

capricious mode of rule, alternate threat and flattery.

"I'm glad you think I understand something," he answered meekly, and followed her into the conservatory.

But though they ceased to quarrel, the jarring note had been struck, and it vibrated yet. Even the peaceful atmosphere about the flowers, even Irene's humbler attitude of pupil instead of monitor, did not operate effectually to lull and cool the noise and heat of war! And presently Trevanion went away.

When he was gone, Irene returned to the room where less than an hour ago he had been sitting by her side. She flung herself half wearily, half petulantly into a chair, and with her hands idly folded on her lap, fell into a reverie. A jesting estimate of the capacity for work of those soft, white hands, and a passing allusion to the value of the rings they wore, had started the recent argument between herself and Harry Trevanion. She smiled to think how very far afieid they both had wandered in the process of discussion; how quickly they had drifted from a trivial, speculative possibility to a burning social problem—smiled sadly, shamefacedly, regretfully. Was it well or wise to let slight comments carry the weight of heavy interpretations? Had she gathered in the rich experience of a full and varied life only to let herself be drawn (as any mere girl might be) to set the strain of a world-compelling seriousness on a passing observation lightly spoken?

Yet, in spite of the far cry it had been from the point of departure to the divergence of the ways, Irene with her hands and their sparkling rings before her, unconsciously reviewed the conversation from point to point. And the

outcome of this review was not at first regret, although she admitted that while she had not said more than she felt, she might perhaps have said it better; it was rather a poignant and passionate desire for the retrieval of Trevanion. The position he had taken up for his outlook upon life was false and foolish. She was older than he by a few actual years, considerably older by education and trial. She had travelled much, read extensively, conversed in more languages than one with cultivated and distinguished men; she had spent money, assisted schemes, worked patiently and unostentatiously with hands and head to lighten the lives of those whose lines had not been laid in pleasant places. She was withal a woman who knew the mingled meanings of emotion, enthusiasm, enjoyment and suffering. Yes, she had a right to her views and to insistence upon them, since they were founded not upon theory but upon personal experience and practical knowledge.

Irene, however, made herself no illusion on one point. A passionate desire for the retrieval of an individual postulates love, and she knew it. Her longing to influence Trevanion was not primarily the outcome of any philanthropic anxiety for the guidance of the thousands who might be swayed for good or for evil by the power of his eloquence. She wanted him to see as she saw, and to feel as she felt, just because it was he and she concerned in the dispute; just because, although their heads might sometimes be at odds, their hearts were certainly at one.

And she made no doubt she should win him over to her mind. For he had flung the whole of his admiration at her feet, and in time he would fling his crude theories and his fervid

judgments after it. Only she must have patience, and she was sorry she had waved the flag of her sovereignty too vauntingly above his head.

Two days went by and he did not come to see her. There was nothing unusual in this, however, for Trevanion was a busy man and had to bow to the claims of a profession. Nevertheless, Irene missed him; she wanted his presence again in that room, by her fireside, among the scented hyacinths and azaleas. She would not admit, even to herself, that they had quarrelled, but she did feel there was something she had to set straight with him. On the third day came a note from Trevanion.

"I am going away," he wrote, "on a walking tour that may last some weeks. I have much to think over and some problems to work out by myself, so I go alone and leave no address in order that no letters may follow me. But when I return you will let me come and talk to you again, I know, and tell you the result of my lonely thoughts."

Irene had received many letters from him, and she had not kept them all; but she put this note away under lock and key with an undefinable uneasiness at her heart. She saw by the postmark that he had started already.

"Lonely thoughts on a walking tour," she said to herself, "what good will they do him? What solution will they bring to his problems? I wish he would theorise less and be a little more practical! And, oh dear! I wish he wasn't going to be away all these weeks; and I don't even know where he's gone! He might at least have left his address with me!"

(To be continued.)

## LINEN: ITS SEWING AND WASHING.



ONE of the many things which puzzle a maid when she is about to set up an establishment of her own is her linen. What quantity she will require for her person and her house, how she shall have it washed, and where she shall store it.

A young friend of mine who was going to be married, came to me one day, and said, "How much do you think my outfit will cost?"

"A good *trousseau* and your house-linen will cost about a hundred pounds. Of course you can get a cheaper one, or you can pay as much more as you wish, but I have a list by me of a bride's outfit, and it cost just a little over a hundred. A dozen each of white underclothing is the usual quantity, although some people think eight articles are sufficient. You will need more of some things than of others; for instance, you will require quite three dozen pocket-handkerchiefs, whereas half-a-dozen white petticoats will be sufficient, three flannel petticoats, two coloured ones, silk petticoats at your discretion, a dozen pairs of stockings, including three silk pairs. I should advise you to buy the materials for your underlinen, fine long-cloth, torchon lace, and insertion or embroidery, or Cash's Coventry frilling is very nice for underlinen and house-linen. If you wish for finer wear for evening you can buy cambric and Valenciennes lace, or China silk. You can make your things very prettily with tucks and insertion and lace, with the aid of good patterns and a sewing-woman, who can come in by the day, then you can help her to make them."

"But I don't know how to do plain sewing."

"Then here is your opportunity, the sooner you learn the better, and a good needlewoman will teach you a great deal. I don't see how a married woman can get on unless she knows how to sew. It is very expensive to put all the sewing out, besides, if you buy your materials and have them made up at home, you will get better value for your money. What is it that you don't know in plain sewing? Hemming and seaming are easy enough, the principal thing required is neatness, to turn the hems down neatly, and to avoid puckering the seams; but if you put the needle in straight towards your chest, not slanting at all, and hold the seam straight between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand it will not pucker. Then gathers are set in by dividing the material to be gathered into quarters, placing a pin at each quarter, and you divide the band into which it is to be gathered also into quarters, then threading your needle with double cotton, you run it through the material, taking half as much on your needle as you leave in between. Do each quarter separately, draw the cotton up and fasten it round a pin, and stroke the gathers with a darning-needle, picking out each gather and pushing it under the left thumb (the forefinger holding it tightly at the back), stroke down the material. To put the gathers in, you must take each gather up separately, and sew it in.

"To join calico you turn one side down, then run the two pieces together, and hem.

"To make a buttonhole you must cut it quite straight by the thread, run it once round, then work from left to right, placing the cotton over the needle before you draw it out each time. Point the needle straight

away from you when you have drawn it out, and keep the stitches quite level.

"For making tucks, you must have a piece of cardboard, marked at the distance you wish the tuck to be from the hem, also with the depth of the tuck marked on it, and place pins to keep the marks in the material.

"Hem-stitching is very pretty for sheets, tray-cloths, etc. Turn the hem down the required depth, draw six threads out of the linen just below the hem and straight across. Then hold the hem towards you, and pass the needle through it, then from left to right you take four or six of the drawn threads on the needle, and pass it through the hem again.

"To sew flannel you run it up, and herring-bone it. To herring-bone you commence at the bottom, and take about two threads on your needle on the left side of the join, then cross over to the right side and take two threads up a little farther on, keeping the same distance between the stitches. A flannel-petticoat can either be gored or pleated into a deep band, placing all the pleats at the back. The bottom can be scalloped, and worked with silk button-hole-stitch and a dot in each scallop, or have a deep hem and a tuck, feather-stitched, and trim with woollen lace. With a little care and neatness you can soon do plain sewing."

"Well, what about house-linen? What quantity do you think I shall require to commence with?"

"Well, I should buy two best large table-cloths and slips, and a dozen serviettes, each for company. Six breakfast-cloths, six dinner-cloths; three dozen serviettes; half-a-dozen tray-cloths; three sideboard-cloths; three dozen d'oyleys; one dozen fish-napkins; half-a-dozen afternoon tea-cloths. Then for the



bedrooms allow three pairs of sheets for each bed, two quilts, three pillow-slips each pillow, two toilet-covers. About three dozen fringe-towels, and one dozen bath-towels will be none too many. Then you must not forget mattress-covers, bolster-covers, and bedsides.

"For the kitchen you will require half-a-dozen table-cloths, one dozen each of glass, tea, kitchen, knife, oven, and dish-cloths, half-a-dozen roller towels, one dozen small bedroom towels, three dozen dusters, two hearth-cloths, four dust-sheets, two soiled-clothes bags, pudding cloths and scourers.

"Linen is a thing that does not improve with keeping, so I should not overstock myself, but do not let your stock get low, replenish by degrees. It is rather a difficult matter to know where to put your linen when you have it. Many people have shelves placed round the hot-water cylinders for the bath-room, and if these are outside the bath-room it is a good place, but if they are in the bath-room the steam must get in and make the linen damp. The best plan is to have a wardrobe in the kitchen then the linen is always aired. Place calico on the shelves wide enough to turn up over the linen to keep the dust and smoke out. The things for each room should be kept separate and used in turn or else they will be unequally worn.

"A linen press is most desirable for keeping the tablecloths presentable when in use."

"Now, about washing, would you advise me to send it out or have it done at home, or buy a machine or what would you do?"

"Well, that I should think is a question of expense. It is more comfortable to send it out, but certainly more expensive. Of course you can contract, but when there are a lot of shirts and blouses and cuffs and collars it soon mounts up; then you feel restricted as to quantity, and it is not nice to have to be economical with one's clean linen. Another thing, professional laundresses are very fond of using lime to bleach the linen, and, as you know, that rots it very much. A friend of mine sent her things to a steam laundry and they soon fell in holes; she was supplied with new ones free of cost, but something quite foreign to proper washing must have been used.

"Then as to washing-machines, there are very different opinions. I have never used one myself, but I know people who do use them and who would not be without one on any account. Others again say they are no use, so it evidently depends, I think, upon the way in which they are used. I have been told that the proper way to use one is, not to put much water in, to thoroughly dissolve the soap before putting it into the machine, to pack the clothes closely together at the bottom, and to turn the handle slowly. Of course if people will not take the trouble to use a machine according to the directions given with it, it is almost sure to prove a failure; so if they fill the machine with water and twist away at the handle as if it were a hurdy-gurdy they can't expect success, but I have never tried one myself.

"Our washing has been done at home by hand and has always been very satisfactory; the most tiresome part of it is the gossip that goes on between the servants and the washerwoman, supposing you have not a laundry-room attached to the house, though it would be very nice if you had. I went into one in the country the other day and they had every convenience close at hand. A set of oblong tubs under the window with hot and cold water taps fixed over them, and a drain from the bottom to carry off the water into a large tank in the garden where it was used for the plants; a good supply of rain-water, which in the country does not get spoiled like it does in the town, for here unless you allow the first washings of the roofs to run away, the whole supply is

spoiled with soot. Then they had a washing-machine and a boiler and plenty of room. Next to it they had the ironing room, in which was a mangle and a table to fold on, a large ironing stove, the ironing boards under the window and clothes-maids on which to air the linen. However, we cannot all have a laundry-room, so we must make the best of what we have. You will have a boiler fixed somewhere, perhaps with a tap at the bottom for drawing the hot water off and perhaps not; if not you will require a zinc scoop and bucket kept very clean, and you will want three oak tubs, a rough wooden bench on which to rest them, a large pan for blueing and starching, a dolly-tub, and plenty of hot and cold water, rain water if you can get it, as it is so much softer, but anti-calcaire is very useful for softening water. A twopenny brush stool will do for a boiler stick, and you should have a coarse white linen bag in which to put the best linen for boiling. The blue should be tied up in a piece of flannel, and after being used to blue the water it should be put out of the way as the clothes may get dabbled with it. Half-a-pound of soap is generally allowed for each person's washing, and if it takes much more there is waste of some sort going on. Any old bits of soap collected during the week can go to make soap jelly for the boiler; one pound of soap to a gallon of water, boiled, will form into a jelly when it is cold, and some of it with a little soda can be added to the hot water in the boiler. The clothes-posts must be firmly fixed in the ground and surrounded by marl. The clothes-baskets, lines, and pegs, should be kept very clean, as it is most annoying after the day's washing is done to find dirty peg marks or line marks on the linen. Some washerwomen have a happy knack of hanging out the large things where they will wrap round a tree or dab against a wall, and the small things where there is plenty of space.

"Well, on Monday collect all the clothes and mend the house-linen that needs it, the body-linen will of course wait to be mended when it is clean. Sort the clothes into six lots. 1st. Cuffs, collars, handkerchiefs, muslins and fine things. 2nd. Tablecloths, serviettes, sheets, pillow-slips, towels, and toilet covers. 3rd. Body-linen. 4th. Flannels. 5th. Coloured things. 6th. Kitchen cloths. Place the things that require it to soak in lukewarm water with a teaspoonful of soda to every two gallons of water. Just cover them and give them a slight rub with soap. Lay the boiler fire. Fill the boiler. Have a good supply of fuel brought in, slack and cinders mixed will do very well for the boiler fire when it is once started. On Tuesday commence the washing as early as possible; light the boiler fire first thing, give the soaked things a rub through, wring them, and lay them aside until the tubs are empty. Put some fresh clean hot water in the tubs, add a little soda and first wash the cuffs, collars and fine things, then lay the table-linen in, soap it all over carefully and rub well, then place them in another tub of hot water and go over them again, looking for any marks that require an extra rub. Rinse in another tub of cold water, wring them, and boil them for an hour. Next come the sheets, pillow-slips, toilet covers and towels in the same water, with a little hot added. Wash well, rinse, and boil. After boiling, the things should be rinsed in clean hot water, then blued, wrung lengthwise and pegged out to dry, and the longer they are out the sweeter they will smell. Next comes the body linen, and by this time clean water will probably be wanted in the tubs, as linen cannot be a good colour if washed or boiled in dirty water. After the body linen, wash the flannels in warm soapy water without soda, squeeze them out, rinse in another tub of warm water, squeeze them as dry as possible, shake

well and hang out to dry. The same water can be used for coloured things, adding a handful of salt or a little alum to keep the colour. The kitchen cloths which will have been soaked come next; wash in very hot water, with plenty of soap, rinse in second hot water and boil.

"When the clothes are dry, they must be taken off the line and brought in. Sprinkle those articles which have to be mangled equally all over, and fold. Table-linen, body-linen, and pillow-slips will want ironing after they are mangled.

"Cuffs, collars, and shirt fronts, when they are quite dry, must be starched in cold starch, in the proportion of two ounces of starch and one teaspoonful of starch-gloss to a pint of cold water, mixed very smoothly, adding the water by degrees. Rub the starch well into the things, squeeze tightly, rub them again and fold them up in a clean cloth. The unstarched part of the shirts should be well damped, and they can be ironed in about an hour. If they are too damp the iron will stick, but they must not be in the least degree dry, or else they will have to be starched over again. Petticoats, muslin blinds, muslin aprons, and such-like things must be starched in hot starch, and this is more economical. Mix the starch with a little cold water very smoothly, then pour on boiling water (it must be in the act of boiling) until the starch, which must be stirred all the time, becomes transparent. Be very careful not to wring muslins, either in washing or starching, but squeeze them, for they will crack directly. Articles after being starched in hot starch must be dried, then sprinkled all over with hot water, rolled up, and left for a few minutes, then ironed. Ecu starch gives a nice tint to curtains. Starch is very often wasted by too large a quantity being made, but you will soon learn by experience how much you require. Well, then comes the ironing. Each ironer will want three irons; they are best heated on a laundry-stove, but if you do not care to get one use a hanging-bar in front of the fire, and see that the fire is made up and very clear before the irons are put down; then have a board covered with powdered brick-dust on which to clean the irons before using, and rub them well with an old duster. A convex iron is very nice for glossing. You must have a good-sized table to iron on covered with two folds of blanket and a linen sheet, a skirt-board covered with flannel and calico for ironing dresses and petticoats on, and a shirt-board for ironing shirt-fronts. The irons must be very hot, but try them on an old cloth before using, lest they should be too hot and singe, for that quite spoils the appearance of things, and takes some time to wash out. To iron cuffs and collars iron pretty well on the wrong side first, then turn them over and get the right side quite free from wrinkles with a damp handkerchief; iron with a hot iron and press heavily on them. The unstarched part of a shirt is ironed first, double the back lengthwise and iron both sides, then iron the front, sleeves, cuffs (wrong and right side), collar also; then insert the shirt-board and iron the front, wiping it with a damp handkerchief before you begin.

"For getting up the frills of underlinen or of curtains, Italian-irons or goffering-tongs will be needed. Leave the goffering-tongs in the fire while you count twenty, then try them on a rag and wipe them. Press the material tight round them by pushing the nails against the tongs when you goffer, and turn the right wrist well round. Place the linen to air on clothes-maids in front of the fire.

"The sooner you can get the washing and ironing done in the week the *pleasanter* it will be, then everything can be tidied up and put away for a fortnight. Muslin bags filled with fresh lavender, and placed among the linen give it a very refreshing scent."