

because the mistress was so particular. Mrs. Rae answered, with a good humoured smile,—

“Put your pride in its right place, Susan, and you will stay where you are; there is not a better situation to be found.”

Immediately that the tea was over, one of the young women with whom I had crossed the common began to tie her bonnet, and pin on her shawl, saying,—

“I must wish you good evening, ma’am. I promised my mistress that I would not be more than two hours away. You know I’ve no right to a holiday yet, I have been with her so short a time; but I begged her to let me come this once to see you. Good evening,” she repeated, with a look round the table, as if making the adieu general.

“Good by, Mary,” said Mrs. Rae. “Go on putting everything into its right place, and when your two years are over, if I live, you shall have a better situation.”

Mary’s eyes brightened at the promise, and with a hearty shake of the hand, she and her companion departed.

“That is a really good girl,” said Mrs. Rae, turning to me. “She has taken the hardest place in all the country, in order to enable her mother, who is a widow to remain in the house she now inhabits. Last year they had much illness, and the rent was behind hand; the widow would have been turned out, and would have lost the washing by which she gains her livelihood, but the landlord wanted a servant, and Mary offered to take the place for two years, without wages, if the debt might be forgiven.”

I was disposed to blame the landlord as hard-hearted; but no,—Mrs. Rae would not allow it. Here was an illustration of her maxim—“Everything in its right place,” said she. As a sacrifice by the debtor could pay the debt, there was no reason why he should not call for his own. He was a farmer, and had his living to get as well as the widow. His wife was glad of the bargain, for she knew Mary was a handy, good, working girl, and she seldom kept a good servant two years, being a sharp-tempered woman; but we must not forget that even now he favored the widow, for he was con-

tent to forego the money he might have claimed by law, and it was an advantage to any girl to have a first place where she might be formed for a better. Mrs. Rae’s reasoning seemed, indeed, to put all claims in their right place, and I said so.

“It is the rule by which I have brought up all these young persons, and many, many more,” she answered looking kindly around her.

At this moment the sound of a carriage rapidly approaching, drew our attention, and the governess exclaimed, with animation,—

“It must be Mrs. Vernon come to show me the young squire—how good of her!”

In another instant it stopped at the gate, and the lady within said, in a sweet cheerful tone,—

“How do you do, Mrs. Rae? I have brought my little treasure to pay his first visit to you. Where shall I put him? Everything in its right place, you know,” pressing the infant to her heart, as if to show that was his first place at all events: and then depositing it in the arms of the schoolmistress who took it tenderly and gazed at it with pleasure in her countenance. It seemed an evening of applications of the maxim of the house, for Mrs. Vernon had not long departed, and most of the guests (after the literal fulfilment of the precept in placing all the tea apparatus) had said farewell, when a young man, apparently of the farming class, came to the door; and, after a friendly salutation to the hostess, he turned to a quiet-looking girl who still remained, and asked her to walk home with him. She looked distressed, but declined: and Mrs. Rae interposed, saying,—

“Oh, Walter! your promise is not in its right place, nor your duty to your mother. They are stowed away somewhere, so that you do not find them when they are wanted.”

“I have not seen her for a twelvemonth, and this is the first time I have asked her to walk with me; its very hard”—observed Walter, answering indirectly.

“It is very hard,” resumed the old lady, kindly. “But when the time is over you will be very glad that you have been ob-