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COUNTRY COMMISSIONS AND COUNTRY COUSINS.

The hospitality of the country has been, time out of mind, proverbial, while that of large cities, the metropolis in particular, remains of very doubtful repute. Nor are country people satisfied with merely receiving their friends from London or the country town at their own houses, but, at particular seasons of the year, make up huge baskets of poultry, game, and other acceptable presents, which they dispatch by coach, carriage paid, to the residence of the parties for whom they are intended. Few or no returns are made of the kind from London; and when country people come to town, it is not often that they find spare beds for their accommodation, but are compelled to take up their abode at some hotel, in which they pay dearly for numerous discomforts. In behalf of the Londoners, it may be urged that the presents which they receive are usually the product of the farm of the donor, probably easily spared, although that does not detract from the value of the gift; and that they, in making a suitable return, must actually purchase the articles which they desire to send. It may also be insinuated that, in going down to a family in the country, the visitors from town rarely make any serious disturbance in the arrangements of the establishment; they fall readily into the hours and pursuits of their hosts, in fact, having little choice in the matter, since they are in a great degree dependent upon their will and pleasure. Excursions to places of interest in the neighbourhood may be proposed, but they must be formed entirely to suit the convenience of the family; and it not unfrequently happens that the Londoners return to London without having seen any

thing beyond a walk; unsettled weather, lame horses, colds, a heavy turnpike, or a very difficult road having prevented every other indulgence. Visitors, moreover, from London, bring to their country friends, in new fashions, new ideas, and the freshest tattle of the high circles, something which renders their visits a good deal of a treat, while country friends visiting Londoners have nothing corresponding to make their advent in the same degree agreeable. If, however, the exchange in affairs of hospitalities be thus somewhat unfavourable to the provinces, it is more than compensated by the advantages which they enjoy in the great business of commissions.

Ladies in the country read, in London newspapers, flaming advertisements relative to extraordinary bargains, such as superb silk opera cloaks at one pound fifteen. Eager not to lose an opportunity of purchasing at so low a price, they request a friend at the northern or western extremity of London to go to some unheard-of place across the bridges, and lay out one pound fifteen on a silk opera cloak. The article turns out to be mere rubbish—a faded sarsnet, half cotton in the first instance, and in the second wholly lined with calico. The shop people do not undertake to send their goods home; a hackney-coach must be engaged, or a porter paid by the purchaser, who does not like to add this item to the account; and, after a very disagreeable walk to a very disagreeable part of the town, a positive outlay of several shillings is incurred. Then the parcel must be sent to the coach-office and booked; and if it should not be convenient to employ one of the servants upon this errand, a man must be hired at a farther expense. By return of coach, back comes the parcel,