

forgotten how to sew ; and that a woman was hired into the house to do her mending. " But why," said I, " have you suffered your daughter to be ignorant of so useful an employment ? If she is poor, the knowledge will be necessary to her ; if she is rich, it is the easiest thing in the world to lay aside, if she chooses ; she will merely be a better judge whether the work is well done by others." " That is true," replied the mother ; " and I always meant she should learn ; but she never seemed to have any time.—When she was eight years old, she could put a shirt together pretty well ; but since that, her music and her dancing, and her school, have taken up her whole time. I did mean she should learn some domestic habits this winter ; but she has so many visitors, and is obliged to go out so much, that I suppose I must give it up. I don't like to say too much about it ; for, poor girl ! she does so love company, and she does so hate any thing like care and confinement ! Now is her time to enjoy herself, you know.—Let her take all the comfort she can while she is single !" " But," said I, " you wish her to marry some time or other ; and in a probability she will marry. When will she learn how to perform the duties which are necessary and important to every mistress of a family ?" " Oh, she will learn them when she is obliged to ;" answered the injudicious mother ; " at all events, I am determined she shall enjoy herself while she is young."

And this is the way I have often heard mothers talk ! Yet could parents foresee the almost inevitable consequences of such a system, I believe the weakest and vainest would abandon the false and dangerous theory. What a lesson is taught a girl in that sentence. " *Let her enjoy herself all she can, while she is single.*" Instead of representing domestic life as the gathering place of the deepest and purest affections ; as the sphere of woman's enjoyments as well as of her duties ; as indeed, the whole world to her ; that one pernicious sentence teaches a girl to consider matrimony desirable because " a good match" is a triumph of vanity, and it is deemed respectable to be " well settled in the world ;" but that it is a sacrifice of her freedom and