

its value for a second hand article. No amount of pushing or jostling seems to irritate her, and though some times the atmosphere of a crowded room is none of the best, still the delicately nurtured society lady stands there with a courage and fixity of purpose worthy of a better cause, till the article on which she has set her mind is offered, and then if it does not go beyond her limits, she leaves the motley assembly, triumphant and happy.

Social life in Halifax is not all jam and sweetmeats either. Many of our highest society ladies are not merely butterflys of fashion, but capable, hard working women. Women, who while they enjoy the good things of this life, manage to make those good things enduring, by their economy and aptness and good management. There are heaps of ladies here, who do all their own sewing and who teach their children; Girls who not only teach their younger sisters but who make all their ordinary gowns. As a rule Halifax women dress well, plainly but tastefully. Their clothes fit them well, and are fashionable in cut, and in many cases these same gowns are cut and made by the fingers of the fair wearer. Plenty there are here who are nothing else but useless dancing room ornaments, who spend their lives in reading novels, walking the streets, dancing and in other ways amusing themselves without a thought beyond self, and its pleasures. God help the man who fixes his affections on such a woman! But again, there are others, (and thank heaven these are in the majority) who have been brought up differently, and who will never forget their early training. There are young married women who have three or four little children. These children are clean, well kept, well cared for. The young mother makes all their clothes. Her house is always neat and inviting. Her husband comes home to his seven o'clock dinner to find her bright, fresh, smiling, waiting to welcome him. A comfortable, but plain little dinner, well cooked and well served, follows, and yet this couple are none too well off. It is the wife's *management* as well as the husband's earnings which keeps this little establishment in its state of order and comfort. They have but two servants—a "general girl" and a young woman of fifteen to look after the children. The young mother keeps up her music, too, which I regret to say is not always the



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case; and with it all, she is a leading spirit of brightness at all social functions, and her husband is never too tired or too indifferent to accompany her. He adores her and thinks her perfection, and is always willing to show his appreciation of her efforts to make both ends meet and yet keep a cheerful countenance.

This is not a fancy sketch, dear reader, but is painted from the active life of a "society woman." She says that the reason that she can accomplish so much and still have leisure for outside enjoyment, is because she "has a place for everything and everything in its place," and because there is also a time for everything, and she lets nothing interfere with these two rules.

Social life in Halifax has been most severely criticised of late, by a class of newspaper writers, which has lately sprung into life, and which is called the "society writer." There have been sundry changes in society of late years. Monstrous strides forward and wonderful backsliding too, and it is on this subject that the society writer dwells. "Society as it is," is compared with "Society as it was," and is made the target for all sorts of satires and darts and shafts; some hurled undoubtedly by the hands of those who are disgusted that things should be as they are,