

always get boarders enough, and those that will pay handsomely. Give the man a mortgage of the house, to keep him quiet till next summer."

"But what will you do with the children?"

"Sally is a very smart girl; I am sure she will take as good care of them as if I were at home."

To make a long story short, the farmer and his wife concluded to go to Quebec, just to show they had a *right* to put themselves to inconvenience if they pleased. They went; spent all their money; had a watch stolen from them in the steam-boat; were dreadfully sea-sick off Point Judith; came home tired, and dusty; found the babe sick, because Sally had stood at the door with it, one chilly damp morning, while she was feeding the chickens; and the eldest girl screaming and screeching at the thoughts of going to bed, because Sally, in order to bring her under her authority, had told her a frightful "raw-head-and-bloody-bones" story; the horse had broken into the garden, and made wretched work with the vegetables; and fifty pounds of butter had become fit for the grease-pot, because the hoops of the firkin had sprung, and Sally had so much to do, that she never thought of going to see whether the butter was covered with brine.

After six or eight weeks, the children were pretty well restored to orderly habits; and the wife, being really a notable and prudent woman, resolved to make up for her lost butter and vegetables, by doing without help through the winter. When summer came, they should have boarders in plenty, but not profitable ones. There were forty cousins, at whose houses they had stopped; and twenty people who had been very polite to them on the way; and it being such a pleasant season, and *travelling so cheap*, every one of these people felt they had a *right* to take a journey; and they could not help passing a day or two with their friends at the farm. One after another came, till the farmer could bear it no longer.

"I tell you what, wife," said he, "I am going to jail as fast as a man can go. If there is no other way of putting a stop to this, I'll sell every bed in the house, except the one we sleep on."

And, sure enough, he actually did this; and when the forty-first cousin came down on a friendly visit, on account of what her other cousins had told her about the cheapness of travelling, she was told they should be very happy to sleep on the floor, for the sake of accommodating her, for a night or two; but the truth was, they had but one bed in the house. This honest couple are now busy in paying off their debts, and laying by something for their old age. He facetiously tells how he went to New York to have his watch

stolen, and his boots blacked like a looking-glass; and she shows her Lake George diamond ring, and how afraid she was the boiler would burst, and always ends by saying: "After all, it was a toil of a pleasure."

However, it is not our farmers who are in the greatest danger of this species of extravagance; for we look to that class of people as the strongest hold of our simplicity, industry, and virtue. It is from adventurers, swindlers, broken-down traders,—all that rapidly increasing class of idlers, too genteel to work, and too proud to beg,—that we have most reason to dread examples of extravagance. A very respectable tavern-keeper has lately been driven to establish a rule, that no customer shall be allowed to rise from the table till he pays for his meal. "I know it is rude to give such orders to honest men," said he, "and three years ago, I would as soon have cut off my hand as have done it; but now, travelling is so cheap, that all sorts of characters are on the move; and I find more than half of them will get away, if they can, without paying a farthing."

With regard to public amusements, it is still worse. Rope-dancers, and opera-dancers, and all sorts of dancers, go through the country, making thousands as they go; while, from high to low, there is one universal, despairing groan of "hard times, dreadful gloomy times!"

These things ought not to be. People who have little to spend should partake sparingly of useless amusements; those who are in debt should deny themselves entirely. Let me not be supposed to inculcate exclusive doctrines. I would have every species of enjoyment as open to the poor as to the rich; but I would have people consider well how they are likely to obtain the greatest portion of happiness, taking the whole of their lives into view; I would not have them sacrifice permanent respectability and comfort to present gentility and love of excitement; above all, I caution them to beware that this love of excitement does not grow into a habit, till the fireside becomes a dull place, and the gambling table and the bar-room finish what the theatre began.

If men would have women economical, they must be so themselves. What motive is there for patient industry, and careful economy, when the savings of a month are spent at one trip to Nahant, and more than the value of a much-desired, but rejected dress, is expended during the stay of a new set of comedians? We make a great deal of talk about republicans; if we are so in reality, we shall stay at home, to mind our business, and educate our children, so long as one or the other need our attention, or suffer by our neglect.