# General Miscellany.

THE CHANGE. BY MRS. M. L. SCOTT.

There is music in the household, Where all so late was still; It gushes out in gleeful tones, Then sinks to a soft trill. No skilful hand o'er ivory keys E'er woke so sweet a strain, Nor robin-choir at peep of dawn Poured forth such dear refrain!

Yet 'tis only childish laughter, With the thousand winsome ways, Half human, half angelic, Which belong to childish days; And the busy, gleeful prattle Of the bird-like voice all day, And the pattering little footstep Chasing gloomy thoughts away.

Lopely now, I sit and wonder How I let the music go; How I lost the blessed sunshine Which had made our house aglow! One dark, drear, autumnal morning, Glided through the unclosed door The bright form, the pattering foots Coming back to me no more.

How I miss his peals of laughter, How I miss the little elfin, Climbing up my rocking chair, Peeping, rouge-like, o'er my shoulde Letting all my stitches down, Tumbling work, unthreading needles. Yet provoking not a frown.

Years will glide-he'll not remember One of all those happy days: Auntie's heart will keep as sacred All his sweet and winsome ways; All his pranks, his fond caresses. Every look, and word, and smile, Set, as in a cherished picture, Life's dull tedium to beguile.

LOVE NOT CONSTRAINED.

BY T. S. ARTHUR

Mrs. Early had been fretted at the breakfast table. The butter-knife, not being in its place beside the butter-plate, had given occasion for a sharp reprimand.

Don't let me have to speak of that again, said Mrs. Early to the servant, in a tone of voice that made her husband's flesh creep, as we say. Mr. Early glanced into her face, but its ex-

pression was so disagreeable to him, that he turned his eyes away. At the same time there came into his mind these lines of Shakspeare's: "A woman moved is like a fountain troubled, Muddy, ill-seeming thick, bereft of beauty, And while it is so, none so dry or thirsty Will deign to sip or touch one drop of it."

going wrong. The young husband had plucked his rose, the sweetest to him, that the garden bore; but, somehow, it was losing beauty and fragrance. The morning meal passed almost in silence

Mr. Early kept his eyes, for most of the time, on his cup and plate. It was never pleasant to look at his wife when she was out of humor. glect or deficiency which a little forethought on The expression of her face hurt him. Why was her part might have remedied; and so very few she out of humor? You know the cause. A meals were really enjoyed by either herself or careless or hurried servant had forgotten the husband. butter-knife in setting the table—that was all.

Mr. Early only took one cup of coffee on that morning. He usually drank two. Finish. 'I don't wonder now at the variable temper of ing the meal before his wife was done, he push- my husband, hitherto a mystery-at the ed back his chair, and rising said—' I'm in a that clouds have fallen so often and so suddenly hurry this morning.'

wife—a little ceremonial which she so persever-look for the cause in myself, and not in my hus matter-of-fact husband began to relent at the constrained salutes, but turned off abruptly and went into the hall to get his hat. Particulary was the kissing humor absent on this morning. Kissing was, with him, a sign of love, and he saw no image of love in the troubled fountain of

his young wife's spirit. "Why, Frank,' cried Mrs. Early, in sur-

started for the street door.

Mrs. Early waited until he was near the end of the hall, and then springing up from the table ran after him. He heard her coming, but sharp reproof, given volubly and with angry, flashing eyes.

husband's part, it was because she had made

When Mr. Early returned at dinner-time, he was in a repentant mood, and wished to atone by words and acts of tenderness for his neglect of the morning. But his wife gravely declined the proffered kiss, and looked at him with sober,

sharp reprimands that were especially disa-greeable to Mr. Early. He are in silence and with contracted brows. Strangely oblivious of effect upon her husband by her table

If he has no kisses to give, I will not gain and desolate winter night. The snow drifted

So, when her husband came back at day's decline, she met him with a composed manner lightly reserved, and without an intimation that she desired or expected the kiss he had prepared himself to give. We say, prepared himself to give—not from love but from constraint.

The kiss was not offered. There was a manner about the young wife that caused him to withhold it-a manner, not usual, and not quite un-

During tea time at jar occurred. If every-thing was not just to Mrs. Early's mind, she repressed complaint. Once or twice her husband saw a cloud forming and began to brace himself for a storm; but there fell no rain, flashed no lightning. A few quiet sentences passed dur-ing the meal. They felt better on rising than when they sat down. Early looked into his wife's face, soberer than usual, yet veiled with a kind of tender depression that touched his feelings. 'Have I been unlind?' he said to himself. The very question softened him. His wife came round the table and stood by his side. They walked from the room together, into the ower hall, and up the stairs. On the way he drew his arm around her waist, then bent down and kissed her lips—not with a constraint, nor pressure, born of a loving impulse. The low, weet thrill that run through the heart of Mrs.

Early was almost new to her. 'What does it mean?' she asked herself, in tone of surprise, as she leaned toward her husband, yielding to the closer pressure of his arm. On reaching the sitting-room Mr. Early withdrew his arm gently, and taking up a book sat down to read. Neither was yet entirely at ease. Something unpleasant had arisen be-tween them, and it was not yet wholly removed. Mrs. Early's thoughts were still more than usually active. Seeing that her husband was getting absorbed in his volume, she took a late

magazine and tried to find interest in its pages. She had not read far before a passage arrested her attention that made her heart beat quicker. She read it again, and then began pondering its meaning. We give the passage:
'Love is not constrained, but spontaneous.
It is dimmed by solicitation; it is hurt by chidings. If you would be loved, you must put on the graces of loveliness. Thousands of roung wives have poured out unavailing tears

for the love they might have kept by sweet de portment. They fret over things disagreeeble in their households; they scold their servant at mealtimes; they veil their countenances with peevishness, dissatisfaction, or anger, and then demand kisses and signs of love! But love is re-pelled not won. From all this, comes estrangement, not conjunction.'
Almost stealthily, after reading the passage

twice, did Mrs. Early glance across to her hus Will deign to sip or touch one drop of it."

When it is known that Mr. and Mrs. Early had been man and wife for only about six months, it will be admitted that something was viewing her conduct in the light of this new revelation, and saw it as she had never seen it before. Her cheeks burned as she remembered how rarely a meal had passed of late without its quietness being marred by reprimands addres-ed to the cook or waiter. She was almost atways fretted at the table because of some ne-

'I will reform all this!' said Mrs. Early who the whole case steed out plainly before her. over the sunshine of his face. The fault was He did not come around the table to kiss his my own. As for kisses, I will win, not demand them in the future. It they are withheld. I will

On the next morning a little before the breakfast hour, Mrs. Early went down into the diningroom and kitchen to see if things were being done in the right order. Two or three serio omissions met her eyes. She repressed her quickly rising anger, and instead of scolding until the blood was heated, calmly but seriously prise, and with reproof in her tone. He understood what she meant, but it was always a hard thing for him to act against his feelings. Just then his wife was unlovely in his eyes, and he didn't want to kiss her.

'Good morning!—I'm in a hurry.' And he started for the street door.

ble ran after him. He heard her coming, but did not pause. Opening the door, he passed out and shut it behind him. He felt there was something hard, almost cruel, in this, but the fountain, in his eyes, was 'muddy,' and he had no desire to 'sip,' or touch one drop of it.

Mrs. Early stood in surprise and disappointment for some moments, and then going into

the motion of greater things depends. They are keys by which we often unlock treasure-

book he sat down and read until the bell announced dinner.

The meat was overdone, and Mrs. Early scolded about it sharply.

"A poor same for a bad dinner!" so Mr. Early thought, but, of course, kept his thoughts to himself.

Triffing omissions in setting the table, which a quiet word aside to the servant would have instantly supplied, were made the occasion of sharp reprimands that were especially disaknowledged to herself that instant.

There was no impediment, no restraint in

toward its object by the magnetic force of love-

calmer state, but perception was at fault in the the night. She made a pillow of her arm for main. Pride came in to dim the clearness of the little child, and with one robe beneath them her mental vision.

and one above them, and the sheets of snow over and under all, they entered on a long, cold against the pung, and rendered her novel 'resting-place warmer. Though her sleep was not untroubled with dreams, Mrs. Moody awoke the next morning to find herself safe, and the babe sleeping as sweetly on the fleecy snow as on downy pillows. A part of her arm had be-come exposed and had frozen, otherwise she was warm. The horse appeared at the home-stead across the pond in the morning, and his presence revealed the trouble. Search was imediateily made, and Mrs. Moody and her

# HELEN'S BESETTING SIN.

child were soon rescued. Such an exhibition

of presence of mind and courage is rare.

" Mamma " said little Helen Ashley, "who is my besetting sin? Mr. Lee said in his ser mon to-day that we all had besetting sins What is mine, mamma?"
"Helen," said her mother, "this morning

when your little brother accidentally threw down your doll-house, you flew into an angry passion. I esterday, when for some good reason I refused to let you spend the evening with your cousins, you did the same thing; and this morning when Harriet was sent to dress you, very unbecoming in a little Christian.

Helen coloured, and said, "I know

amma, what my besetting sin is; but I am going to ask God to take away this hasty, wicked temper, and give me a gentle, loving dispo-

what is your besetting sin? Is it like Helen's, a hasty, ungovernable temper? or is t selfishness, vanity or pride? Whatever it is seek to find it out, and then beg the dear Saviour to grant you strength to conquer and subdue it. - Child's Paper.

SILENT, BUT IRREFUTABLE. In conversation with Rev. R. K. Deem, o who had formerly been a patron of the lager-beer and whisky soloons, but who, over a year who had formerly been a patron of the lager-beer and whisky soloons, but who, over a year past, had been exemplifying the advantages in his own case of the principles of total absti-nence. The trial had been a severe one, and more than once he had been hantered and jeered by his former commanions. During the last by his former companions. During the last week in January, while passing along one of the streets of Boston, Clermont county, a party of half a dozen men of the drinking fraternity half a dozen men of the drinking fraternity hailed this abstainer, and asked him how he was getting on. With perfect self-possession he replied, "Well—very well—never better. It used to be that the children and my wite and self were hard pressed for something to eat, and for wood to make a fire. The money that I earned mostly went to feed and warm the whisky-seller; but now it helps to warm me and mine. We have better clothes at home, better fires, better victuals, better health than formerly, and I have in my pocket what for years I have never had before," and, suiting the action to the word, he drew forth his pocket-book and exhibited twenty-five five-dollar bills. "There, gentlemen," said he, " is an argument for you. I never had twenty dollars at one time while I was dodging in and out, as some of you, to take a glass." The several members addressed took the hint, and like the Arabs with their tents, slunk silently away. The argument was too formidable for them, and the man was too proud to vanquish them .- Western Advocate.

STRONG TESTIMONY. -Dr. Chandler of S Albans, Vt., writes : I have never known an in stance of recovery from habitual drunkenness, except by total abstinence at once from all inoxicating beverages. And in a professional practice exceeding half a century, I have never known death or disaster of any sort to follow, as the result of such treatment. And I have never known an instance of ultimate prosperity in bu-siness, in any young man, who commenced with indulgence in alcohollic convivialities.

### Courter Colds, Seconds, (ce. ARE YOU WORKING?

you doing to stay the tide of Intemperance that is sweeping over the land, and wrecking in its onward rushing course the fondest hopes of many a heart, burying between its relentless waves the poor and the rich, the ignorant and the learned, men of genius and of influence and leaving its wake strewn with degradation orphans? Are you sitting with folded hand looking idly on and in effect saying—What is that to me? Ah! It is much to you. It may seem as nothing to-day, but, on the morrow, that tide rising higher and higher and higher may cross the threshold of your home, and th dearest idol of your heart, swept beyond your

She lifted the empty bowl in a quiet way, and handed it to the servant, speaking to her aside and in an undertone. The servant said—'Oh! how could I have forgotten!' with sincere regret in her voice, and quickly supplied the omission.

When Mrs. Early looked across the table and with true charity, with pity for the tempted and filled with true charity, with pity for the tempted and filled with true charity, with pity for the tempted and filled with true charity, with pity for the tempted and filled with true charity, with pity for the tempted and filled with true charity, with pity for the tempted and filled with true charity, with pity for the tempted and filled with true charity, with pity for the tempted and filled with true charity, with pity for the tempted and filled with true charity, with pity for the tempted and fallen, could waken you from this leth-section. when Mrs. Early looked across the table and saw the expression of her husband's eyes which were fixed upon her, she had her reward. Admiration was slightly yeiled by wonder.

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may be found seasonable t
1st. In selecting a family a family paper, even lst. In selecting a family a family paper, even more than in securing good seed for a tarm, it is necessary to get the best. To sow the minds of the family with tares is the worst husbindry which any father of a family can practice, but a profane infidel, or carelesly conducted paper is sure to do; is in the most effectual way. As the family pater is, so to a very great extent, will the family be; and papers that admit immoral or infidel a ticles or advertisementa are almost sure to mislead the amily that reads them.

2nd It therefore evidently behaves every father of a family to consider carefully this most important sub ect important for hose that are dearest to him; and if he is at present taking in a paper of a low, reckless style of morality, to entit off without hesitation, and substitute a better. And how neighborly for one who takes a really good paper to induce the

tion, and substitute a better. And how neighborly for one who takes a really good paper to induce the families around him to take it also!

3rd. In this connection, the Montreal Witness and Canadnan Messenger may be consideredly recommended as containing wholesome, entertaining, instructive and elevating mental tood in great variety without any admixture of poison. Nor is it only for choic reading matter that the Witness is celebrated. It stands in the first class as a news and commercial journal.

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