

like domestic essentials, the absence of education affects the poorer middle classes more, of course, than the rich. There was a time, it is said, when the highest lady thought it not beneath her to understand the culinary arts; but perhaps that day has gone for ever, and only exists in the memory of the past. With the poorer, however, such matters assume the importance of an economic science. Dickens's graphic description of Dora's house-keeping in "David Copperfield," is not far from the actual truth in thousands of cases at the present day. In the arrangement of clothes to the best advantage, such as the judicious and economic selection of suitable articles, great waste is also caused from ignorance of the properties and uses of different materials. Very few girls have any idea of cutting out clothes, or are practised while at school in turning, altering, and other matters essential for a really thrifty and managing housewife.

Looking, then, at the condition of society in all its branches, it must be acknowledged that, though woman forms the prominent character in all domestic matters, and though her education must have an influence of the most important nature, and must affect to an enormous extent the whole nation, yet it is at the present time in a most unsatisfactory condition. This deficiency, on careful investigation, is but too evident; and the civil consequences, though so serious, so extensive, and so universal, are yet so old that society scarcely notices them. Society is, indeed, so accustomed to the evil, that we are hardly aware of its existence, and cannot at all appreciate the extent of the benefit which a reform—or, rather, a revolution—in this matter is capable of producing.—*School-Board Chronicle.*

Institutions for the Education of Women.

(BY MRS. H. W. BEECHER.)

Vassar is, we think, the first College for women ever established. The liberal provision for its maintenance, in accordance with the wishes of the founder—the chapel, library, cabinet, recitation rooms; the houses for the Professors; the dormitories for the students; the dining-hall and kitchen; the laundry and the bake-house,—every needed accommodation, are all completed in the most approved manner. The whole is heated by steam, and lighted by gas. Here physical culture receives all the care that modern science and experience can give. A floral garden is managed by the young ladies. Gymnastic exercises, horseback riding, driving, boating, or skating, have their full share of encouragement and attention. The whole establishment and its arrangements are most excellent, securing a suitable amount of exercise to insure good health, and also clear heads, for the hours, devoted to study.

But in this generous provision for accomplishments for our young daughters, and thorough training in all healthful exercise, there seems to have been one department entirely overlooked, which certainly demands a large share of attention, and where we think faithful instruction in the rudiments should, in connection with other departments, begin in the earliest and most simple lessons, with the full understanding that it must go hand in hand with other branches through the whole course. We mean a full and most thorough instruction in all that belongs to domestic economy and household lore.

The preparatory instruction and full collegiate course, in a girl's education, should embrace more years than are thought necessary to prepare a boy to graduate and enter upon the duties of manhood, because we are sure our girls' minds are overburdened by an attempt to crowd too many studies into each year; thus keeping them constantly hurried and over-taxed. They have many things to do while in school, that boys are not expected to do, or at any rate, which they never undertake. No young lady we trust, would sit down at her studies, in the morning, until the room was neatly put in order. Many little touches are needed to secure this, which they can not depend upon a chamber or parlor maid to do well, and which it would not be

consistent with womanly neatness, to leave undone. Then a girl has her ward robe to watch over; rips to mend, buttons to replace, and numerous other things which a boy hires done for him, or leaves unrepaired. In girlhood, as in latter life, woman's duties are more complex and varied than man's. There are so many little things, insignificant in themselves, but of wonderful importance, in that skilful combination which must be woven together, to make the perfect whole in a woman's character, that it is unsafe to skim lightly over any. Some items appear very trifling and unimportant, when not viewed as connecting links, without whose aid the whole noble structure must be incomplete.

No one can tell while the process of constructing and perfecting is going on, through what deep and stormy waters the precious bark, once launched, may be compelled to force its way. Therefore it is wise, in laying the foundations, to be sure that no timber, screw, or rivet, however insignificant it may seem at the time, has been discarded, or insecurely fastened.

Even if it could be guaranteed that most of the young ladies who graduate from our excellent seminaries would never be placed in a position where they might find it convenient, if not necessary, to labor with their hands to secure home comforts, or prepare food for husband or children; yet there is no place free from care, where it would not be more conducive to comfort and happiness for the mistress, not only to know, thoroughly, what was proper to be done about the house, but also to know how to do it herself, should it ever be necessary. To know how to do it well will do no harm—not knowing how, may sometimes subject one to great discomfort and mortification.

We once called on a lady of great wealth. Her establishment and style of living demanded a large retinue of servants, who received the highest wages. There had just been some disturbance among her servants. The cook, receiving forty dollars a month, imagined that her subordinate in the kitchen did not render her the proper assistance. She, the sub-cook, was quite above such service as was exacted. Neither would yield, and both left. The waitress, laundress and nurse had been nursing a feud for some time, which only needed this explosion in the kitchen, and the atmosphere it engendered, to develop the final catastrophe. The noise and smoke of the battle had but just subsided, when we rang the bell, which was answered by the lady herself, with a laughing, happy face, in no wise ruffled by this unusual state of things. After doing our errand, she was led, by it, to tell us a merry story of the day's experience.

"And what will you do now?"

"Oh, I have sent my dressing-maid to the nursery,—sent the seamstress to look for others to replace the deserters, and the coachman to market. I will attend the door till they return, and then I mean to surprise my husband, on his return with a dinner of my own cooking. Mother used to let me *play cook* sometimes, when I was young. She thought every girl should, at least, know how to get a dinner. I learned a good deal then, which I think I have not forgotten, and I owe it to her that this little disturbance, the first I have had, doesn't trouble me at all."

To be sure, those who keep but one or two servants, will think that she had but little to disturb her, while a dressing-maid, seamstress and coachman were on hand. But we think those who keep the greatest number of servants are the most to be pitied, and when changes come, it requires much patience and some skill to re-arrange those who remain, if one extra step is demanded of them.

We know two little girls, whose mother is training them to meet such inconvenient changes, when they are women, in the same independent spirit. They have a large sized *toy cooking-stove*, but one in which they can make *real pies*, as the little ladies say, and real bread and real cake can be made on it, though of Lilliputian size. The stove is kept in mother's room, the pipe passing into the nursery flue. They have a little moulding board, and rolling-pin, and all needed implements on a small scale, and no richer reward can be given than to be allowed to