

seem to be indispensable to the householder's self-respect. Not to be able to plane the top of a door or the edge of a drawer when it sticks ; or to drive a nail straight, or send home a screw without splitting the wood, or fit a key, or mend a child's toy, must involve a humiliating consciousness of inefficiency. Yet there are men who strive to reconcile with self-esteem all these incompetencies, and another more inexcusable than either of them—the inability to run a furnace and raise or lower the temperature of one's habitation at will.

Tuning pianos and mending dor-

mant clocks are accomplishments, and do not come under the head of ordinary chores. Moreover they are occupations of elegant leisure, and not for the odd moments of a busy life. But with true chores it is different. Their is a flavour about them which is too valuable to be lost out of life. A house-holder who has none that he recognizes might almost as well live in a hotel. He is the sort of man who rings for a servant when the open fire falls down. Poor helpless one, who misses so much of the luxury of doing things for himself!—*Scribner's Magazine.*

THE IMPERIAL IDEA.

BY MR. LECKY.

MR. LECKY, who was received with cheers, said : I have been asked on the present occasion to deliver a short address which might serve as an introduction to the course of lecture and conferences on the history and resources of the different portions of the Empire which are to take place in the Imperial Institute. In attempting to discharge this task my first reflection is one which the very existence of the institute can hardly fail to suggest to any one with any knowledge of recent history. It is the great revolution of opinion which has taken place in England within the last few years about the real value to her both of her colonies and of her Indian Empire. Not many years ago it was a popular doctrine among a large and important class of politicians that these vast dominions were not merely useless but detrimental to the mother country, and that it should be the end of a wise policy to prepare and facilitate their disruption. James Mill, who held a

high place among these politicians, wrote an article on the colonies which clearly expresses their view. Colonies, he contended, are very little calculated to yield any advantage whatever to the countries that hold them, and their chief influence is to produce and prolong bad government. Why, then, he asks, do European nations maintain them? The answer is very characteristic both of the man and of his school. Something he charitably admits is due to mere ignorance, to mistaken views of utility, but the main cause is of another kind. He quotes the saying of Sancho Panza, who desired to possess an island in order that he might sell its inhabitants as slaves, and put the money in his pocket, and he maintains that the chief cause of our colonial empire is the selfish interest of the governing few, who valued colonies because they gave them places and enabled them to multiply wars. In more moderate and decorous language an eminent writer who is still living