

First niece. But suppose, sister, a mistress would maliciously deny it, as I said before.

Sec. niece. Why then the maid should have the same remedy as she has for her wages, *viz.* complain to a justice of peace, that in case upon the mistress' being heard, if she could not give sufficient reasons and proof of the fact, for which she refused such a certificate, the justice should sign the certificate to the maid, intimating that having heard all that could be alleged, he did not find there was sufficient cause for refusing it.

Aunt. Well, niece, and what was your first-rate certificate pray, that you call this the second?

Sec. niece. Why, Madam, when a mistress may have a kindness for a servant, and is willing to give her an extraordinary recommendation, she may add, she is a very good needle-woman, or that she is a very good cook, that she was not only faithful, but diligent, and so in other cases: but as I said, I believe any servant will be contented with the second, which is sufficient.

First niece. I agree, that the giving such certificates would put an end to these inquiries.

Sec. niece. Which oftentimes leave us in the dark as much as we were before they are made; nay, sometimes more a great deal.

Aunt. That is our fault indeed, that we will not with freedom and plainness acquaint one another, what we are to expect from the maids we hire; and 'tis presuming upon this charitable disposition of mistresses, that maids behave so saucily as they do.

Sec. niece. Well, if any of my maids go from me, I tell them plainly beforehand what they are to expect of me, and what kind of character I shall give them, if they send any body to me.

First niece. And what effect has it upon them? Are they the better for it?

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