

ble, and displeasing; but where there is a solid foundation in mind and heart, all those elegances are but becoming ornaments.

Some are likely to have more use for them than others; and are justified in spending more time and money upon them.— But no one should be taught to consider them valuable for mere parade and attraction. Making the education of girls such a series of “Man-traps.” makes the whole system unhealthy, by poisoning the motive.

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In tracing the evils of any kind, which exist in society, we must after all, be brought up against the great cause of all mischief, mismanagement in education; and this remark applies with particular force to the leading fault of the present day, viz. extravagance. It is useless to extend our ingenuity in purifying the stream, unless the fountain be cleansed. If young men and women are brought up to consider frugality contemptible, and industry degrading, it is vain to expect they will at once become prudent and useful, when the cares of life press heavily upon them. Generally speaking, when misfortune comes upon those who have been accustomed to thoughtless expenditure, it sinks them to discouragement, or what is worse, drives them to desperation. It is true there are exceptions. There are a few, an honorable few, who late in life, with Roman severity of resolution, learn the long neglected lesson of economy. But how small is the number, compared with the whole mass of the population! And with what bitter agony, with what biting humiliation is the hard lesson often learned! How easily might it have been engrafted on *early habits* and naturally and gracefully “grown with their growth, and strengthened with their strength!”

Yet it was but lately that I visited a family, not of “moderate fortune,” but of no fortune at all; one of those persons who lives “nobody knows how;” and I found a young girl about sixteen, practising on the piano, while an elderly lady beside her was darning her stockings. I was told (for the mother was proud of bringing up her child so genteelly,) that the daughter had almost