

armful of wood, or replenish the fuel in the stove, or lift a pail of water without springing to her help, and yet permitted him to go away into another room, or to take a paper and sit down, when he knew she was doing all this and much more, and he doing nothing of importance. When the family all occupy one room for living and working, all such pretence usually dies out, and the wife and mother works on and on, perhaps for hours, while the men-folks do absolutely nothing. I have been struck with that state of affairs on Sunday especially, when the wife and mother who has been working all the week must keep on working still, though she needs rest as much or more than any other member of the family, and that, too, when the work that is wearing her out would be healthful exercise to the others. Why is this? Is the work that women do so degrading that men cannot touch it? I have seen them do it, and do it gracefully, and I honored them for it, and they honored themselves by it. I believe there is no great suffering without some great wrong, and very often the two lie very near each other. Surely it is one of the simplest and most rational solutions of the problem of women's excessive household work to have men and boys do some portion of it. I see no reason against it, unless there is caste in work and women are fore-doomed to the drudgery.

It seems to me that for their own good men-kind should be taught to wait upon themselves in early life. I do not see why a boy should not be taught to make his own bed properly, and keep his room in order just as much as a girl. He should also be taught to do his own mending. It will save him from mortification and annoyance a great many times throughout life, and it would certainly prevent his becoming that egregious laughing-stock in the eyes of all sensible women, the man who justifies himself in getting up a tornado because some woman has omitted to sew a button on his shirt. If a man's equanimity is at the mercy of such trifles I would advise him by all means to take them in his own hands and learn how to do them for himself. It is his only security for serene independence, for absence from home and accidents of all sorts will happen. Children will be sick, and wives and mothers will be sick, and die off, too, for that matter.

Then how much better things would be at home if on a Saturday evening each stalwart son should sew on his own missing buttons, and make good the deficiencies in his own stockings, rather than to be gossiping at the tavern, or loafing on the street corners, or even yawning dutifully in the house around the poor tired mother,

who may be obliged to sit up till midnight to do the aggregate of this work for all of them.

I have known cases, too, where a mother of boys only has from sheer necessity selected one to help her in her labors, and reluctantly made him the "girl-boy" of the family. But it is always a blessing to him. He becomes commonly the most versatile, the most gentle, the most successful of them all in after life, if no prejudice against his work has been allowed to warp his feelings. The greatest wrong is in depriving the others of their share of the advantages.

It is no small benefit to a man to be able to know how to manage skilfully all the common details of the preparation of food. It may often give him a comfortable meal when otherwise he would be half starved somewhere in the vicissitudes of life, and no one can tell what is before him. How many a weary traveller has been thankful for such knowledge! I know men who pride themselves upon it not a little. How many a poor soldier in our late war has blessed the fortune, I ought to be able to say, blessed the mother that taught him! Mothers should teach their boys all such things, and expect them to practice them, both for their own good and the good of all the family, so long as they remain at home.

When they are married their wives may pet and wait upon them to their heart's content; but in case of any slight illness, and no help at hand, what a delightful independence it gives a man to be able to get his own breakfast and put things neatly away, and leave the wife with nothing to do but take care of herself and get well again. It is bad enough to have the wife sick; but any civilized man who has experienced in addition the utter desolation of having the house in complete confusion, and every thing at loose ends without being able to rectify it, ought to appreciate a little practical training in that direction. The service that the boys would perform in the meantime, so long as they remain at home, would relieve woman's work of many extra tasks, and often render the remaining work enduring, for there is no fear but that there will be work enough left to keep women busy all the day long.

WINTER FLOWERS.

Parlor gardeners are often too anxious to water their plants. If anything is the matter, away they go for a dipper of water, and the pot is filled full to overflowing. This is not the way to manage them. Be a little more cautious and observant of the