

From the New York Mirror.

THE WIFE'S PRAYER.

Hear me—Oh! hear me now!
By the red flush upon the wasted cheek,
By the deep tracery o'er thy marble brow,
Hear me!—Bear with me, husband, while I speak!

I've mark'd thee, day by day—
Thine hours are all of anxious, vague unrest—
Thine eye hath caught a stern, unwonted ray—
Thy lip hath lost all memory of its jest.

This wakeful ear hath heard
Thoughts nursed by thee in solitude apart;
Which, like the young of the devoted bird,
Feed on the burning life-blood of thy heart.

Thy wife sits pale beside—
Thy child shrinks back appalled from thine embrace,
Thy menials quail before thy mien of pride—
Thy very dog avoids thine altered face!

Oh! for poor Glory's wreath—
Casting from thee all tenderness and gladness—
Thou track'st a phantom on, whose fiery breath
Driveth the way-fountain, till thou thirst to madness!

My prayer is all for thee—
My life in thine:—by our remembered bliss,
By all thy watchful hours of misery,
What meed hath Fame to render thee for this?

If thou yet lovest me, hear!
Now, while thy feet press onward to the goal,
Turn thee, oh! turn thee, in thy stern career,
And thrust this mad ambition from thy soul!

I ONE.

THE WOMEN OF ENGLAND.

BY MRS. ELLIS.

We feel ourselves personally indebted to the Writer of this work, and such we are persuaded will be the common feeling of the readers of this useful volume; whether they may be Fathers or Mothers, Husbands or Wives, Brothers or Sisters, and by whatever tie they may have been united to the female portion of mankind; and we shall be happy as far as our influence may go, to promote its circulation through every family in the empire. The Writer's best apology will be found in the following most eloquent and lovely paragraph.

FEMALE RESPONSIBILITY.

Gentle, inoffensive, delicate, and passively amiable as many young Ladies are, it seems an ungracious task to attempt to arouse them from their summer dream; and were it not that wintry days will come, and the surface of life be ruffled, and the mariner, even she who steers the smallest bark, be put upon the inquiry for what port she is really bound—were it not that the cry of utter helplessness is of no avail in rescuing from the waters of affliction, and the plea of ignorance unheard upon the far-extending and deep ocean of experience, and the question of accountability perpetually sounding, like the voice of a warning spirit, above the storms and the billows of this lower world—I would be one of the very last to call the dreamer back to a consciousness of present things. But this state of listless indifference, my Sisters, must not be. You have deep responsibilities, you have urgent claims; a nation's moral wealth is in your keeping. Let us inquire then in what way it may be best preserved. Let us consider what you are, and have been, and by what peculiarities of feeling and habit you have been able to throw so much additional weight into the scale of your country's worth.

WOMAN'S LOVE.

There is a principle in Woman's love, that renders it impossible for her to be satisfied without actually doing something for the object of her regard. I speak only of Woman in her refined and elevated character. Vanity can satiate itself with admiration, and selfishness can feed upon services received; but Woman's love is an ever-flowing and inexhaustible fountain, that must be perpetually imparting from the source of its own blessedness. It needs but slight experience to know, that the mere act of loving our fellow-creatures does little towards the promotion of their happiness. The human heart is not so credulous as to continue to believe in affection without practical proof. Thus the interchange of mutual kind offices begets a confidence which cannot be made to grow out of any other foundation; and while gratitude is added to the connecting link, the character on each side is strengthened by the personal energy required for the performance of every duty.

WOMAN'S MORNING SOLICITUDES.

How shall I endeavour through this day to turn the time, the health, and the means permitted me to enjoy, to the best account? Is any one sick, I must visit their chamber without delay, and try to give their apartment an air of comfort, by arranging such things as the wearied nurse may not have thought of. Is any one about to set off on a journey, I must see that the early meal is spread, and prepared with my own hands, in order that the servant, who was working late last night, may profit by unbroken rest. Did I fail what was kind or considerate to any of the family yesterday;

I will meet them this morning with a cordial welcome, and shew, in the most delicate way I can, that I am anxious to atone for the past. Was any one exhausted by the last day's exertion? I will be an hour before them this morning, and let them see that their labour is so much in advance. Or, if nothing extraordinary occurs to claim my attention, I will meet the family with a consciousness that, being the least engaged of any member of it, I am consequently the most at liberty to devote myself to the general good of the whole, by cultivating cheerful conversation, adapting myself to the prevailing tone of feeling, and leading those who are least happy, to think and speak of what will make them more so.

DOMESTIC CHARACTER OF WOMAN.

I have said before, that the sphere of a domestic woman's observation is microscopic. She is therefore sensible of defects within that sphere, which to a more extended vision, would be imperceptible. If she looked abroad for her happiness, she would be less disturbed by any falling off at home. If her interest and her energies were diffused through a wider range, she would be less alive to the minuter claims upon her attention. It is possible she may sometimes attach too much importance to the minutiae of her own domestic world, especially when her mind is imperfectly cultivated and informed: but, on the other hand, there arises from the same cause, a scrupulous exactness, a studious observance of the means of happiness, a delicacy of perception, a purity of mind, and a dignified correctness of manner, for which the women of England are unrivalled by those of any other nation.

WOMAN AS A NURSE.

I am far from wishing them to interfere with the province of the physician. The more they know, the less likely they will be to do this. The office of a judicious nurse is all I would recommend them to aspire to; and to the same department of instruction should be added the whole science of that delicate and difficult cookery which forms so important a part of the attendant's duty.

Nor let these observations call forth a smile upon the rosy lips that are yet unparched by fever, untainted by consumption. Fair reader; there have been those who would have given at the moment almost half their worldly wealth, to have been able to provide a palatable morsel for a beloved sufferer; who have met the inquiring eye, that asked for it knew not what, and that expressed by its anxious look an almost childish longing for what they were unable to supply, not because the means were denied, but simply because they were too ignorant of the nature and necessities of illness to form any practical idea of what would be most suitable and most approved. Perhaps in their well-meant officiousness, they have mentioned the only thing they were acquainted with, and that was just the most repulsive. What then have they done?—Allowed the faint and feeble sufferer to go pining on, wishing it had been her lot to fall under the care of any other nurse.

How invaluable at such a time is the almost endless catalogue of good and suitable preparations with which the really clever woman is supplied, any one of which she is able to prepare with her own hands; choosing, with the skill of the doctor, what is adapted for the occasion, and converting diet into medicine of the most agreeable description, which she brings silently into the sick-room without previous mention, and thus exhilarates the spirits of the patient by an agreeable surprise.

DRESS OF FEMALES.

First, then, and most familiar to common observation, is her personal appearance; and in this case, vanity, more potent in Woman's heart than selfishness, renders it an object of general solicitude to be so adorned as best to meet and gratify the public taste. Without inquiring too minutely into the motive, the custom, as such, must be commended; for, like many of the minor virtues of Woman, though scarcely taken note of in its immediate presence, it is sorely missed when absent. A careless or slatternly Woman, for instance, is one of the most repulsive objects in creation; and such is the force of public opinion in favour of the delicacies of taste and feeling in the female sex, that no power of intellect, or display of learning, can compensate to men, for the want of nicety or neatness in the woman with whom they associate in domestic life. In vain to them might the wreath of laurel wave in glorious triumph over locks uncombed; and wo betide the heroine, whose stocking, even of the deepest blue, betrayed a lurking hole!

It is, however, a subject too serious for jest, and ought to be regarded by all women with earnest solicitude, that they may constantly maintain in their own persons that strict attention to good taste and delicacy of feeling, which affords the surest evidence of delicacy of mind; a quality without which no woman ever was, or ever will be, charming. Let her appear in company with what accomplishments she may, let her charm by her musical talents, attract by her beauty, or enliven by her wit, if there steal from underneath her graceful drapery, the soiled hem, the tattered frill, or even the coarse garment out of keeping with her external finery, imagination naturally carries the observer to her dressing room, her private habits, and even to her inner mind, where, it is almost impossible to believe that the same want of order and purity does not prevail.

It is a prevalent but most injurious mistake, to suppose that all women must be splendidly dressed to recommend themselves to general approbation. In order to do this, how many, in the sphere

of life to which these remarks apply, are literally destitute of comforts both in their hearts, and in their homes; for the struggle between parents and children, to raise the means on the one hand, and to obtain them either by argument or subterfuge on the other, is but one amongst the many sources of family discord and individual suffering, which mark out the excess of artificial wants as the great evil of the present times.

POWER OF KIND WORDS.—Mr. King, a respectable Missionary in Palestine, mentions a remarkable instance of the effect of pacific words, which operated to preserve his own life and the lives of a considerable party, when assailed by a more powerful band of Arabs on the plain of Esdracian. The party of Mr. King had lost a trunk, which had been stolen, as they supposed, by some Arabs. In consequence of this, they seized two Arabs, and bound them together with cords, believing them to be the robbers. These they took along with them, on their journey, contrary to the wishes of Mr. King. Soon the whole party were attacked by a band of Arabs, who set their brethren at liberty. Great was the alarm; but one of the party of Mr. King being about to fire on the Arab, Mr. King objected, and others interposed in season to prevent the evil intended. Every part of the Kofila was soon attacked, and Mr. King observes,

"It was no time to parley. All was confusion. No one knew whether he expected life or death. The latter, however, seemed to stare us in the face."—"Our baggage was at length cut off; there seemed to be a little cessation on the part of the Arabs, and I hoped that, contented with our baggage, they would let us go in peace. But in a moment I saw them coming on again; and I thought that probably all was lost, and that, as they had stopped our baggage, they now intended to take our lives. It was an awful moment. I could only say 'Heaven defend us.' I was in front of the Kofila, and a little distance ahead, when an Arab Sheik came flying up to me on his steed with a large club in his hand. Making a halt, I addressed him, calling him brother; and said, 'Do me no harm, I have not injured you.'

"I spoke to him words of peace and gentleness. Upon this he let down his club which he had been brandishing, halted, listened, and presently turned away; and soon after I saw him driving back some of our pursuers, and the cry of *ayman* (safety) was heard by us; and I need not say it was a welcome sound to our ears.

"The baggage too, to my surprise, was soon after permitted to come on.—The attack was a gallant one, and made by the Arabs as if they were determined to carry their point through life or death. And I have no doubt that had one of their party fallen by our hands it would have been the signal for the slaughter of us all."

Such facts as these are worth recording, and they particularly deserve the attention of all who read them; for they are adapted to correct the barbarous policy by which many human lives are thrown away. Mr. King, in speaking of the attack, very properly observes;—"I was unarmed. If I had had arms, I should not have used them. I came here not to fight; but to bring the gospel of peace." Had Mr. King but attempted to deter the Arab by harsh or opprobrious language, or by assuming a menacing attitude, he would doubtless have lost his life; but by peaceably and kindly calling the Arab brother, he disarmed him of his hostile feeling and purpose. If Asiatic Arabs and American savages may be disarmed by kindness, let us hope that the principle may be safely applied to people who profess to be civilized christians. Millions of lives have been lost by acting on the opposite principle.

ABSURDITIES.—To attempt to borrow money on the plea of extreme poverty. To lose money at play, and then fly into a passion about it. To ask the publisher of a new periodical how many copies he sells per week.—To ask a wine merchant how old his wine is. To make yourself generally disagreeable, and wonder that nobody will visit you, unless they gain some palpable advantage by it. To get drunk, and complain the next morning of a headache. To spend your earnings in liquor, and wonder that you are ragged. To sit shivering in the cold because you won't have a fire till November. To suppose that reviewers generally read more than the title page of the works they praise or condemn. To judge of people's piety by their attendance at church. To keep your clerks on miserable salaries, and wonder at their robbing you.—Not to go to bed when you are tired and sleepy, because "it is not bedtime." To make your servants tell lies for you, and afterwards be angry because they tell lies for themselves. To tell your own secrets, and believe other people will keep them. To expect to make people honest by hardening them in jail, and afterwards sending them adrift without the means of getting work. To fancy a thing is cheap because a low price is asked for it. To say that a man is charitable because he subscribes to a hospital. To keep a dog or a cat on short allowance, and complain of its being a thief. To degrade human nature in the hope of improving it. To expect your trades-people will give you long credit if they generally see you in shabby clothes. To arrive at the age of fifty, and be surprised at any vice, folly, or absurdity their fellow-creatures may be guilty of.—*Anon.*