

who are employed in the household. In the domestic circle we have to do with a class who need more consideration, because they have less opportunity of development. It is a necessity that a girl has some time to herself, and surely in most houses that are well managed and the bump of order reigns, this can be accomplished. The evenings, or part of the afternoons, might be free from work, at least so many times a week. It is the great bondage and drudgery of household work, no time to read, or rest, or sew, but all the time being paid for by the mistress, a full return is demanded. Schools for cooking are excellent institutions, and might be attended with profit to the mistress, even at the expense of the money and time of the said mistress. At the same time, institution trained servants are not always perfection. These establishments generally have every modern improvement and convenience for the work to be done, and the training is in departments. When a girl leaves this life of rule and regulation, she is for a time, at least, thrown as it were, on her beam ends. She has no developed experience of the whole and is out of gear, not knowing how to gauge a smaller but more comprehensive work, when the responsibility rests solely with her. Then the conveniences of a private house may not be as great as those she was accustomed to, and so she gets into confusion, loses heart, and is unable to cope with the new and unforeseen difficulties, and will not mould to her mistress' ways, for these she has not learned, so the trained servant is not after all a great success. Perfection must come by degrees. Good servants must grow—yes, *we* must grow into their ways, and meeting half road, agree to go on together with due consideration on both sides. And why marvel at this? Is it not much of the same that has often to be done in married life? The husband is not perfect, and the wife is not perfect, but each having good qualities, wisdom dictates mutual appreciation and forbearance, and so peace reigns. The same nature and capabilities in a girl will not suit all mistresses alike. Then, without blame or worry, let there be a succession of experiments, till the right one arrives, she will come sooner or later. But alas! for all human hopes. When we are thoroughly settled and comfortable, she will get married, or sick, or something, and we are turned out once more into the field of experience. Ladies! be philosophical—make life a study, not a worry. Servants, "good, bad and indifferent," can teach us great lessons in human character, therefore let us not despise but prize our privileges. Till household work is done altogether by machinery, there will be no escape from the fact that "patience is a virtue."

AUCTIONS, AUCTIONEERS AND AUCTION-GOERS.

'Lives there a woman with soul so dead
Who never to herself hath said :—
An auction is my heart's delight ?

That is what she says to herself, but this is what she says to everyone else :—"How tiresome it is going to auctions ! Really when one does get a bargain it is dearly bought. I have just made up my mind never to go to another." Nevertheless you may be quite sure of meeting her at the next sale ; and say what they may there is no doubt an auction possesses great attractions for the ladies. It is to them a mild species of gambling and being about the only one in which they are allowed to indulge they neglect no opportunity of doing so. But it is to these in private houses that ladies hearts do most incline.

Can there be any amusement more delightful than to walk into an elegantly furnished house, take a look around at the pictures, furniture and general appointments, exchange greetings with a number of friends, make cursory remarks upon things in general and the late occupants of the house in particular—but oh, my friends! if there is anything to be said of you and you would fain suppress the saying of it—do not have an auction sale in your house. The gossip may have lain dormant for years, but now it will surely come to light. Were you poor some thirty years ago and has the fact been forgotten in these your prosperous days? Rest assured, some old woman in that assembly will exclaim—"just fancy the Smiths, living in such style! why I remember, &c., &c." And those who have known you in later years will chime in—"Is it possible? Dear me! I always did think they were rather vulgar," and forthwith various instances of your vulgarity will be pointed out. Still worse, if the sale should be the result of your having fallen from your high estate through some misfortune—whether deservedly or no, makes little difference—then assuredly it would not be conducive to your peace of mind to stand around at your own auction-sale and hear the remarks that will certainly be made upon you. But when it is the fair lady of the house of whom something may be said—as to her extravagance, her poor housekeeping, or some choice piece of scandal past, present, or in the possibilities of the dim perspective. Ah, then better were it for her that "a millstone were hanged about her neck &c." ere she allowed that auction-sale to take place. But is it not a sort of sacrilege to enter a house lately occupied by, perchance, a happy family and from which their lares and penates have not yet been removed, and there discuss their possible, or probable delinquencies? you may say that no christian or well-bred person would do so—then there must be a great many heathen and ill-bred people; and nowhere do they display themselves more conspicuously than at auction-sales. We often hear these people complain that auctioneers

are always rude, and no doubt some are rather rough in their manners; but I have never yet heard one speak rudely to a lady who behaved in a quiet and lady-like manner. It is the auction-goers who may more truly be termed rude, and it is time that some of them should be told that it is not only ill-bred, but also unfair and unjust to indulge in loud talking or crowd up rooms when they have no intention of buying. It is unfair to those who may wish to buy, often preventing them from seeing what is being sold, and from hearing the price at which it is going. It is unjust to the owner of the goods since it prevents him from getting as much as possible for his property; and it is especially annoying to the auctioneer whose task is thus made much more trying. Is it any wonder that he sometimes loses his temper? Indeed I often wonder how auctioneers can have so much patience with the bargain hunters who follow them day after day from cellar to attic crowding up the best places in each room, and yet never—well, hardly ever—buying anything. Many a time have I heard these ladies say :—"Oh, I don't want anything in particular, but I may buy a few little things if they go *very cheap*." Very good Mrs. Bargain Hunter, but in that case you have no right to crowd up the rooms preventing people who really wish to purchase certain articles from getting near enough to see them, or know what is being sold.

But I have begun at the wrong end of my subject. There is much to be said about auctions and auctioneers as well as auction-goers. In private houses sales begin in the lower regions, and as a rule ladies do not take much interest in this part of the proceedings. Half-worn pots and pans are no great bargains at any price, and it is very poor policy to leave all the rubbish to be disposed of at a sale. In the first place it puts the auctioneer in a bad temper to find that the people, for whom he is about to exert himself to the best of his ability, have so little consideration for him as to expect him to waste time and breath over such worthless stuff. As one of them sometimes remarks "Why do people accumulate such stuff? I always have it given to the poor;" and his example is worthy to be followed. Whenever a common article goes out of active use we should look around for some poor person whose heart may be gladdened by the gift, instead of allowing it to go kicking about in garret, or cellar till at last it turns up as a weariness and vexation of spirit to auctioneer and audience; and is often the means of losing more dollars up-stairs than it brings cents below. It is this waste of time over rubbish that lengthens out a sale until people are often obliged to leave before things that they have come to buy are put up. Besides it is when people come in first fresh and good-tempered that they are most likely to bid well, for good temper has a great deal to do with the success of an auction.

We have one auctioneer who knows this thoroughly, and who may thank his native wit and powers of entertaining an audience for his great success in life. Many a time have I attended his sales just to be amused, and like the people who "go to scoff and remain to pray," I have been inveigled into buying from pure ambition to participate in the fun of the occasion, or as an Irishman would say, "just to show there was no ill-feeling." "He is a great deal too nice for an auctioneer." We have often heard this remark, referring to a gentleman who lately graced the profession in Montreal, and who was certainly nice enough for anything; yet why should he be too nice for an auctioneer? He might be too nice for some of his audiences, if you will, but for his profession, not at all. There is nothing derogatory pertaining to it, at least not in this country where one occupation is as good as another, and better if you can make more money by it, and where even one of our butchers holds forth in public print talking of "raising the status of his profession," putting it on a par with that of the journalist, and, oh, horrors! threatening to put "the poisoned chalice to the lips of a *Witness* reporter." After that I trust no one will object to my calling the auction business a profession. We often hear it remarked that the bidding is so much more spirited when there are a number of gentlemen in the audience. The reason given being that the ladies take so long to make up their little minds, but is this really the reason of their indecision? I fear the poor ladies dare not be so independent as these their lords and masters. They may be willing to risk it for themselves, but what will Tom, Dick or Harry say when the bargain comes home? If it be pleasing to his lordship, he will possibly tell her that she is a smart little woman, and chuckle over her bargain, but if he does not care for the article, or finds it inconvenient to hand out the money at once—then woe betide her! She will be told that she had better stay at home instead of wasting time and money buying useless or unnecessary articles, and paying as much for them as they would cost at the stores, where they need not be settled for until convenient. Now there may be a good deal of truth in this, but supposing Mr. Lord-of-Creation should himself make a mistake—as he very often does—what then? Ah, that is a very different matter! Does he not hold the purse-strings, and would Amelia ever think of criticising any bargain of dear George's? But why should he expect Amelia's judgment and discretion to be infallible? We must all pay for our experience, as every young bargain-hunter when she first goes forth upon her quest will surely discover; and if George will only give Amelia full control over that portion of his income which she must necessarily be the medium of expending, he will find that she will soon acquire judgment and discretion as to the best way