

are evils of the first magnitude, and anything tending to their reform will be an act very gracious in the eyes of society. The very endearments of home, those accompaniments which carry with them associations through life, endearing certain times and seasons and even things, are unknown, or uncared for; the emulation to be better in appearance than your right or left hand neighbor is a continual wear upon the mind; a wife, however straitened the husband may be—and there are times when all are more or less straitened—must, having once assumed a certain station, never deviate from it, or else lose caste by so doing, and the indispensable accompaniments, unrequired in a private home, must be flaunted forth in public, or remarks will be elicited which upset at once domestic happiness. It is summed up thus, as Wilkins Micawber remarks, "Income £5. 3s. 6d., expenditure £5. 3s. 0d.; balance perfect felicity.—Income £5. 3s. 6d., expenditure £5. 4s. 0d.; balance intolerable misery."

In all the large capitals of Europe, people have long since found out a way by which families of moderate means can be accommodated under one roof without the slightest intermixture with each other. Now we have yet to introduce this mode amongst us; for the absence of it, is submitting hosts of respectable families to inconveniences and annoyances quite inconceivable to those who are not similarly situated. We are very certain that a boarding-house is by no means the place in which to cultivate domestic virtues; nor is the ordinary tenement house the appropriate residence for a gentleman of education and refinement, we care not how slender his purse may be; but beyond these there is often no choice for the would-be-householder of small income. The book-keeper, the Government official, the merchant's clerk, sees his family increasing, or his wants increasing in the course of years, without a commensurate increase in his means to meet those wants; he seeks in vain for a house with conveniences adequate to those wants, at a rent within bounds, and failing to find it, becomes a compulsory occupant of what, formerly a comfortable home, is now a contracted abode, beset with inconveniences; hampered with the continual presence of youthful voices or youthful pursuits, he becomes sour, crabbed, morose, and snappish; looks on his home with aversion; is glad to get away from it; seeks society outside, with its luring attractions, or careless of his person, settles down into a churlish old man; dreaded by his

children, disliked by society at large. But give him room to expand in, room where he can at times enjoy the privacy advancing years require, room where an occasional coterie of friends may meet him without the hubbub of undoing everything to-day, to be again replaced to-morrow, and his life, his very nature expands with it. We do not mean reception rooms and dainty chambers, with rich upholstery, and sets of porcelain, shut up seven-twelfths of the year;—those gorgeous solitudes into which the feet of the owners seldom intrude, except on "state occasions," and after each of which, their sumptuary splendors are consigned to solitary confinement in the dark, (the sofas, ottomans, &c., having been previously put into straight jackets of brown holland, like so many lunatics.) The Pater-familias of such a home may experience the same sort of pride that swells the bosom of the proprietor of a wax-work exhibition as he points out his emperors, kings, and queens, clothed in tinsel robes; but whole-souled hospitality in a cottage, is infinitely preferable to such ostentatious magnificence.

Wise men and women have no hankering after homes of this kind, for they know there is no comfort in them. *They* would not care to live where they are merely janitors,—holding the keys of *salons*, and yet passing their lives in an attic and back-parlor. For *them* the modest abode of domestic happiness and genuine hospitality is the home aimed at; a cottage, the solid attractions of which are all summed up in the simple phrase: "a comfortable home." That is the secret of the success attendant on many a man's career.

It is not our intention to touch on matters which cause jars and unpleasantness; men do not like to grieve the hearts and cloud the brows of the gentle ones at home with the history of outside troubles; but of this fact, the wives of all engaged in active pursuits may feel assured, that whether revealed or kept secret, certain annoyances must be the excuse for occasional irritability of temper, and give a claim to all the kindness, consideration, and solace associated with the idea of a comfortable home. He who knows that a quick ear is listening for his well-known step, that loving eyes are watching for him, and will look brighter when he appears; that the arm-chair and slippers are ready for him in the accustomed corner; that the meal to which he hastens has been made dainty under wisely superintendence; that he is going out of the "work-day world" into a