

like guardian angels to his opening life?—tending his steps, watching his wishes, keeping him from harm, and helping him, so far as they can, to become what they will surely believe he may be if he tries—one of the best and noblest men in the land.

HOUSEHOLD WORK.

Women show their parts
When they do make their ordered households know
them. KNOWLES.

THOSE who read our Table for December (we hope all our friends have that number) will recollect the "Letter from a Lady of Pennsylvania," concerning the changes which, coming over our country, must affect the condition and character of American women.

We now give the thoughts and suggestions of another dear friend, whose excellent ideas on "household work" will, we hope, make a deep impression on the hearts and minds of our readers.

LETTER FROM A LADY OF NEW ENGLAND.

MY DEAR MRS. HALE: The Lady's Book, which has always been foremost in every good word and work relating to women, seems to me a proper channel through which to express some of the sentiments, the exhortations, the hopes, and the fears called out by this unhappy war, so far as women alone are concerned.

The good which has been elicited out of evil, certainly among New England women (with whom mostly I have been conversant) is one of those mysterious Providences which make us feel that we know nothing about the management of the world or of human beings. When I have seen young creatures whose fingers have been too dainty all their lives long to do a useful thing; who not only did not know how to do a useful thing, but really pined themselves on this delightful ignorance; when I see such girls, heartily entering into the making of coarse shirts and drawers, and knitting coarse yarn for stockings: when I see them do this, not once, but all the spare hours, formerly given to idleness or to delicate fancy-work; when I see these girls, whose only delight seemed to be a ball or a concert, to dress and be admired, patiently and industriously working away, week after week, at common clothes and the making of comfortable garments for the sick and wounded; when I hear the talk of these girls, deeply interested in something apart from themselves, above themselves, relating to something altogether aside and above the petty interests of daily life, and involving the highest contemplations of the human mind; when I look at this and at these, I feel that there is good in all evil, and that the regeneration of so many young hearts almost pays the price of blood and suffering.

This war is to make widows and orphans, sisters with no brothers to care for them, mothers with no sons to uphold their age and comfort their infirmity. The whole face of society will be changed. How, then, shall women prepare for such a change, for such a new order of things? From being cherished they must uphold themselves; the wind that formerly must not blow rudely on their tender cheeks, will strike blastically, with the tempestuous force of poverty and desertion. Whatever the political result may be of this war, the social and domestic results are inevitable. It is of no use to thrust them aside; better look them squarely in the face.

It seems to me there will gradually and imperceptibly open a way for these mothers, daughters, and sisters to maintain themselves, merely from the circumstance of their sex being in excess of the other, for a long future. Many of the occupations which have heretofore been monopolized by men, but which are suited much better to the strength and ability of women, will be open to women. Work of all sorts will be necessary and fashionable. If it is fashionable now to strew the drawing-rooms with blue shirts and brown stocking yarn; if the belle comes to receive her morning calls with her knitting in her hand, much more will it be fashionable to continue to labor when that labor shall be sanctified with deeper than patriotic motives, with higher and closer impulses than a country's love.

It is well for our young girls to look forward to this state of things. Not despondently, not fearfully, but hopefully, fearlessly, cheerfully. Better a thousand times that you "wear out" in the quick attrition of active exer-

tion than to "rust out" in the inane idleness of a useless existence. If to be a cherished and petted wife be denied you, you can still be a helpful sister, a devoted daughter, or a cheerful, patient, and soothing companion to a wounded or helpless husband.

We know—for even in the middle of the blind rush there was virtue enough in the country to say and feel it—we know that we have drifted, as a people, far out of sight of the principles of our fathers, on which the country was settled and this republic founded. We have been warned, over and over, that we were going down to ruin, through the corruptions of prosperity, as fast as we could possibly go. We heard the voice of prophecy and of denunciation; the "Wo upon this *goodly land!*" We heard, but we folded our hands, and said: "Apres nous le deluge." But the deluge has come upon us, the guilty ones, and not on our innocent children; for them opens a brighter path through suffering. No more luxury or pampering, no more laziness and dissatisfaction; but, instead, cheerful labor, fortitude, and Christian dignity. For one, I rejoice in the prospect of new virtue in the body politic, beginning, as it must and ought, with women. If they must give up, during their whole lives, the pleasing task of decorating their persons, and even in some measure of adorning their minds, still they will have gained immeasurably in mental elevation, and their whole plane of action and thought be far higher.

There is a large class of single women who will be thrown out of employment by this war. There will be more teachers than schools; more instructors of music than pupils or pianos; more ready to give drawing lessons than children to avail themselves of such blessings. This state of things will necessitate a broader and different field of action for these women.

In the increased and factitious refinement of manners and employment in the country, all the pleasant part of domestic life has long been sacrificed, and an imitation of European style substituted. In the sparse condition of our native population, it has been necessary to employ emigrant labor for all domestic purposes. This has had a bad effect on both employer and employed. I could dwell on this at great length, and yet it cannot be necessary. You hear constantly pathetic lamentations over the "old nurses," the "old help" (when servants were not) that were so faithful, so friendly, so to be relied on at all times; and mournful chats over the faithless cook who left you that morning without warning, or the ungrateful waitress, who "won't stay under two dollars and a half."

There will be a better opening for labor for the large class of efficient and active young women in domestic service. Hitherto, they have declined to enter into competition with emigrants, and have chosen—partly with a laudable, and partly with a foolish pride—rather to confine themselves to needle work and teaching, than to enter the lists of active household labor with foreigners.

Everybody who is at all conversant with the real state of the country (I mean as distinct from the city) knows that there is always a glad opening and liberal remuneration for domestic service. For Americans, much more. There is friendly interest and attachment. I should be very glad, for one, to see the days of almost feudal distinction, which have obtained during the last thirty years among us, abolished; and the old times returned where to aid and serve in the family, was associated with no degradation, but, on the contrary, with pleasure on both sides.

Then there will not be so much starving in city attics, because women prefer to make shirts for fourpence a piece to washing dishes and cooking dinners for two dollars a week. They will feel a proper self-respect and self-appreciation which will not be lowered by sweeping the house, or speaking properly to their employers. A new state of feeling and interest will spring up among all. We shall all be grateful for aid, and glad in our turn to aid others. Heretofore we have been hard. There has been no possible room for kindly feeling or interest beyond the day, for domestic service, which was liable to cease at any hour, when increased wages called, and where interest was the sole propelling motive. We acknowledged that it could not be helped; that it could not be expected; that it should be otherwise. Still, we mourned over the good old days when everything was so different!

I apprehend that in the immediate future of our country, there will be a closer interweaving of all classes, through the intense and common interest in the general good. There will be more upholding and assisting of those who need it. A development of character from within is better than any amount of encouragement

from without; and persons who cannot be or would not be benefited by public aid, are inexpressibly consoled and fortified by private sympathy and encouragement. They begin to feel themselves strong and able to cope with life; nay, more, to feel that labor is itself a dignity and a blessing; and that to adapt themselves to the kind of labor most healthful for them, is the truest dignity as well as common sense.

MEMORIAL

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:—

WHEREAS, there are now more than two millions of children in our country destitute of the opportunity of education, demanding sixty thousand teachers to supply them at the same ratio as is common in our best educated sections, your memorialists beg to call your attention to these considerations:—

1. That while the Great West, California, and the wide Ocean, invite young men to wealth and adventure, and while the labors of the school-room offer so little recompense or honor, the sixty thousand teachers needed cannot be obtained from their ranks, and therefore the young women of our country must become teachers of the common schools, or these must be given up.

2. That the reports of common school education show that women are the best teachers, and that in those States where education is most prosperous, the average of female teachers to that of the other sex is as five to one.

3. That while, as a general rule, women are not expected to support families, nor to pay from their earnings to support the State, they can afford to teach for a smaller compensation than men, and therefore funds bestowed to educate female teachers gratuitously will, in the end, prove a measure of economy, and at the same time will tend to render education more universal and more elevated by securing the best class of teachers at a moderate expense.

4. That those most willing to teach are chiefly found in the industrial class, which, as yet, has received few favors from National or State Legislatures.

5. That providing such gratuitous advantages for women to act as educators, will secure a vast number of well educated teachers, not by instituting a class of *cellmates*, but by employing the unoccupied energies of thousands of young women from their school-days to the period of marriage; while, at the same time, they will thus be qualifying themselves for the most arduous duties of their future domestic relations.

In view of these considerations, your memorialists petition that THREE OR FOUR MILLIONS OF ACRES OF THE PUBLIC NATIONAL DOMAINS be set apart to endow at least one *Normal School* in every State, for the gratuitous education of Female Teachers.

These institutions could be modelled and managed in each State to suit the wishes of its inhabitants, and young ladies of every section would be trained as instructors for children in their own vicinity. This would be found of immense advantage in the States where schools have hitherto been neglected.

While such vast portions of the national domains are devoted to national aggrandizements, or physical advantages, we humbly petition that a moderate share may be conferred to benefit the Daughters of our Republic, and thus at the same time to provide Educators for two millions of its most neglected children.

BOOKS FOR BIRTHDAYS, HOLIDAYS, AND HOME READING.—The list of expensive books, prepared expressly for the holiday season, has greatly diminished, much to

the advantage of better literature, and also as preventing useless expense. This year new books of all descriptions are few, compared with our "halcyon days of peace." Still, there must be gifts for Christmas and New Year, and those who wish to find a worthy literary souvenir for a Christian lady (old or young), which shall have an impressive interest for the present and be a rich addition to the family library, let them select the five volumes of Dr. Cummings' works, lately republished in New York.*

THE GREAT TRIBULATION: or, *Things Coming on the Earth.* 2 Vols.

THE GREAT PREPARATION: or, *Redemption Draweth Nigh.* In 2 Vols.

TEACH US TO PRAY. 1 Vol.

These books are wonderful productions, and breathe the true spirit of Faith, Hope, and Charity. The style is perfect of its kind, clear, cogent, impressive, and yet simple and tenderly careful of offences. The subjects discussed are the highest, noblest, and of most awful import to the whole human race. Upward flights which the greatest poet would not dare attempt are here opened to our view; grand and awful scenes that no human genius could conceive or delineate are here shown, through the veil of prophesy, to be surely approaching. Every true Christian, who believes what the Great Redeemer (They shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.—MATT. XXIV. 30.) declared to his followers should happen ought to read these books.

MY SHIP.

In the purple flush of the twilight dim,
Way out on the ocean's most distant rim,
I watch for my ship in her gallant trim.

Pray tell me, good friends, have you seen my ship,
Her satin sails in the blue ocean dip?
I say sometimes with a quivering lip.

"What's the captain's name?" they ask, with a smile,
And I know they're wondering all the while
At my sad question, so quaint in its style.

My ship's the most royal you e'er did behold.
And Strength was the name of the captain bold,
And Health was the freight, of value untold.

Some years ago, on a drear stormy day,
She spread her bright sails and flew far away;
Oh watch for her coming, good sailor, I pray.

Toward the lake of the Sunrise she turned her bow,
And the blue waves surged round her shining prow,
'Tis graven on my brain, I see it now.

So o'er that dark ocean I still keep my eye,
I'll watch for my ship till the day that I die;
I've faith she will come though I do not know why.

Then watch for her coming, good sailor, I pray,
Be sure that you tell me the very same day,
And whether she's anchored in river or bay.

ESTELLE.

WOMAN'S UNION MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF AMERICA, FOR FOREIGN LANDS.—We have had encouraging Reports from Mrs. Mason since her return to her School for Karen girls. All her labors in regard to the Karens are prospering. Our missionary, Miss Sarah A. Marston, who went out, October, 1861, to found a School for Burman girls at Toungthoo, has been successful: her school is established: also five native women are also employed as teachers of children at different mission stations in the East. These teachers, except Mrs. Mason, are paid by

* Mr. Carleton, Publisher, 413 Broadway. The volumes are bound in handsome style, the paper good, and type fair, making a valuable gift for a lady's library.