

minding one of the porcupine, it is so bristling with sweeping the wrong way. But it has been a besom of destruction to dirt and now Ben's mother keeps it hung up by a blue ribbon. The first time Ben swept a floor it surprised himself and everybody else, for what with leading his classes at school, leading in the racing matches, playing base ball and drilling a boy's regiment, he was not apt to be found indoors when he could help it. But one day as he rushed home from school to "get into his ball rig" he espied his mother sweeping. It suddenly struck him how lacking in muscles were those bare arms, how flushed with over-exertion the thin face, and as he paused to make these observations he saw how hard it was for her to move the big sofa. "I say," he exclaimed, "let me have a go at that besom, it suits my biceps better than yours, little mother." So he seated her in an easy chair out in the hall as "umpire," and set himself to following her laughing directions and making a first-class job of it. From that day till Ben left home to make his way—and he is making it—he did his mother's weekly sweeping. He did other things as well that, now he had come to think of it, suited his muscular development better than hers. Always a leader, Ben set the fashion among his comrades at home, and the effect is still happily felt in many of the families of the village, where the mothers do their own work.

And why on earth shouldn't sons as well as daughters be helpful about the house? If they were taught to be, required to be and, like manly Ben, chose to be, there would be less whining about "nothing to do"; when boys sport flags, there would be fewer jaded mothers and fewer "cross sisters." Is it strange if sisters get cross because the many feminine services they do for brothers are never returned by favors that, since they require strength, are in the boy line? A great deal of the so-called women's work is quite as much men's work. Men excel as cooks, as waiters, as tailors, as sick nurses. Those manliest of men from the boy's standpoint, soldiers, sailors, travellers, explorers, could never get on without skill in those homely and homey arts that some

manly boys like Ben practise for the sake of helping mother.—*Selected.*

Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, closed a recent letter by repeating a story which Bishop Clarkson used to love to tell: A devout, coloured preacher whose heart was aglow with missionary zeal, gave notice to his congregation that in the evening an offering would be taken up for missions, and asked for liberal gifts. He had in his congregation one well-to-do man that was very selfish, who said to him before the service: "Yer guwine ter kill dis church ef yer goes on saying, give, give! No church can stan' it. Yer guwine ter kill it." After the sermon the minister said to the people, "Before the service to-night Brother Jones tole me I was guwine to kill this yere church, ef I kep' a-asking yer ter give: but, my brethren, churches doesn't die dat way. Ef dere's anybody knows of a church dat's died 'cause it's been giving too much ter the Lord, I'll be very much obliged ef my brother will tell me whar dat church is, for I'se guwine ter visit it, and I'll climb up on de walls of dat church under de light of de moon, and shout, 'Blessed are de dead dat die in de Lord!'"

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