

tradesmen cannot well keep one; but his wife, who might be useful in his shop or business, must do the drudgery of household affairs; and all this because our servant wenches are so puffed up with pride now-a-days that they never think they can go fine enough. It is a hard matter to know the mistress from the maid by their dress. Nay, very often the maid shall be much the finer of the two." "Nothing but silks and satins will go down with our kitchen wenches, to support which intolerable pride they have insensibly raised their wages to such a height as was never known in any age, or nation, but this."—(See Defoe's *Everybody's Business Nobody's Business*.)

Defoe describes the mode in which girls fresh from the country are treated by older "wenches:" "The girl has been scarce a day in her service but a committee of servant wenches are appointed to examine her, who advise her to raise her wages or give warning." * * * "Her leathern shoes are now changed into laced ones, with high heels. She must have a hoop too as well as her mistress; and her poor, scanty linsey-woolsey petticoat is changed into a good silk one. Plain country Joan is turned into a fine London Madam, can drink tea, take snuff, and carry herself as high as the best." (Then comes a glimpse into the morality of servants in those days. It would shock Mrs. Jones to hear it read, though sooth to tell she is no prude.)

"Our Sessions' papers of late are crowded with instances of servant maids robbing their places. This can only be attributed to their devilish pride, for their whole inquiry now-a-days is how little they shall do and how much they shall have." (Defoe then traces in very plain English the career of many—how fine dress leads them to folly, wickedness, poverty, misery, and early death. We see the same process in scores of instances in our cities every year; but it is not worse with us than it was in Defoe's day. I hope not quite so bad.)

"Those who are not thus vicious are thievish. The most pernicious are those who beggar you inchmeal. If a maid is a downright thief she strips you at once, and you know your loss; but these retail pilferers waste you insensibly, and though you hardly miss it, yet your substance shall decay to such a degree that you must have very good bottom, indeed, not to feel the ill effects of such moths in your family.

"Tea, sugar, butter, wine, &c., are reckoned no thefts. If they