

## THE YOUNG WIFE.

MARY TOPHAM, and George Ramsden had got married. Mary had been housemaid at Mrs. Johnson's, of Greenhills; and George was a warehouseman in a cloth warehouse in Leeds.

They had been engaged a long time—nearly four years. They would have liked very well to be married sooner, but for one thing, Mrs. Johnson, who was an invalid, did not want to part with Mary; and then, again, she and George had agreed that they would wait till they could furnish their house comfortably without getting into debt.

Mary had been early left an orphan, and when her father and mother died, she had been greatly indebted to Mrs. Oldfield, who got her into an orphanage, and who also, when the time came that she should leave, found her first place for her. In other ways, too, she had shown Mary great kindness. Indeed, she had never lost sight of her.

Every now and then, Mrs. Oldfield, who lived in Halifax, wrote to Mary, and Mary wrote to her. Indeed, there was nothing of any importance to Mary's interests which she did not tell her friend. Now and then, too, when she had a holiday, she went over to Halifax to see her. Of course she told her about George Ramsden.

Long before George and Mary got married, they agreed that whenever they got a house of their own, Mrs. Oldfield should be one of their very first visitors. Accordingly, a few weeks after their marriage, Mary wrote to her to ask her to go and see them; and it was arranged that she should go on the following Saturday afternoon and stay over the Sunday.

George went to meet Mrs. Oldfield at the railway station, and conducted her to their home, where, it is needless to say, Mary gave her a most hearty welcome.

Who ever knew a young wife who had a nice, newly-furnished house, whether it was a working-man's cottage or a rich man's mansion, who was not proud to show her friends, and especially her female friends, over it? Mary was no exception to this rule; and as soon as tea was over she took Mrs. Oldfield round her house. The old lady was greatly delighted. Everything was just to her mind. There was not a single article that was tawdy or flimsy; but everything was good and substantial. It seemed as though, with ordinary care, the furniture might last a lifetime.

But Mrs. Oldfield was a great deal more pleased with Mary's husband. She soon saw enough to make her feel sure that he was a kind, God-fearing man. They had family worship both morning and evening; and almost as soon as breakfast and prayer were over on the Sunday morning, George set off to the Sunday-school. He had gone there every Sunday, first as a scholar and then as a teacher, ever since he could remember; and neither Mary nor he saw any reason why he should leave off because he had got married. Mrs. Oldfield and Mary met him at the chapel-door in time for divine service, and they all sat together. In the afternoon George went again to the Sunday-school, and they all went to chapel again in the evening.

Mrs. Oldfield said the Sunday was over before she knew where she was; which was a sign she had enjoyed it very greatly. Indeed, she said she did not know when she had spent such a happy day.

The following morning Mrs. Oldfield was preparing to go back to Halifax; but both Mary and George pressed her to stay a day or two longer, more especially as George was going from home for some days on business for his master. Mrs. Oldfield gladly consented, and a very good thing it was she did, for Mary and she had some talk together that evening which Mary found a great blessing, and which she never forgot.

It began by Mrs. Oldfield saying, "Well, Mary, I think you have got a good husband, and that you have a fair prospect, if God should

spare you, of being very happy."

"Yes," replied Mary, "and I am very thankful; but it's a new sort of life for me, and I sometimes wonder how I shall get on; but I must try to do my best."

"I am sure you will do that, Mary," replied her friend; "but you must ask God to help you. He will give you all the wisdom and grace you may need for your new duties. He has done this for tens of thousands, and He'll do it for you, if you ask Him."

We have not room to report their conversation at length; but here are a few things which Mrs. Oldfield said, which perhaps some young wives—and even some who are no longer young—may find worth considering.

"You love your husband, and your husband loves you; but you will soon find, if you have not found already, that you are neither of you perfect. You will find out his faults, and he will find out yours.

