THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER.

A VILLAGE CONCERT.

By HELEN MARION BURNSIDE.

The room is poor and shabby:
She has pinched herself for days,
Just to buy her lace and ribbons,
And the flimsy jasmine sprays
That with quick and tasteful fingers,
And a brow of anxious care—
Though her heart with hope is beating—
She is wreathing in her hair,
"Will he like it?"—she is thinking—
"I am handsomer than Nell;"
And I'm sure this starry jasmine
Suits my dark complexion well.
I have seen him looking at me
When I wore my smart new gown,
And he spoke to me on Sunday,
In despite of father's frown.

"Poor dear Nell is always dowdy,
In a prim old-fashioned way,
And when we are all so merry,
She has not a word to say,
I've no reason to be jealous,
But of all the girls he'll see
At the concert, it is lucky
He knows only Nell and me."

Nell called in to walk with Annie
To the village concert room—
'Twas the school across the meadows,
Fragrant with the hawthorn bloom;
And she chattered fast and gaily
As they lightly sped along,
Or broke into trills and snatches
Of the oft practised song.

She was vaguely disconcerted
By the grave young master's face,
As he took their shawls, and marshalled
Each to her appointed place;
There was not the admiration
She expected to have met
In the eyes that fell upon her,
And her own with tears were wet
As she saw him turn so often
To the seat by gentle Nell,
In the simple frock of muslin
That became her looks so well.

Now and then poor Annie faltered
As she sang the well-known song
He had praised when last she sang it,
And the evening seemed so long;

For the master came not near her,
And at last, the clock struck nine.
It was Nell to whom he whispered
As they gained the school-room door;—
It was Nell whom he assisted
To surmount the churchyard stile,
And with whom he sauntered homeward,
Talking softly all the while.

Foolish Annie, in her chamber,
Thrust her ribbons out of sight,
With a pain and disappointment
All unknown until that night;
While sweet Nell, in meekness kneeling,
Thanked her Father up in Heaven
For the gift of pure affection
Which to bless her had been given.

ENGLISH GIRLS.

By the Author of "The Bachelors in Central Italy," etc.

L.—Girls who should earn money or do household work as an equivalent.

When judging the inhabitants of a foreign country we are apt to compare them with ourselves, and though this is to an extent hard on the foreigner—for we English are notorious for admiring everything English—yet so difficult, so almost impossible is it to form an ideal for an alien race, that perhaps this practice of judging others from our own standpoint is the best plan. Presumably we know our own capabilities, however, and if not blinded by egotism and narrow-mindedness, we ought to acknowledge where we fall short of those capabilities; to take into consideration the circumstances in which we are placed, the temperament of our race, and the special excellences of which it is capable, and the failings to which it is prone, and to establish an ideal for ourselves and judge our actions from our own ideal.

English girls and women have much to be thankful for, and their position is now much more independent than it has ever been. The education of girls has greatly improved during the last twenty years, and it cannot be said that we are now behindhand in this matter. Social intercourse with the other sex is very little restricted. Our great universities have opened their doors to women, and giving to them all those advantages for acquiring knowledge which, until recently, were allowed to men only. Our musical and art academies possess more girls than men students. In literature girls and women can and do contribute to many of the magazines; moreover, there are women novelists and women journalists. In dressmaking, millinery, and domestic service girls are in much the majority now as ever they were. In the arts of painting and sculpture few restrictions are placed on them. In teaching it cannot be said that men have encroached on their domain, while they now do certain work which was formerly considered to be fit for men only.

Women doctors! Such an idea would have shocked our forefathers. The girls are employed as Civil Service clerks, however, as it should be, and the only pity is that the remuneration is so small.

Now we will turn for a minute—only for a minute—and see the position of Englishwomen in the married state. Whatever faults may be alleged against the Englishman, it cannot be said that he is unmindful. He, less than any foreigner, spends his spare time away from his wife. Again, in humble society such a spectacle as a hard-working wife supporting the household entirely by herself, the husband being an encumbrance and the chief spender, is, thank God, comparatively rare with us.

So much for the opportunities for acquiring knowledge and livelihood possessed by English girls. Now we will go to the girls themselves; and for this purpose it will be necessary to divide them into classes: the lower, the poor middle class, the richer middle class, and the upper class, though it must be remarked that girls of what are called the "upper ten thousand," and those of the richer middle class, do not so greatly differ in their mode of life, nor are they so easily distinguished as men in the corresponding positions.

Our readers may notice that we pass over the distinction of upper and lower middle class, not because we ignore it, but because it affects the rule of life of English girls but slightly; whereas the distinction we draw is an arbitrary one, and very greatly affects their style of life. We do not say that to exist is so very important, but it is undeniable important in relation to our conduct, and is in some cases the arbitrator of right and wrong. The few who are rich and another for the poor is of course immoral, but the same law may condemn a poor girl and not rich a one. A rich girl buys a bracelet and can afford it; a poor girl buys the same bracelet, and in order to pay for it has to spend money which is wanted for more necessary things: of course, one is justified, and not the other. It is an extravagance on the part of the poor girl, but is not so with the rich one, whose income assures her all necessities, and supplies a surplus to be spent directly or indirectly on the community, and the buying of the bracelet is an indirect boon to the community.

GIRLS OF THE LABOURING CLASSES.

If we go into the villages and seek the girls of the labouring class, we at once are struck with the enormous change the educational laws have effected in them. The State now compels all to be educated, and the younger girls, by attending the schools and learning to read, gain knowledge of hundreds of things unknown to their older sisters. The young women whose early life was spent before education was made obligatory, were, or rather are (for the contact with their young educated sisters affects them very little), as
Of course such an education is unnecessary for Christians, as Christianity teaches a thoroughly workable and thoroughly complete system of ethics, and moreover it enforces its teaching under pain of punishment in another world.

**Girls of the Middle-class.**

It is a fact that there are faults which run through all classes of society, and which are therefore national failings. The two most noticeable are extravagance, and a burning desire to appear rich and in a better position than we know them to be. It may be seen at once that English girls and English women are largely responsible for these two failings; which, be it remarked, will if not curbed, do much to ruin England's country, costly foreign wars and foolish legislation at home.

To go a step higher into middle class society. Pages upon pages might be written upon the excellences of girls in this position of life. The heart of England beats in this class, and the greatness of England has been and is largely due to the admirable qualities possessed by her middle-classes. It is the girls in this position who possess the greatest extent the two faults we have mentioned above. We will take a household belonging to an English clergyman, and a family with an increasing family and a limited income. Now, when the girls in such a family get to the age of sixteen or thereabout, it is their duty to shun the household duties, to do much of the cleaning, and a great deal of the work which would be done by servants if their father's income was twice or thrice as large as it is. In France or Germany they would; but in England it is an exception to find the daughter so employed. The work is relegated to servants who will carry the expense of their keep, cannot be expected to look after economy, and to take scrubulous care that there is no waste. No; the daughters must be 'ladies'; that is, to be hands by doing menial work. They must make friends, try to get invitations to parties, try, above all, to get husbands. They must learn to play the piano, to sing, and to play tennis. These things are good in themselves, but in the case we are considering, that is to say, where economy is absolutely necessary, household duties should be the first consideration of the daughters. They are poor, and must recognise it; and though their father is a thorough gentleman, and is in a highly responsible position, themselves are young ladies who have been well educated, and are equal in most respects to their wealthier contemporaries, yet they must not make it their object of life to live up to these accomplishments by appearing to be as rich, as well dressed, and as fashionably accomplished. Let such girls think a little of their father engaged in a profession or in some occupation where competition is increasing to an alarming extent, who is now getting on in years, whose income has been reduced, and whose transitional income who never gets a holiday, whose life is one never-ceasing grind. The daughters may turn round and say, "But we are going to get husbands, and then we shall no longer be an expense to our family." They may not, however, marry at all; young men find every day a greater difficulty in getting remunerative employment than formerly, and a delay marriage, while others do not marry at all. Besides which, suppose such girls do get married, what is the consequence? They would not recognise their position as poor daughters, and the probability is that they will not now recognise that they are poor wives.

The point is that they would make this habit of living quite up to or beyond their income—a habit which has become a national failing, and which if not controlled will lead this great country to ruin.

We cannot but think that the daughters of poor professional and commercial gentlemen neglect the duty of earning money, and not so much because they dislike it, or because they are lazy, because it takes them away from their accomplishments, makes their hands rough and mitigates the enjoyments of social life, if indeed it does not altogether prevent their taking part in it. It may be that many more of them than is commonly supposed have already this last consideration is; but that this liking this passion for society, lies at the very root of the nature of the majority of Englishwomen. It is probable that many may be traced among the distinguishing characteristics of the race, both good and bad. There is no woman in the world who possesses more acquaintances, who knows more people, in their number, who thinks more of them, who lives up to them and for them to so great an extent, and so scrupulously anxious to appear well before them as the Englishwoman, so that it is the same with the English girl. That this is altogether unhealthy we do not say, and amongst the rich and upper classes this national passion for good for truth, good for truth, good for truth, good for truth is produces a market for labour; but that it is productive of much misery and failure in the poor daughters of gentlemen, we unhesitatingly affirm.

Of course there is difficulty, for as we have attempted to explain, there is danger in poor girls taking accomplishments with those who are much richer than themselves, because of living being necessarily so different, and the natural sensibilities and education of a lady prevents her mixing with those who are unrefined. It is open to such girls to make acquaintances of those who, like themselves, are the daughters of poor gentlemen; but this society, which they have, means party giving and calling (and an ample one can expect), and the party giving must be reciprocated, and poor ladies have neither money for the one nor time for the other. We believe that it is much better for girls in this position to think more of domestic life, to take enjoyment in helping their mothers and looking to the welfare of their brothers and sisters, to stamp out this craving for society, and substitute for it one or two real friends who care nothing for the petty trifling of "social life," and who will be found in the end to be worth all the "society" in the world.

There are many English girls of this poorer middle-class who dislike household work, but which they rather regard as a detail of life that some talent they may possess, earn enough money to keep themselves, or at all events contribute to their support. All honour to these, and they are not a few. The number of girls who earn money has increased largely of late. Some become teachers, others domestic servants, others telegraph clerks, others Civil Servants, and so on. Their earnings usually are not large, but they are a great help, and such of these girls who marry will marry thrifty wives; for their wages, which they earn with their own money, they will look well after that of their husbands.

Before finishing our first paper, we should like to linger over the many excellent qualities of English girls on their attachment to their parents, and the good influence they have over their brothers. Let anyone compare the boys and young men who have sisters with those who have not. What a difference there is! How much better a role are the former. More than all the preachers, more than all the teachers, do these sisters do for their brothers, and influence their life! How many temptations, how many vices they save him from! Above all, how by simple and words they preserve in him a belief in and a reverence for the truths of Christianity, and a fear, but a trustful fear in God, who is to judge us for the life eternal!

(To be concluded.)
THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER.

ENGLISH GIRLS.

By the Author of "The Bachelors in Central Italy," etc.

In our first article we spoke of those girls whose duty it is to help their fathers or mothers to maintain the household either by earning money, or by doing household work, and thus saving money which would otherwise be spent on servants.

In this article we are going to discuss girls, the daughters of parents who are not poor, or to put it in another way, those girls who are able to get the practical work of money-making done for them, and are therefore at liberty either to continue their education, after they have left school, in directions which may not necessarily bring them money, or to become managers and overseers of labour, the hardest and most menial portions of which are performed by servants.

It is the duty of the rich to give employment to the poor, and if the political economy of the state were perfect, if the rich by their surplus money could give employment to all the labouring classes, even though the employment meant waiting upon them and providing them luxuries, then perhaps giving in charity would be superfluous. But a state where this was the case would be an ideal state, an ideal commonwealth which has never existed, certainly does not at present exist, and probably never will exist.

The poor we always have with us, and their wants must often be supplied by the direct giving of charity; and therefore a rich girl must spend a portion of her money on her necessities, a second portion on the labour for her servants, and a third portion on the indigent poor, if she is to perform her duty to her church and country.

We now come back to our subject, and for the sake of clearness we take three representatives of English girls, two of whom are anxious to perform the duties of their state, while the third abandons all responsibility and lives a selfish life of pleasure. The three girls have approached that borderland of their existence (to use a happy metaphor of a writer in The Girl's Own Paper) when the period of immediate supervision is over, when the character exists itself, and enables the free will to choose a path in life.

Our first girl has been fairly successful at school, has liked her studies, has paid attention to her pianoforte practice, and read good literature; but, at the borderland of her existence, she finds herself a well-educated young girl, fairly fond of art and music. She will probably be introduced by her mother to suitable friends, and her rule of life will be something as follows. An hour or two's musical practice, and some little time given to the study of a foreign language or another accomplishment, will occupy her mornings. The afternoon she will spend in reading either an instructive literature or good fiction, and two or three times during the week she will call upon her friends, and about once at the fortnight will go to a concert or visit a picture gallery.

She will probably be engaged in some philanthropic work, and will make and mend clothes for poor children, and occasionally visit an orphanage or poor school. Some of her evenings will be spent in society, but the greater number at home.

There is much to praise in this style of life; perhaps the best feature is the philanthropic work, which is a good sign of the times, a large amount of such work being done by young English girls. Such a girl as we are now considering would probably be a good sister and a good daughter, and would make a good wife, that is to say, so long as there is no necessity for third higher income, and that her existence does not get reduced, or should she marry a poor husband, then will come the "crab." We must remember girls that the foreign competition in trade, in agriculture, the alarming increase of population, and the difficulty in getting remunerative employment, are solemn facts which cannot be ignored. A reduction of income must needs be met by a reduction in expenditure, and it is often said—too often truly—that it is the daughters and the wives who will not face the difficulty, take into consideration an altered state of things, and curtail expenses.

We English girls are not a thrifty race, and our phenomenal wealth has fostered in us our spirit of extravagance. How many English people save? But to return to our subject; our representative girl, by her education and her rule of life, has been led to shut out all ideas of economy; her accomplishments, her little extravagances, above all, her social life, are to her almost necessities. Now a result of this is that many of these bachelors, rather than marry girls with such "expensive" ideas; while the unhappier ones soon find that saving is out of the question, living up to the utmost extent of the order of the day, and debt and bankruptcy not improbable in the future.

We therefore impress upon all girls the necessity of becoming business-like, of obtaining some idea of the "working of a household," of realizing that they may not always be so well off as they are at present, and may some day be called upon to earn by domestic work and eke out their husband's income. It is not necessary that the daughters of fairly well-off parents should scrub the pots and pans and make the beds, as we pointed out in our first article, ought to be done by many ladies. What we want to impress upon our readers is that this domestic work may be useful and economical work, and eke out their husband's income. It is not necessary that the daughters of fairly well-off parents should scrub the pots and pans and make the beds, as we pointed out in our first article, ought to be done by many ladies. What we want to impress upon our readers is that this domestic work may be economical, which is a good sign of the times, and provide the girls with at least as expensive a household as they were accustomed to at home. To this end, the young girl must, therefore, be well equipped with the means to provide themselves with such a household, and it is not inconsistent with a firm spirit of expenditure, which is the ambition of our girls, together with the increasing difficulty of getting a livelihood, to make it incumbent on men to wait until they are getting towards middle age before they enter the marriage state.

We now go to our second type of English girl, who, after an industrious childhood, and who does not shun intellectual work. Her parents are fairly well off, and consequently it is not incumbent on her to be a bread-winner; her work may bring her some money if she does it, and she will appreciate it as a test that her work is good; but it is the work and not the money for which she cares. Of course, work, especially work which is paid for, forms the groundwork upon which all classes of society meet—talent, not birth or wealth, determines the position; but a girl who is well off has the advantage of being able to study the higher branches of the subject in which she is interested. A poor girl cannot always do this; for instance, suppose she has a talent for musical composition, but has to work to live, and find time to compose, and perhaps give pianoforte lessons at a comparatively early age, and at the same time make her life bearable, and not have the opportunity, the time, or even sufficient education to employ her gift of originating music. This is sad, but it cannot be helped. Her talent is rare, and geniuses are rare, and it is most often the case that the best work has been done by those who have had the most thorough and complete education.

Our clever girl may be thankful that she lives in this age, for as we have said before, she can have University training; she can enter the art schools, and can employ her talents in almost any branch of work without being considered unfeminine, a blue stocking, or a rape. English girls have, in a large measure, themselves to thank for this altered state of things, and have availed themselves nobly of their opportunities. They do well in art, fairly well in sculpture, good in sculpture in literature; they take honours at the University, and produce good musical compositions.

Partly because they have done so well, and partly because they are human, the more they want the more they desire, many wish to cast down all barriers, to place themselves on an equality with man, and to compete with him in every branch of life. The English girl shows itself in the great desire many women have to enter the political arena, to vote side by side with men, and like them to represent the country in Parliament. Now the problem of "women's rights" will work out is difficult to say, and we have no space to discuss the question, though perhaps in a future article we may put before our readers some thoughts on so important a subject.

Our second girl, in addition to the great satisfaction she gets from her work, will certainly be most popular if she avoids that "aggressive" manner which is so common a fault of clever girls. What we mean by an aggressive manner is that habit of showing off, of trying to hear others down in conversation, of being too much in evidence. This is most unlikeable; when conversing, ladies—especially young unmarried ladies—should not be too ready to take the initiative, and should be content to be listeners as well as talkers. We have also noticed with regret that art and musical students, occasionally adopt a rather masculine style of conversation, which in girls is most objectionable. They are fond of using slang technical expressions, of affecting that indifference which marks the musical world, we overlook in the man artist; but which we cannot tolerate in a woman, who must always be careful of her dignity and maidenly reserve.
MISS PRINGLE'S PEARLS.

By Mrs. G. LINNEUS BANKS,
Author of "God's Providence House," "The Manchester Man," "More Than Coronets," etc.

CHAPTER XV.
ALL IN GOOD TIME.

URING those three weary weeks nothing had been seen of H. Underwood at Upland Farm. He had gone back to business unconscious of any trouble there.

A brief note from Miss Pringle was his first informant. It expressed her desire that he should remain at Llama Lodge until she was released from attendance on Mrs. Heathfield, and at home again to make him perfectly comfortable when he came.

He wrote Bob a few lines of unaffected sympathy, but he fell in with Miss Pringle's wishes more readily than might have been expected considering the spirit in which he had previously offered his tribute to Mabel. Still he had left it for her acceptance with much doubt and dissatisfactorily. She had not treated him with ordinary courtesy over her tennis party; and he regarded her absence from church on the Sunday morning as a token of personal avoidance. And when no acknowledgment of his offering came to him, even through the second-hand medium of Llama Lodge, his foreboding and dissatisfaction were intensified.

He was in no wise sorry to have a sufficient reason for remaining out of reach of her heart-breaking caprices, where her neglect and his torment would be alike unseen. He made allowance for the confusion and distress consequent on a mother's illness, but, he argued, she might have, at least, sent a word of acknowledgment some way, to allay his mental pain.

Then his high spirit took fire at the affect, and he devoted himself with more than his usual energy to business, resolved to dismiss her from his thoughts, and remain in Great Woolton until he had mastered his own emotions.

A month, five weeks gone, by Miss Pringle and Lucy Hope was back, and went between their own homes and the farm; there was no longer any apparent reason why he should not spend his Sundays in Steepleton, yet he came not. On one delicately timed and deftly composed billet was put into his hand by the postman at Crossley's gate, and his resolution melted as he read.

So prettily did Mabel apologise for delay in thanking him for his charming birthday-gift, on the ground that her mother's serious illness had absorbed all thought and attention and cast every other consideration into the shade, trusting to old and intimate ties to pardon any seeming rudeness, that he