

used to come sometimes to the garden-wall, and make *such* a noise! There are many people, I fear, who find pea-hens everywhere.

It is really ludicrous to hear the gravity with which some people will allude to the fact of the road being dusty, even alleging that as a reason for not going a walking; others are as much afraid of a shower; others of sunshine; some are terrified at the idea of being overheated, while others tremble at the notion of taking cold. There is no end to these idle fancies and fears; if laughed at, they think you unfeeling; if sympathised with, they multiply and increase. Let us all beware of making much of little annoyances; let us learn to laugh at them, remembering how very annoying such freaks are to others, as well as inconvenient to ourselves. A cheerful spirit, that will not see trifles or be put about by them, soon ceases to feel them; while to those who seem to find a perverse pleasure in dwelling on and being daunted by them, these little discomforts will actually become real cares, and will eat out half the comfort of their lives.—*From "Little Things."*

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

The art of keeping a good table, consists, not in loading on a variety at each meal, but rather in securing a *successive* variety, a table neatly and tastefully set, and everything that is on it cooked in the best manner.

There are some families who provide an abundance of the most expensive and choice articles, and spare no expenses in any respect, who yet have everything cooked in such a miserable way, and a table set in so slovenly a manner, that a person accustomed to a *really* good table, can scarcely taste a morsel with any enjoyment.

On the contrary, there are many tables where the closest economy is practised, and yet the table-cloth is so white and smooth, the dishes, silver, glass and other table articles so bright, and arranged with such propriety, the bread so white, light, and sweet, the butter so beautiful, and every other article of food so well cooked, and so neatly and tastefully served, that everything seems good, and pleases both the eye and the palate.

A habit of *doing everything in the best manner*, is of unspeakable importance to a housekeeper, and every woman ought to aim at it, however great the difficulties she may have to meet. If a young housekeeper

commences with a determination to *try* to do *everything* in the best manner, and perseveres in the effort, meeting all obstacles with patient cheerfulness, not only the moral, but the intellectual tone of her mind is elevated by the attempt. Although she may meet many insuperable difficulties, and may never reach the standard at which she aims, the simple effort, *persevered* in, will have an elevating influence on her character, while at the same time she actually will reach a point of excellence far ahead of those who, discouraged by many obstacles, give up in despair, and resolve to make no more efforts, and let things go as they will. The grand distinction between a noble and an ignoble mind is, that one *will* control circumstances; the other yields, and allows circumstances to control her.

It should be borne in mind, that the constitution of man demands a *variety* of food, and that it is just as cheap to keep on hand a good variety of materials in the store-closet, so as to make a frequent change, as it is to buy one or two articles at once, and live on them exclusively, till every person is tired of them, and then buy two or three more of another kind.

It is too frequently the case, that families fall into a very limited round of articles, and continue the same course from one year to another, when there is a much greater variety within reach, of articles which are just as cheap and easily obtained, and yet remain unthought of and untouched.

A thrifty and generous provider will see that her store-closet is furnished with such a variety of articles, that successive changes can be made, and for a good length of time. In the first place, much can be effected by keeping on hand a good supply of the various breadstuffs. Good raised bread, of fine flour, must be the grand staple, but this may every day be accompanied with varieties of bread made of unbolted flour, or rye and Indian, or Indian alone, or potato and apple bread, or rice bread, or the various biscuits and rusk. It will be found that these are all more acceptable, if there are occasional changes, than if any one is continued a long time.

All the dough of these different kinds of bread, when light, can, with very little trouble, be made into drop cakes, or griddle cakes for breakfast or tea, by adding some milk and eggs, and in some cases a little melted lard.

Very fine common cake is also easily made, at every baking, by taking some of