

troubled about many things: only one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good morsel, which shall not be taken away from her." The words may be paraphrased like this: "You are really taking more trouble than is necessary. You are anxious to serve us with many courses. Do you think that hospitality consists in so much serving? In providing many varieties of viands? It is a mistake. Hospitality does not demand so much in that way. The best hospitality tends towards simplicity. The essence of hospitality is the personal relation. The soul of it lies in sympathetic friendship. It is an *atmosphere* created by intelligent affection. It will care for the comfort of the guest but will not concern itself for the lavishment of luxury. I, least of all, require or desire such elaborate attentions. Only one thing is needed now to complete your beautiful work, and that is the restful spirit, a sense of harmony and repose in each other's society. You think that Mary has not been contributing her share to the demands of hospitality. She has really contributed the choicest bit of all, the daintiest morsel of the meal. Her quiet spirit, her absorbed and sympathetic interest in My conversation has been