

In the common actions and transactions of life, there is a wide distinction between the well-bred and ill-bred. If a person of the latter sort be in a superior condition in life, his conduct towards those below him, or dependent upon him, is marked by haughtiness or by unmannerly condescension. In the company of his equals in station and circumstances, an ill-bred man is either capricious and quarrelsome, or offensively familiar. He does not consider that,

"The man who hails you Tom or Jack,
And proves by thumps upon your back,
How he esteems your merit,
Is such a friend, that one had need
Be very much a friend indeed,
To pardon or to bear it.

And if a man void of good breeding have to transact business with a superior in wealth or situation, it is more than likely he will be needlessly humble, unintentionally insolent, or, at any rate, miserably embarrassed. On the contrary, a well-bred person will instinctively avoid all these errors. "To inferiors, he will speak kindly and considerately, so as to relieve them from any feeling of being beneath him in circumstances. To equals, he will be plain, unaffected, and courteous. To superiors, he will know how to show becoming respect, without descending to subserviency or meanness. In short, he will act a manly, inoffensive, and agreeable part, in all the situations in life in which he may be placed."

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

Among the means of domestic comfort there is scarcely any so important as what is called household furniture; most persons must have felt that much of their well-being depends on the articles intended for our daily and nightly use. Such a branch of family economy is one that we may worthily enter upon, and we intend this as the first of a series of articles which shall embrace all essential points of the subject, and perhaps, at the same time, convey a few usual hints to those persevering mechanics and others who employ themselves, during spare hours, in making up articles which add to the comforts or conveniences of their family. A little attention to these matters is of more consequence than many persons believe: keeping up appearances within reasonable bounds is a very laudable endeavor. Appearances are, in many respects, realities: children brought up in a well-conducted home, where they see every day a shelf or two of books, a few tasteful vases or other ornaments, or pictures on the wall, clean curtains and blinds, and well-swept carpet, look upon them all as realities, and without knowing it they grow up with a conviction of their value, and in most cases prove it, by keeping their own households in order.

A proper and becoming attention to appearances is often a warrant for true respectability of character; and it is sometimes said, that you never really know people till you have seen what their in-door life is.

A want of system with regard to household furniture leads to inconvenience. We frequently see an intermixture of articles quite unsuited to the place they occupy and to each other. Sometimes it is a handsome table too large for a room in which every thing else is shabby: or an over supply of ugly and awkward chairs: or, perhaps, a showy carpet, with nothing else to match. But the greatest mistakes are commonly made in the bed-room; generally the bedstead and window are so overloaded with drapery, that the circulation of air is prevented, light is kept out, and means afforded for the collection of dust. Many people are apt to neglect their bed-rooms because they are seldom seen by visitors; provided the parlor looks pretty well, they leave the rest of the house to take care of itself,—a bad practice, and one that is not at all a true means of keeping up appearances.

We pass nearly one-third of our life in bed-rooms, a fact which shows how important it is that these apartments should be properly cared for. We shall therefore begin what we have to say about household furniture with bedsteads. What is called a four-post bedstead, is nearly always found in the best rooms of the upper and middle classes, and occasionally in those of well-to-do mechanics. Of these it may be said that they require a large, high, and airy room; when placed in a small chamber with a low ceiling they are a deformity, as well as inconvenience: in such rooms it is better to have one of a different make. The present plan of constructing a four-post bedstead is a great improvement on that of a few years ago: the heavy valances and draperies at the top are now done away with, whereby greater lightness and space are obtained. Figure 1, represents a bedstead of this sort. Besides the usual lining at the head and roof, called the headcloth and tester, there is nothing but the curtains and the valance, or base, below. These curtains, as will be seen, do not hide the two foot-posts: to prevent in distinctness, they are shown by dotted lines; and, as they are attached to the rings by hooks, they can be put up and taken down at any time with very little trouble. The poles on which the rings slide are made of wood, and fit, at each end, into a round hole bored into the top of the bedposts. A polished or painted footboard can be introduced according to taste or choice.

SIR WALTER SCOTT said seriously, in his autobiography, "through every part of my literary career, I have felt pinched and hampered at my own ignorance."