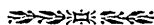


all alone! How heavily that solitude weighs upon her shoulders. A neighbor is living close by. She must also be lonesome. The temptation to gossip arises in her heart. Well, it is not a temptation; it is a simple desire to meet for a few moments and make an exchange of news and current events. Domestic duties will be attended to after her return. They meet. Conversations between female neighbors are always long, and, undoubtedly, most interesting! The minutes soon run into hours, and home is forgotten.

The husband returns from his daily occupations, he sees everything in disorder, (the same as when he had departed in the morning) and the meal is not ready, or it is badly prepared. He may say nothing, but he will begin to think and wonder what his wife has been doing during the day. That thought will pursue, will haunt him, his love will begin to wane, his confidence will weaken, and the foundation of their happiness receives its first rent. Bear in mind that no one insinuates the wife's conversations to be what they should not be, or her conduct to be reproachful. There is simply a conflict between love, duty and pleasure. The last named is victorious. The wife prefers her own slothful enjoyment to the fulfilment of duty which her husband's love demands from her. —

Yes, everyone admits that it is hard to remain continually at home, that the daily repetition of domestic occupations is wearisome, that it is trying, in the extreme, to preside over family affairs for months, for years, for a lifetime. But why grumble? Such is a wife's calling, such is her sublime vocation. Why should she forget that God is ever near, that He sees all, that He counts every step, every action performed through love for Him. that He will reward them in this life and in the next?



Who can tell the value of a smile? It costs the giver nothing, but is beyond price to the erring and relenting, the sad and cheerless, the lost and forsaken. It disarms malice, subdues temper, turns hatred into love, revenge into kindness, and paves the darkest paths with gems of sunlight. A smile on the brow betrays a kind heart, a pleasant friend, an affectionate brother, a dutiful son, a happy husband. It adds a charm to beauty, it decorates the face of the deformed, and makes a person resemble an angel in Paradise.