusual to pay as much as £50 for a design from some well-known artist. Spots and sprigs are always cheaper than the patterns which have a centre, or a group, and a border round the cloth; and those who wish to procure comparatively cheap table linen never make a selection amongst the new designs of the year, but content themselves either with the inexpensive spots and sprigs, or the patterns of past seasons. Sometimes if these have not proved successful, they are disposed of on very reasonable terms. Good table linen at present is very generally ornamented with the crest, coat of arms, or monogram of its owner, woven into the material to order.

The table-cloths and table-napkins generally

match in design, and many people prefer to keep to one pattern only in purchasing all their table linen. Two table-cloths to one dozen table napkins is the usual proportion observed in purchasing for a family of from four to six persons; two qualities of linen damask being chosen, one for dinner cloths and the more reasonable in price for breakfast use. Many people purchase half-bleached linen for common use in the nursery, at the family breakfast and luncheon, and always for the kitchen. This kind of linen is moderate in price, and improves with each washing; it is usually bought by the yard. Kitchen table-cloths of huckaback may also be obtained. Large table napkins are now used, the medium size being 26in. by 30in. In every house there should be a table-cloth press, which not only keeps the table-cloths smooth, but saves their being washed so frequently as they would otherwise be if they were allowed to become creased and soiled. Two table-cloths should always be in use at once, one for breakfast and another for dinner, and at the end of the week, if economy be an object, the dinner cloth may be taken for use at breakfast, and a clean one be taken out for dinner. The dinner cloth should always be protected from gravy spots at each end of the table by spreading a napkin cornerwise to the centre in front of the carver and under the dishes. If the cloth becomes spotted, the clean napkin will equally answer for concealing the disfigurement, and thus at both breakfast and dinner, with the aid of a few extra clean napkins, you may spare your damask table-cloths, and bear the vexation of seeing the splashes made by a careless carver with patience and equanimity. At the same time, we should advise you to have the whole of the gravy served in a sauce tureen. In a certain house of my acquaintance the mistress told me she never was able to keep a cloth clean for a week until she began to charge her husband twopence for the washing of each table-cloth that he soiled by his careless carving of the different dishes.

Napkin rings are, of course, a great saving in the use of napkins, but here great care should be taken that they be not allowed to become too much soiled, as few things present a more disgusting appearance. The dinner napkins may be put into the press with the table-cloths when they are not too much soiled, and then they may be folded by the parlourmaid in some fancy style, in case a visitor should come in to dinner, and that it seems desirable to save the expense of a complete set of clean ones.

Tray cloths are usually of one size, 34in. by 43in.; long cloths for the side-board or the side-table are usually bought by the yard, and both of them should match the table-cloth in pattern, if possible to procure them alike.

A dozen at least of small-sized and cheaper table napkins are always needed for putting under fish, for the handing of dishes when hot, and the silver basket and the knife-box must have their clean napkins folded neatly inside them day by day, and in some houses a folded napkin is used both for the bread, and to enclose new potatoes, fresh boiled eggs, and hot chestnuts. Fringed d'oyles form another requisite, and as they are constantly in use for laying under the cheese, the pie-dishes, and inside the silver dishes on some occasions, at least two dozen are needed, one dozen being of a smaller size than the other. Afternoon tea also has made an addition to our stock of needful house linen, for instead of an embroidered and fanciful table-cloth, I find many ladies have adopted one with a coloured border or a plain white one with fringed sides. When a large silver salver is used, a white fringed d'oyle should be placed under the cups and saucers to save the distressing noise of scratching which is sure to be heard when the surface is left uncovered.

And here, although it does not quite belong to the subject, I must mention the fact that there should always be a pantry bag provided for the soiled table linen and pantry cloths; and no article should ever be allowed to become too much soiled, nor any towels be permitted to be smuggled out of sight.

One great secret of keeping table linen in good order is to adopt a careful method of arranging it in the linen-press or cupboard set apart for it, so that every article may be evenly worn and none have an undue share of washing. In order to secure this effectually, each article, after having been washed, should be placed at the bottom of the pile of a similar description of article, so that, when taking them out, you may remember to take from the top only. Each kind should be placed in a pile together, and as far as possible the arrangement of the press should be a permanent one, many orderly people pasting a list inside each shelf, with the contents plainly written upon it. As a rule, there should always be a "linen-book" and a lead pencil suspended to a nail inside the door of the cupboard, the former containing a full list, descriptive of the linen, its quantity and quality. In this book there should be an entry of any article lost, and how the number was made up.

When the income of the householder is small, it is wise to lay aside a small sum weekly for the purchase of linen. A new pair of sheets, a new table-cloth, or half a dozen table napkins within every six months would not be found very costly, and would represent a large amount of comfort and luxury in the house, and increase your capability of keeping all round so neat and dainty that you need never be afraid to receive a visitor.

Before being sent to the wash, all the table linen should be examined with a critical eye, each small deficiency rectified, their places strengthened, and stains of all kinds attended to. The worn places in damask should be darned with linen-floss, or, if attainable, what is called "Moravian cotton," an extremely fine untwisted cotton, very soft in texture. If the thin parts are noticed in time, there will be little fear of large holes making our table linen unsightly.

The first instruction to be given to the parlour-maid, as a rule, is never to shake out the table-cloth over the table. This very ugly and uncomfortable practice seems to be universal, not only amongst the maids, but amongst carefully-trained men-servants; and it is quite destructive of the smoothness and good appearance of the cloth. Table-cloths should be unfolded while lying upon the table, and the half of the cloth carefully laid on the exactly corresponding half of the table, the centre of the cloth placed lengthwise and lying along the middle of the table in a straight line. The doubled-over half of the cloth is thus smoothly spread out without the exertion of violent shaking, or resulting in the tumbled and untidy appearance which it then presents.

From the linen of the dining-room we pass on to that of the sleeping-rooms. Here we find both linen and cotton in use for sheets and pillow cases. To those who are used to the former, the feeling of cotton is quite unbearable, and even in winter they prefer the cool smoothness of linen sheets to the warmer qualities of cotton, the roughness of which is apt to irritate delicate skins. On the other hand, calico sheets are a great deal more comfortable to those who suffer from rheumatism, and are less likely to increase such tendencies than linen. Martyrs to rheumatism have actually been cured, it is said, by constantly sleeping in blankets; but when the skin is too irritable to admit of this, soft unbleached cotton sheets will be found a good substitute, the unbleached cloth being found warmer than that which is bleached.

And now a few words must be said on the choice and the respective qualities of both linen and cotton.

Linen is frequently adulterated by being mixed with cotton—a fraud not easy of detection when the fabric is new; but, after being washed, it will be found that a cloth of a mixed material will never present the smooth glossy appearance of linen. Cheap linens are sometimes made up of jute and hemp, and may be generally known by their harshness and stiffness of texture.

Cotton as used in the household is divided into the long and the short staple. Cloth made of the former wears better than when made of the latter, because in the spinning the joins are not so frequent occurrence, and the cotton itself is softer and more pliable. The defects in poor calico are usually hidden by the amount of dressing it contains. These defects are uneven projections in the calico, caused by spinning short-staple cotton of poor quality; and when made in this manner it will not wear, because the cotton is unevenly spun. In all cotton cloths some defects of the kind are visible, and the purchaser must choose that which has the least of them, which will naturally be found amongst the most expensive. Much the same observations may be made about linen as calico; the threads of both should be round and even, the warp and woof being alike, not one thick and one thin thread, and, as a rule, both fabrics should be altogether free from coarse threads, and the edges or selvages should be straight, even, and not too thick. In choosing linen and cotton, the purchaser should rub one end of either cloth until soft, so as to get the dressing out, and judge of the real textures.

Both linen and cotton sheeting is sold in widths suitable for beds of different sizes. A full-sized sheet for a large double bed should be three yards and a quarter long, by two and a half yards wide. The old rule was (and a very good one too) that whatever the width of a sheet, it should always be three-quarters of a yard longer than it is wide. In the present day we are constantly annoyed by finding that sheets have been made too short, and we have lately heard it said that two yards and a half is quite a sufficient length for a six foot bed. It is not difficult to see that a quarter of a yard at the head and feet would not be enough for comfort.

The borders of all sheets should be over-sewn, not hemmed, and these hems should never be less than one inch wide. As a rule, it is well to mark them in pairs, with the date supplemented to the name or initials. Servants' sheets, and those for children and school-boys, are usually made of the unbleached cotton. The oftener this is washed the whiter it becomes, and its wear is excellent. Bolton or workhouse sheeting is also much used, and this same material makes very effective curtains for bedrooms. It may be trimmed with bands of Turkey-red twill, stitched on flatly by the machine.

Bolsters are not so much used as formerly, and in many families have never been employed at all. Where they are in use they should have properly-made covers, like those for the pillows. I cannot sufficiently reprobate the untidy and unthrifty practice of rolling the bolster in the sheet. Of course the covering comes off, and the bolster ticking is soon soiled and black.

There are two methods of making bolster cases; one kind of case is (as I have said) exactly like a pillow-case, only much longer; and the other is made by setting one end into a circular piece of linen four inches or so in diameter, and by drawing up the opposite end with a string of tape.

In England the pillows are generally longer than they are wide—27in. by 18in.; but on the Continent they are always square, and

the covers are generally very handsomely embroidered, and trimmed with lace, the pillow underneath being often covered with coloured silk, which shows through the open meshes of the embroidery or lace. We have advanced so far on this road in this country that we put frills round the edges of our pillows, and also on the top of the upper sheets, where they turn over on the bed. The Americans, who turn down their beds in the morning, have invented what they call "pillow shams" and "sheet shams" for the better covering of the pillows and the turnover of the sheet. These are merely highly ornamental covers of linen and cotton, much frilled and embroidered, to lay over during the day, and so hide the half-soiled articles beneath. But the idea of any kind of "shams" is not one which commends itself to English minds, and we prefer the neatness of our covered up pillows, which are not visible until the beds be prepared for the night.

Pillow-cases are nearly always made of linen, for, however coarse it may be, this cloth wears far better than cotton, and keeps clean much longer. Pillow-case linen is one yard wide, and one yard is usually allowed for a case. The two raw edges form the side, and are sown up in a felled seam, the bottom of the pillow-case being oversewn, and at the top there should be a deep hem of at least an inch in width. This end must be closed with strings, or buttons and buttonholes, the use of four small buttons and four neatly-made holes being preferable to that of strings. When frills are added, the patent kind will do for ordinary use, and will be found to wear well.

There seems no end to the variety of materials sold for towels, and everyone may choose according to their length of purse and their individual fancy. Their proper length is from 36 to 40 inches, and at present towels are more generally fringed than hemmed. For ordinary family use huckaback towels are preferable to other kinds, as they dry the skin well and do not become too wet. The best sorts are made with damask borders. Spare bedroom or guest chamber towels should be made of the finest diaper or damask. The allowance of

towels in the household should comprise from six to twelve towels for each washstand in the house, according to the circumstance of the room being a double or a single bedded one. Six towels in the week for a double-bedded room would be divided into two of fine diaper for the face and hands, two of huckaback, and two Turkish rough towels for the bath. In many houses bath sheets are always used, which are far pleasanter and more healthful, as on getting out of the bath one is wholly enveloped in the warm sheet, and the process of drying is conducted with great rapidity and comfort. The warm sheet should be brought up rolled together by the maid with the hot water. Bath sheets may be of Turkish towelling, of fine huckaback, or of coarse twilled cotton sheeting; they should measure three yards and a half each way.

It is well to purchase the towelling used by the servants and children with a distinctive border or pattern, a red line or coloured stripe. The old-fashioned plan was to allow three sheets, or two pair, to each bed in the house, and two pillow-cases to each pillow. The upper sheet was changed every fortnight, giving a clean upper sheet, and employing the upper sheet to replace the lower one. This plan ensures regularity of wear throughout the house.

I may here give a list of household linen for the guidance of those possessing only moderate incomes, where but two servants are kept, and the household consists of from four to five people. Of linen or cotton sheets, six pairs; children's and servants' sheets, six pairs; pillow-cases—Four best, twelve ordinary, and 12 servants' and children's. Towels—Twelve rough huckaback, 12 finer, 12 with damask borderings, 12 servants'; bath sheets, 4. Table cloths—Six ordinary, 2 best, 4 servants'. Of table napkins, 12 dinner, and 12 ordinary (smaller size).

The next department of the household linen is that of the pantry, the housemaids, and the kitchen. The usual numbers in reference to these are as follow:—Of glass cloths, 12; tea cloths, 12; dusters, 12; round towels, 4; kitchen cloths, 18; pudding cloths, 4; and chamber cloths, 6. If the cook have the care

of the dining-room, and the floors varnished and requiring to be dusted, a dozen dusters must be provided for her use, which should be of a different pattern from those used by the housemaid. The chamber cloths should be of a distinctive pattern also; some brightly striped cheap towels are usually selected. For pudding cloths I have for some years used coarse unbleached sheeting. Many people make dusters from old linings, chintz, or old cotton dresses, and, where economy is needful, such materials must be made to answer. But they wear badly, and are not usually too well taken care of by the servants. Every mistress who values her cloths will provide kettle-holders for the kitchen, and also some very coarse oven cloths.

Of whatever description of cloth the dusters may be made, however, they and all the other kitchen towels should be carefully hemmed and marked, and a certain quantity given out every week, the soiled cloths being counted before being taken back. This last-named household law should not, on any account, be ever broken, as untrustworthy servants are too apt to make away with very many soiled towels and dusters rather than produce them to be found fault with, or have to wash them.

I have made no mention of counterpanes, as their use is now such a matter of question that each house has passed its own verdict upon them. White "marcella" used to be the correct kind, and where they are still used, one is required for each bed, and perhaps an extra one laid by for use, while a soiled one is being washed. It is a wise thing to take the clean counterpane off the bed each night, and fold it up carefully when the bed is turned down. It should then be replaced by the down quilt or *duvet*. In many houses the covers laid on the bed during the daytime are made of the same chintz or cretonne as the curtains of the bed; and in London this is an economical plan, though not, I think, a pretty one. Ladies in the country often use white muslin, lined with coloured sateen, to put over the beds instead of a thick counterpane or quilt. The sides of these should have a deep muslin frill all round them.



S N O W .

How purely white is the glittering snow,
As it sparkles fair on every tree!
O'er nature's funeral pall it throws
A mantle rich and rare to see.

The Indian girl, when snow she saw
(Sweet thoughts to childhood's mind oft spring),
Regarded it with solemn awe
As feathers from an angel's wing.

It is for us a warning chime,
Marking the passing of a year;
A link from off the chain of time,
Bringing eternity more near.

On that great day when God shall stand
As sovereign Judge on all below,
May we be of that chosen band,
The pure and spotless as the snow!