

their own hands, by which they must realize the means of paying for their land or the rental of a farm. Everything that is done in the house, by the hands of the family, is so much saved or so much earned towards the paying for the land, or building houses and barns, buying stock, or carrying on the necessary improvements on the place: the sooner this great object is accomplished, the sooner will the settler and his family realize the comfort of feeling themselves independent.

The necessity of becoming acquainted with the common branches of household work may not at first be quite agreeable to such as have been unaccustomed to take an active part in the duties of the house. Though their position in society may have been such as to exempt them from what they consider menial occupations, still they will be wise to lay aside their pride and refinement, and apply themselves practically to the acquirement of such useful matters as those I have named—if they are destined to a life in a colony—even though their friends may be so well off as to have it in their power to keep servants, and live in ease and comfort. But if they live in a country place, they may be left without the assistance of a female servant in the house, a contingency which has often happened from sudden illness, a servant's parents sending for her home, which they will often do, without consulting either your convenience or their daughter's wishes; or some act on the part of the servant may induce her to be discharged before her place can be filled: in such an emergency, the settler's wife may find herself greatly at a loss, without some knowledge of what her family requires at her hands. I have before now seen a ragged Irish boy called in from the clearing, by his lady-mistress, to assist her in the mystery of making a loaf of bread, and teaching her how to bake it in the bake-kettle. She had all the requisite materials, but was ignorant of the simple practical art of making bread.

Another, who knew quite well how to make a loaf and bake it too, yet knew nothing of the art of making yeast to raise it with; and so the family lived on unleavened cakes, or dampers, as the Australians call them, till they were heartily tired of them: at last, a settler's wife, calling in to rest herself, and seeing the flat cakes baking, asked the servant why they did not make raised bread: "Because we have no yeast, and do not know how to make any here in these horrible backwoods;" was the girl's reply. The neighbour, I dare say, was astonished at the ignorance of both mistress and maid; but she