

cloud had disappeared, and, as he sat down, looked around with a pleased expression.

" 'Why, Annette,' said he, 'what a nice dinner!'

" 'I am glad you are pleased,' said I, in a subdued tone.

" 'Capital!' said he; 'the best roast we have had this season!'

" He was so much taken up with my delicate reproofs as not to notice that I was out of spirits. I was half pleased and half provoked; but I kept rather still, making little conversation, excepting in reply to him.

" After desert, I handed him his cup of coffee. He was quite astonished. 'Why, Annette,' said he, 'I do believe you went to work to-day to see what you could do.'

" He had hit the truth, though without the least suspicion of the cause. My first impulse was, to be honest, and out with it, by replying, 'Is it as good as your mother makes?' This would have given him the key to the whole story,—he would have ferreted it all out, and we should have settled it there; but I felt ashamed to. I sipped my coffee in silence. The golden moment passed, and my good angel took its flight. Pride had the day. I even began to be vexed at his enjoying a good dinner so much, and so easily forgetting what had caused me so much suffering. He was very busy on that day, and did not stay with me as long as usual to chat, but went off whistling even more cheerfully than when he came.

" I went up into the nursery, and sat down to think it over. Baby was asleep, the rain was pattering against the windows, the wind was rising, and to me the world looked dreary enough. I had tired myself all out getting up such a dinner; and now the excitement was over, and I felt the reaction, I began to ask myself what I had got for it. Just nothing at all. My husband either did not or would not see that there was anything to be reconciled about. I blamed him for his insensibility. 'Once,' thought I, 'he would have noticed any change in my voice, or any shadow which came over my spirits; now, I can really be cross to him, and he does not mind it at all.'

" I had a doleful afternoon of it. I was restless enough; trying first one employment and then another, but finding no-