

of the flower race were here united in their mission of adding grace and beauty to the earth, delighting the eye, and refining the nature of man, and lifting his thoughts to Him who "so clothed the grass of the field."

The songbird had not given place to the quarrelsome sparrow, and the oriole's "bottle" still swung on the slender branch. The squirrel ran unharmed from tree to tree, and saucily chattered his right of domain.

The Palmers had no golden piles from the top of which they could presume to look in scorn upon their neighbors, but hearts, content and at peace with all the world, gave them greater wealth than all the glittering stores of Cræsus. Their farm furnished them an income which must be wisely used, and they had learned life's best lessons at the smallest cost. Wealth had never taught them that weak self-indulgence which leads to the worship of gold, and the contempt for all that is truest, noblest, best, in the discipline of life. A limited income had impressed the lessons of thrift and self-dependence. They had learnt to measure life and its realities by a truer standard than the gold dollar.

The furnishing of the large airy rooms told of comfort, but not luxury or wasteful wealth. Use rather than ornament had been the motto of those whose judgment had given each room its appointments, and the very apparent utility of every article gave the impression that elegance can never be separated from tasteful utility.

The library, though small, was selected with good judgment, and was composed of the standard poets, biographies, histories, and fiction in plain strong bindings, not too good to be used every day. Two or three shelves were devoted to the children. Here were found such works as would introduce the young mind to the best literature and at the same time give it a view of life, not as a fairy land of ease but as a reality which calls for the best and truest activities of mind and body. There were attractive biographies of the world's truly great men, easy histories, selections from the poets, wholesome travels, elevating fiction and elementary science and natural history. A few of the best periodicals furnished reading for spare moments, but by judicious care the parents directed the intellectual appetites of the family