

waxeth not old, but being applicable to the life that now is.

Still the question sometimes arises, whether those ready advisers, themselves very often at least quite inexperienced, have much realization of the difference that lies between presenting an ideal picture of a home, and the reducing of that ideal to the actual. The ideal may be set forth in an hour, while the actual requires the toil and unremitting watchful care of a life, and that too in various directions and too often against opposing conditions.

Some time ago I read an advertisement from a gentleman wishing to employ a boy. In stating the requisite qualifications, he gave a catalogue comprising all the virtues possible to boyhood life, or to that of manhood either. The gentleman wishing the boy was referred to the New Jerusalem. I have sometimes thought those writers upon the subject of home seemed to expect that all wives and mothers may have come direct from the New Jerusalem, bearing with them all the virtues pertaining to that celestial city, and none of weakness, moral, mental or physical, belonging to the beings of this lower sphere.

As order is heaven's first law, the wife or mother should be orderly, however far her liege lord may come short of co-operating with her in this respect, and thus strengthening her hands. As no line of business can be carried on successfully without system, she must be systematic, although unforeseen events are continually occurring such as throw the whole domestic machinery out of gear. She should be patient under the most trying conditions, for nothing more disturbs the equanimity of a household than a woman of impatient spirit—except it be a man of corresponding spirit. She should be punctual, particularly in the matter of meals, for the demand of the inner man are imperative, and brook not delay with tranquillity.

Should they plan to walk or drive together, although next to impossible to do otherwise, she should not keep

him waiting, as it would be trying to his patience. She is expected to prepare herself for leaving house, and home for her temporary absence, while he is placing his head under a hat. She must be frugal, for only large incomes can stand against the want of this virtue, and in preparing food, keep in view wholesomeness, economy and relish. The virtue of economy must also extend to apparel, yet she should be neat in appearance, not only in compliance with her own good taste, but as an example to her children, and also that the eye of her husband may delight in her. He, too, must be kept respectable in appearance, especially when going abroad, however much he may object to the trouble of donning the apparel made ready and placed before him. If he resists strongly, she must but the more strongly persist, although she can ill afford the expenditure of strength and nerve force needful to prevail. Is she not a wife and a mother? Is 'it not her duty to have all things thus and so? Is his example before the children in the matter of attire not also of weight? And the clothing of those children, too, what toil and unremitting care is needful in that direction, and the children themselves, how tenderly they must be cared for! How devotedly watched and ministered to, while passing through the ills that childhood life is heir to! How carefully and faithfully trained in the way they should go! What models in manners, in temper and in temperament she should teach them to be, whatever the perversity of nature they may have inherited from—oh, well, say from their remote ancestors! How patiently and judiciously she should answer to all the inquiries their juvenile natures are prone to make, and thus wisely "teach the young idea how to shoot!" And with all she should find opportunity for reading sufficiently to keep abreast of the times, in order that when the expanding minds of the children ask regarding living issues of the present,