

color, form, and value. But here, I may remark, I got my first lesson in life. I found out that what we of the metals often say, "it's not all gold that glitters" is too true. What was my surprise to find that the rich and sparkling brooch on my right turned out to be a very near relation of the *paste* connection. Picture my disgust when the topaz ring which, perhaps, had tempted many a stylish servant girl, upon more intimate acquaintance, was found to smack terribly of the cut glass "set." And when the "yellow metal" itself, lying in massy ornaments around me, was silent upon the subject of acids, and changed color in their presence, I came to the conclusion that every pretension in this world is as hollow as—I am myself; in fact, that as many holes can be picked in most things, as the needle's head will find in "your humble servant."

As I had detected all this soon after I was introduced to the gaze of the public, it may readily be supposed that I longed for a speedy removal. But before this wished-for event took place, I had ample opportunity to see a "little shopping," and it may not be uninteresting to detail in what way that momentous operation is conducted. I remarked that it was a general rule that the shopper should never know, before coming into the shop, what she wanted to buy. Indeed the main delight of shopping consists in a sort of blindfold *entree* into the midst of "pretty things," and then a sudden removal of the handkerchief, followed by a dash at every thing. In this way I was often disturbed and removed from my *otium cum dig*; but, from a little circumstance in my formation, I was always returned to my place, after being uncomfortably squeezed on delicate fingers that had fingered the piano keys and the dinner dishes alternately. The fact is I was rather delicately formed; to such a degree that I am prevented from entering into an alliance with a good many fingers. Quite well do I remember a lady with a very strong and hearty body, but a *die-away*, fainting manner, coming upon me in her miscellaneous search one morning. She was a person formed by nature for a hardy prosecution of field work, but from some insane notion of her own physical incapacity she was accustomed to live on the verge of vertigo. The fingers of this fair shopper, however, dissipated any apprehension of the presence of consumption—except of the good things of this life;—consequently when I was taken on trial, I was found to be totally unserviceable, and,