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erns with his head.' And he had not governed at all. And all that time his wife, the sharer of his joys and sorrows, had let her woman's heart and her love for him and their children, make her more and more of a household drudge and servant to them all. And now her youthful beauty was waning, the happy light fading from her eyes, and the gray stealing into her locks.

In his business he had men under him—men who obeyed his orders cheerfully, and yet respected him. He was not, then, devoid of the capacity to control others firmly but kindly. He had simply taken too much for granted at home, and thus neglected his duties there.

When he started for home that night, his resolution was complete. There was a purpose in his heart. He would take full charge of his domestic affairs, and see if he could not improve matters. So that night at supper he put on his cheeriest manner, as he said:—

'Katie, you and I will get breakfast in the morning, and let mamma see how it goes to come down to a breakfast she has not cooked.'

'Why, papa,' exclaimed Miss Katie, in surprise.

'Well, I declare, John, what possesses you?' said the mother, with a pleased look on her face, nevertheless.

'Just a little home-made holiday for you, mamma, that's all.' Then he added, with a smile, 'Katie can cook a little, and she and I together will make a good team. We will let Frank and Jennie straighten up the house, while mother gives orders.'

This caused a general laugh, and somehow, John Kent felt that he was nearer the hearts of his children than evening than he had been in ten years.

The next morning Katie needed no second calling to bring her downstairs, and she entered into the breakfast preparations with a zest and spirit that so pleased her father that he whispered to her: 'The laborer is worthy of his hire—you remember the hat with the red and gold trimmings, eh?'

'O papa,' laughed Katie, with her eyes dancing a happy light.

In due time the meal was prepared, and Katie proudly rang the breakfast bell.

'Just as I thought,' mused John to himself, 'the children are all right, only their mother has been too slack with them; she'd rather take two steps herself than to ask them to take one—that is what is wearing on her so.'

'Look at mamma,' cried Jennie, when they were seated at the breakfast table.

And, indeed, it was well worth while to look; for that morning 'mamma' looked more like the pretty Sarah Lasley that John Kent had courted so hard to win,—more so than she had in fifteen years. Her quick female instinct had divined her husband's purpose in the new regulation of domestic affairs, and she had said to herself that she would not disappoint him, if it lay in her power to gratify his wishes. So, when she rose that morning, and heard him and Katie downstairs busy about the breakfast, she smiled, as she proceeded so leisurely to dress. She robed herself in one of her prettiest morning wrappers, and

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spent much time in the preparation of her hair.

'I declare, I feel like a girl,' she said, half aloud, as she responded to the call to breakfast. Jennie's remark confused her, and she actually blushed as her eyes met the happy gaze of her husband.

As for John, he felt that he had made a good start, and accomplished much, and he resolved to keep up the new order of things, so happily begun. He went to his office that morning with a brighter face than he had worn for many a day.

His sense of justice made him keep his faith with the children, and he made them feel that they were earning all the additional favors shown them and the many nice little things that he brought home to them. He proved to be a good manager of domestic affairs, and gradually the mother was duly installed as queen and mistress of the household with three loyal children,—all of whom were ever ready to do her bidding. Then the bloom came back to her cheeks, and the happy sparkle to her eyes. The gray in the hair kept on apace, but it was ever well-dressed and pleasing to look upon; and as Sarah Kent rounded out her fifth decade, there was much in her face and her happy manner to remind one of the blooming lass of nineteen years, who, as Sarah Lasley, had linked her fortune for life with that of John Kent.

And when a little golden-haired grandchild came, and the grandmother would press the little chubby face against her own, Frank would say:—

'Mamma, you don't look like a grandma; you look as young as sister Kate.'

A Plea for the Village Improvement Society

It is the easiest thing in the world to get a village improvement society started in almost any community if one earnest, enthusiastic person will take the matter in hand. This is especially the case at the present time, for enough of the work of such societies can be seen on all sides to convince any thoughtful person of the benefit growing out of them. It needs someone for a leader who is what we

Westerners call a 'hustler'—a person who has the knack of organizing and directing individual effort in such a manner as to make it available and effective. If there is such a person in the community, and he—or she—has the amount of enthusiasm necessary to arouse public interest and create or stimulate a desire for beauty in everyday, practical life, there is no good reason why a local improvement society should not be organized in any community—there is nearly always need for it. Recognize this need fully and bring it to the attention of others, then go to work at once in the formation of your society. Do not wait for next spring or next fall, but begin your work now, for there is always something that can be done, and there is no reason for deferring action to a special season or until such action may seem timely. All times, all seasons are alike to such a society, whose work must go on during the entire year. Therefore get down to business as soon as possible, be the time spring or summer, fall or winter. If you cannot work to advantage, you can plan for work, and a good plan to follow always enables a society to dispose of its work to the greatest advantage when working-time comes.

If you organize a village improvement society be sure to include the women in it, and give them an opportunity to carry out some of their ideas. A woman has a keen eye for the beautiful, and her knowledge of color-combinations will be of great benefit in the arrangement of flowering plants. But her usefulness will not be confined to the aesthetic features of the undertaking. Women can be as practical as men are. In Green Bay, Wisconsin, certain lines of street work have been put into the hands of a committee of prominent women with most satisfactory results. They not only plan, and plan wisely, but they execute, and execute thoroughly.

It is a most excellent plan to interest the children in this work also. They will bring a great deal of enthusiasm to the performance of their share of it, and take pride in living up to the responsibilities placed upon them. It will be good training for them. Bear in mind this fact—that the greatest measure of success is almost always the result of the widest, hear-