



The Science and the Art of Homemaking.

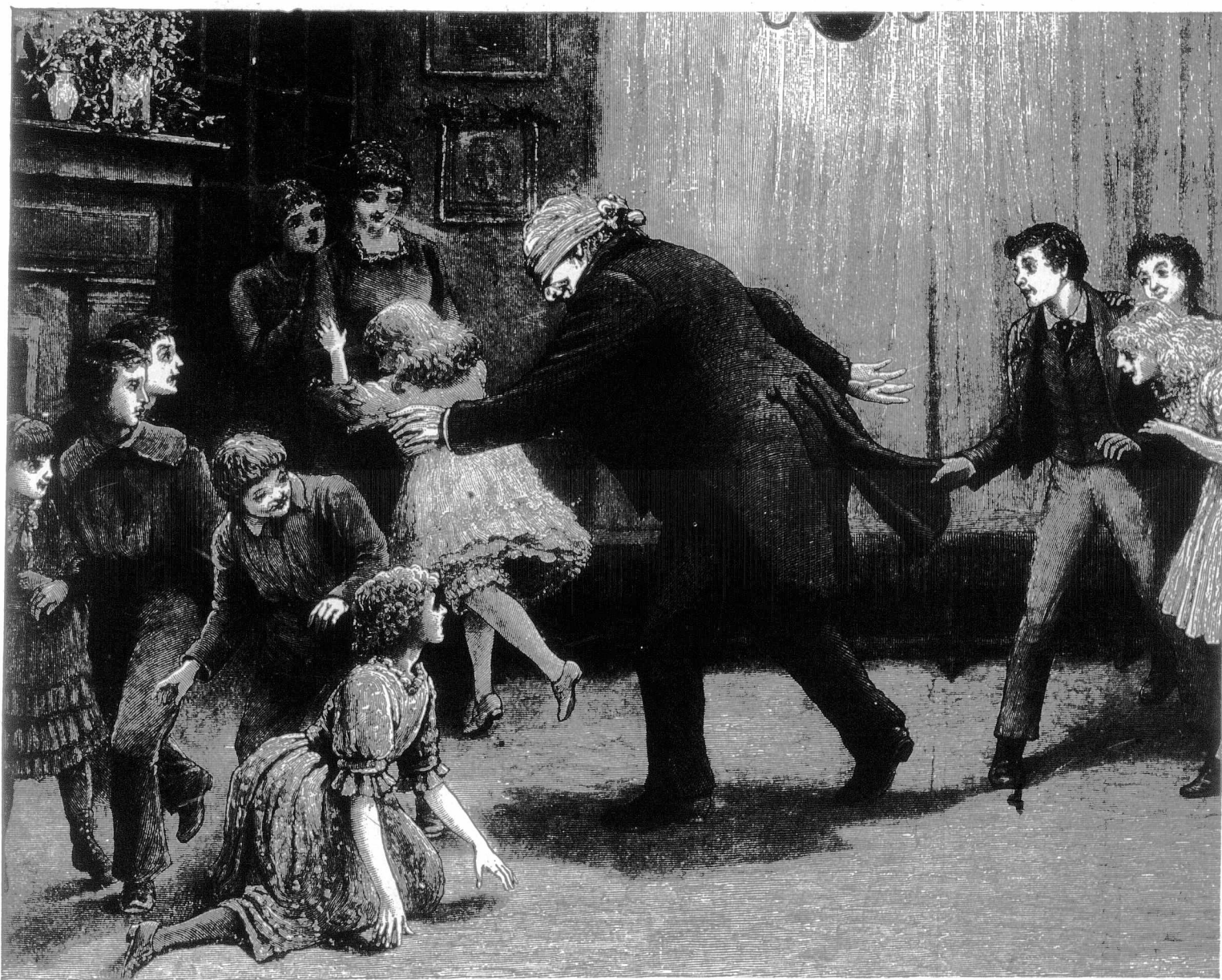
The old century has taught us many valuable lessons, but amongst them, perhaps, none more valuable than the absolute necessity for special training as a preparation for the life work of every child born into the world. Public opinion has at last decided that it is not only the man destined to become the lawyer and the doctor, the wholesale merchant or the retail tradesman, who must have definite instruction if he is to be a success instead of a failure, but that the young girl who is to become the housewife and the homemaker of her generation must have definite instruction also. There is no royal road to knowledge for one more

The girl now knows the why and wherefore of what she does. If she cooks, she does not merely take a certain number of ingredients, and after chopping some and peeling others, and stirring up the mixture, turn out a more or less palatable condiment for the table, but she knows the value of each component part, and what its effect upon the human system. She has an intelligent acquaintance with the growth and development of fruits and vegetables. She has some acquaintance with germs and how to neutralize some of their mischievous effects by cleanliness. Her sense of proportion is more exact, and she can enter upon the various processes to which she puts her hand during the day's work with an interest born of knowledge. She knows, too, that she is being trained for the life she expects to lead, which is her heritage, even though she may not be endowed with it for some time to come, or perhaps never at all. To have a home of her own may be denied to her, but knowledge is power, and the fact that she is equipped to be a housekeeper will give her a sense of self-respect and a certainty that, if need be, she can earn her own bread as the very real help in the home of another who is in a position to avail herself of her capable services.

Dr. Thwing says: "Appreciation, enlargement, enrichment, unity, and differentiation, are the

responsibilities upon her for their well-being requires special study and adaptation. The test has been applied, and the result of incorporating this definite teaching into the school curriculum has everywhere been most satisfactory. The boys who have had a chance to use their fingers as well as their brains return with renewed zest to their routine studies, whilst the girls come back refreshed from the cooking class or housewifery lesson, to their algebra or their euclid, which had begun to tangle up their mental faculties, thankful for the pleasant little break which had not only served its own high purpose, but which had cleared away some of the cobwebs which had obscured their mental vision.

The fact that this definite training will be shared in by the children of all classes alike, that it is as much a necessity for the mother-head of the opulent home as for the mother-head of the humble tenement or four-roomed cottage, for the mistress as well as for the maid, should, before this century is many years old, have such an important influence upon the vexed problem of domestic service that it will not be long before it is wholly solved. Domestic service, like that of nursing, will become a profession, and, to succeed in it, each individual must have her certificate to mark her standing, leaving only those incapable of the distinction to



"A ROMP WITH GRANDPA."

than for the other. Both boy and girl alike need guidance, and a wise discrimination in the training afforded them, if the result is to be the development of the special gifts with which they have been naturally endowed, and to this end parents and teachers should strengthen one another's hands by wise and kindly co-operation. Our limited space forbids our telling in detail what other countries have done along the lines of definite education for girls during the last fifty years, but representatives from all over the world gave, at the International Congress of Women, held in London, England, in 1899, their testimony to the encouraging fact that its necessity had, at last, been everywhere fully recognized. It was with the keenest satisfaction that the representative of the National Council of Women of the Dominion stood up, in her turn, to affirm that the Boards of Education of the Dominion of Canada were in no wise behind the educators of the continent of Europe or the Colonies of Great Britain in affording facilities for the giving to the girl-child of to-day an insight into the principles essential to the best profession for any woman—i.e., that of housekeeper and homemaker. Everywhere is now accepted the fact that homemaking is a science, an art, not a mere intuition belonging to the weaker sex alone, and which should come to her as naturally as the hair grows upon her head or the nails upon her finger-tips.

words significant of the educational progress of the century. The American people began the century believing that education was of value to every man, and especially to the members of the liberal professions; they end the century convinced that no education can be too high or broad or fine for every member of the human family." And as with the United States of America, so is it, thank God, with us in Canada. We too recognize more and more clearly "that education is not a matter of paper and ink, but a taking up of the whole child, body and mind, just as it stands there, and endeavoring so to train the faculties of each as to prepare it to do the very best as it travels along the varied journey of life lying before it." It is a path full of hope, for it makes a full provision for contingencies—it leaves in the training of the girl student "no gaps in her life to be filled up by the happy-go-lucky chance of something turning up."

Mrs. Hart Davis, in an admirable address upon the subject, at the International Congress of Women, said: "The old view was that by hook or by crook a woman would find a niche to fit into somewhere, whether she had received a good or an indifferent education. It was supposed she need not seek useful work to do. It would come to her of itself." But the spirit of the age has changed all this, and no one now questions that every phase of woman's life which touches the lives of others and entails

fill up the vacancies in the factories, the work of which requires a very low amount of mental capacity, and it will all be brought about by the recognition that homemaking and housekeeping is not only an art, but also a science, and, to quote the words of Mrs. Bottome, President of the King's Daughters of the U. S., "No work can be grander than the work our Father gives us to do, whether it be in the kitchen or on the broad highway."

H. A. B.

"A Romp with Grandpa."

Among the many joys that throng the Christmas time, none, perhaps, is more valued by the young people than the annual visit to the old homestead where grandpa reigns an honored king and receives his guests with a right royal welcome. Every hour is delightful, but perhaps the best of all is when the spacious kitchen is cleared up for a "Romp with Grandpa."

Our illustration shows a happy group all engaged in the good old-fashioned game of "blindman's buff." One little fairy is all but in the toils of the blind man, but mischievous Hal giving a pluck at his coat-tail leaves him almost undecided which way to turn. Judging from the faces of all the group, they are indeed having a merry Christmas.

A. A.