Herbert passed all his vacations at Hastings Abbey, and resisted every temptation to visit his beloved friends at home, knowing how essential it was for him to assist himself in every possible way. He became every successive year more interested in his pupil, and had the satisfaction of knowing that the Countess was more than pleased with her son's progress in his studies. The whole family, also, grew yearly more attached to Herbert, whose college honours were subjects of sincere congratulation, and whose manly, straightforward conduct gained general esteem. His position at Hastings Abbey was a very dangerous one. He was considered, and felt himself to be, one of the family; and Lord Hastings treated him as a brother, and actually felt for him as such. People rarely think, or seem not to think, that young men and women placed in what are called subordinate situations are troubled with those yielding things called hearts; at all events not such kind of hearts as their richer fellow-creatures are allowed to possess. Certainly the Countess of Hastings, when she permitted her son's tutor to ride, walk, sing, read, and, above all, converse freely with her beautiful and accomplished daughters, did not imagine that he had any heart. And yet he was so conscious of having one that he was compelled to keep a coat of mail over it, to prevent other people from finding out the surprising fact. It was impossible to pass day after day, and week after week, in the society of the sisters of his friend without being conscious that he was on dangerous ground. The Lady Louisa Lovel was just the kind of girl to please a young man fresh from college life, and given to poetry and romance from boyhood. Herbert felt that she pleased him, perhaps, too well. But he sought not by word, look, or action to gain her affections.

Still he had a rival; one who fancied that he perceived a preference shown for him by the Lady Louisa. This was Mr. Grant, who supposed that his fine person and insinuating manners had made a deep impression on her. He was, however, grievously disappointed at receiving a decided refusal to a proposal of marriage, and chose to believe that Herbert was the cause of his disappointment. He determined to be revenged, and when he took leave of the Abbey to make a tour on the Continent, he warned Lord Hastings to watch "the tutor," and see that he was not playing a double game.

Herbert's intense application to his studies at last told upon his health, and when he ended his college course by taking a first class and obtaining a layfellowship, his friends feared that a career so prosperously begun, would terminate in consumption and an early grave. He had laboured to gain a layfellowship, that he might travel with Lord Hastings and his brother before entering the Church; and it was accordingly proposed that they should set out upon a Continental tour, as soon as Herbert had paid his long-wished-for visit to his native valley. Lord Hastings hastened his preparations on Herbert's account, as he felt convinced that nothing but change of air and scene, and total cessation from study, would be likely to retrieve his health.

It was with feelings of almost childish delight that Herbert set out to visit his beloved grandfather after more than four years' absence; and he did so without informing him of his intention, anticipating all the pleasure of the surprise with the joy of a schoolboy.

(To be continued.)

HOUSEKEEPING IN FRANCE.

EVERY year Paris is becoming more and more universally recognised as the centre *par excellence* for the study of almost every subject. The countless public studios with their staff of visiting professors; the conservatoire, and the number of famous music and singing masters; the college and Sorbonne with their astonishing system of free lectures; the schemes of popular instruction organised in every department of the city, and open to foreigners and French alike—these, and other educational advantages, attract eager students from all parts of Europe and America.

Even when the necessity for systematic study no longer exists, there is so much to be learned simply from living in the beautiful city, that it is common to meet with those who have come to spend a few months, and who are still here after the lapse of years.

And the band of foreign students would probably be even larger than it is, were it not that many who long for the advantages of the French capital, are ignorant of the cost and convenience of life there. The casual visitor to Paris finds that the pleasures of the city, if indulged in to any extent, make such inroads on his exchequer that a long stay seems possible only to the millionaire.

And yet, for those who have work, and not luxury, at heart, I believe there is no city where one can more easily combine comfort and economy, than in Paris.

There are, of course, all grades of expenditure to suit all circumstances. There are numberless good *pensions* where one can be comfortable, and even luxuriant, for from eight to twelve francs a day. This is inclusive of everything, except fire and light in bed-rooms, and an occasional "tip" to the *concierge*. The first two extras are higher than in England. The usual price for a small box of coke is one franc, the bundle of twigs which kindles the fire costs fifteen centimes, and if one is extravagant enough to burn wood, twenty centimes a log must be paid for it. Paraffin (*pétrolé*) and methylated spirits (*alcool à lerûler*) are correspondingly dear, even if one caters for oneself in these commodities, *pétrole* costing sixty centimes, and *alcool* one franc twenty centimes a quart.

For a lengthened stay, however, most people prefer to have more freedom and privacy than is possible in a *pension*, and to have more of their own belongings round them. Unfurnished suites of rooms are not difficult to find, and the rents vary according to the size, situation, and elevation. The French servants are, as a rule, good, and capable of more work than the English, but their wages are high.

A *bonne à tout faire* corresponding to our "general" receives from £25 a year, and often ten francs a month for extras. In addition to this, it is the custom for the servant to do the marketing, and her perquisites from the shops amount to five centimes in the franc. This is rather a regrettable system from the mistress's point of view, as it offers a premium on extravagance to all but the most highly principled cooks.

When the household is large enough to require two servants, a man and his wife are very often employed. Men-servants are much more general than with us, and a good *valet de chambre* is invaluable, as there are few things he cannot turn his hand to. The husband and wife plan is found to answer very well when the two are sufficient for the work, but clouds soon gather on the domestic horizon when an outsider has to be introduced.

But as this paper is intended more especially for the students whose classes make too great a demand on their finances to allow of the conventionalities of ordinary English family life, I shall now give some details as to how many of them live. Two friends of mine took a small *appartement* in a side street in one of the most fashionable quarters of Paris. They were studying singing, and, realising that in that profession, more perhaps than in any other, robust health is essential to success, they wisely chose this situation as being the healthiest in the city. Their little flat was two stairs up, and consisted of three rooms and a kitchen. The *salon* was a pretty room, furnished with miscellaneous, nondescript pieces of furniture, picked up here and there in second-hand shops. Photographs, flowers, books, a piano, and liberal supply of music gave it the homely look which made it so attractive and cosy. As one was already a singer of some renown they had many visitors, and they were forced to use their other room as a dining-room, and so were left with only one bed-room. It was large, however, and the French furniture is neither so bulky nor so suggestive of a sleeping apartment as ours is. The kitchen was a tiny corner, but so complete and compact as to delight the heart of any housewife.

Standing at the stove, which was new and easily managed, it was possible to reach almost any article on the shelves round the walls, and cooking was a pleasure rather than a task. The rent of this flat, inclusive of all taxes, was £35 a year. The convenient arrangement of everything—for it was a new building—made it quite unnecessary to keep a maid. Every morning the *concierge* did any heavy work that might be required, and three times a week a charwoman came in, who, for thirty centimes an hour, tidied the house generally, and cooked very appetising little lunches for them.

But even the preparation of their own meals was not a matter of great difficulty. The *charcuterie* shops in Paris are full of tempting dainties, which require little trouble to prepare. Cutlets are dressed, and ready for the frying-pan, halves of roast fowls only require to be heated, and there is a veritable *embarras de choix* in the matter of cold viands for lunch or supper.

But to many students such an expenditure would be an impossibility, so we shall turn to another couple, still more modest in their establishment. As they are art students their rooms are in the heart of the *Quartier Latin*, and are on the fifth floor, two circumstances which imply a more reasonable rent. The 250 francs (£10) asked from them reconciles them to their inconvenient elevation, and, for them, the situation otherwise is ideal. Their own clever fingers and fertile brains have made their little sitting-room into a tasteful, cosy, little *salon*, in which as many happy hours are spent as in the most sumptuous apartments. They consider that their food, which they prepare themselves, costs on an average from ten to twelve francs a week, each, so that their annual expense for board and lodging amounts to something like £30.

When it is necessary to have a studio, however, rents are higher, and £18 is no uncommon price to pay for a studio which serves as work-room, dining-room, bedroom, and *salon*. The room is usually large enough to allow of a curtain being hung across, which can be drawn at will, and so divide the studio proper from the living-room. I know one like this which its owner would not change for the most luxuriant quarters. It has the great merit of having three windows overlooking a garden—a rare advantage of infinite value in the exhausted atmosphere of Paris.

An artist is always able to turn her material to the best account, and what, in itself, would be simply a large unsightly room, is, by means of a few draperies skilfully arranged, the proper placing of a bright bit of colour, etc., transformed into an attractive studio, rendered even more so by the evidence of the owner's individuality. For in a studio there is no room for conventionalities, so each is a fresh pleasure as being the expression of an individual nature. The walls are covered here and there with odd lengths of tapestries, which can be had very cheaply at the Bon Marché during a sale, or even on a Friday, which is the *jour des coupons* at the Maison Boucicault. There is no large bed to assert itself prominently, only a delicious broad couch covered with an artistic rug, which is a joy to the tired eyes by day, and to the weary body at night. A curtain arranged across one corner can conceal any toilette accessories better hidden, and when the cooking utensils are arranged tidily on a shelf, they are not obtrusive. A large screen hung with draperies stands ready behind the model's throne, suggestive brocades are thrown over low lounge chairs, from which they can be taken to be used as backgrounds, an old copper dish is placed where the light catches it, a bit of brilliant blue china brightens a dark corner, and an element of artistic disorder is supplied by numbers of half-finished sketches and studies, photographs, old prints, and Japanese panels.

About the month of July it is possible to pick up odd pieces of furniture at an astonishingly small price. There are always a number of students returning to England at that time, and the walls of the public studios are covered with notices of sales. Other students who intend returning in autumn, are often only too glad to find a tenant for their studio during their absence, and anyone who is willing to risk suffocation by stopping in Paris during the summer months can find accommodation practically gratis.

The *concierge* is a Paris institution unknown in England. He is really the resident representative of the landlord's interests, and lives in a room at the side of the entrance-door, from which all who come in can be seen and watched. At ten o'clock in the evening the street-door is closed, and can only be opened by means of an arrangement of wires coming from the *concierge's* bedroom. Everyone coming home after that hour must call out his name as he passes upstairs, so that the *concierge* may be assured that no intruder has gained admission. The *concierge* also collects the rents, attends to the respective behaviour of the various tenants, receives all letters from the *facteur*, keeps the stairs in order, and, in large houses where the whole building is heated by a *calorifère* in the basement storey, he attends to this from November until March. Much of one's comfort depends on the humour of the *concierge*, and so it is customary to secure his favour by a handsome "tip" on taking possession of the *appartement*, and again at Christmas.

There are one or two rules which householders are bound to observe, and the *concierge* receives and transmits any complaints following on their infringement. Pianos are supposed to be silent by eleven P.M—except on special occasions; any shaking of rugs and carpets over the windows must be done before a certain hour in the morning; and there are one or two other common-sense regulations to which it is no hardship to conform.

As to the necessities of life, there is no doubt that they are dearer in Paris than in London. Butter ranges from two francs a pound upupwards; sugar is sixty centimes, bread is dear, butcher-meat is dear, and poultry is ruinous, so that the reason one can live more economically in Paris than at home is, that it is possible to live in quite a different style without losing one's self-respect, or the respect of one's neighbours. In the student quarters, at least, there is no overwhelming feeling of degradation because of having to do for oneself what the neighbours' servants do for them, for there is a *bon camerade* feeling of equality, irrespective of income and establishment. This feeling has a great charm for those accustomed to the limitations and restrictions which weigh upon all provincial life. There is also a certain congeniality of intercourse which is unusual in ordinary society, for all are working, and nearly all have common interests. Those who have passed through a period of student life in Paris with all its discomforts —which are sometimes great in cold weather— its discouragements, but with its concentration of aim and freedom of action, have never two opinions to give as to its value and its pleasures.

THE GIRL'S OWN GUILD OF SCRIPTURE-READING AND STUDY.

QUESTIONS FOR THE MONTH.

371. How many epistles are included in the New Testament which were written by St. Paul, and bear his name?

372. Give a list (in order of time) of those unquestionably written by him before his first imprisonment at Rome, and state where they were written.

373. Give a list of the epistles written by him during and after his first imprisonment, and state where they were written.

374. What do we know of the Church in Rome up to the date of the epistle addressed to it by St. Paul?

375. State what appears to you the main purposes of the epistle. By whom was it conveyed to Rome?

376. Into what three divisions may the epistle be classified? Indicate any links of connection between the three, and what scheme does it embrace?

377. Who was St. Paul's host at the time that he wrote this epistle? Mention what is known of Priscilla and Aquila.

378. State what you understand about the disputes between the Jewish and Gentile converts.

379. How are the privileges of a Roman citizen illustrated by the case of St. Paul?

380. Did his protest against the breach of the law obtain him justice?