

Michael was announced. He had heard of his arrival but had not expected so speedy a visit to himself, and was proportionately pleased until he feared perhaps Lady Anstruther was worse and had sent for him. But directly he was reassured on this point, he gave himself up to the pleasure of Michael's society. He was greatly interested in the young man's career, and eager to hear anything Michael could tell him about new scientific discoveries in the field of medicine, and new practices in surgery. At one time Mr. Gilman had thought of being a doctor himself. His interest was so genuine that Michael was carried away by it and forgot his mother and Beattie and every other subject. It was not till the rector was summoned to his early luncheon that Michael remembered the flight of time.

"Come again soon, my dear boy," said Mr. Gilman, his kindly near-sighted eyes bright with an unwonted light, and his manner almost eager; "it has been such a pleasure to have you to myself. The children will all be home next week. Norah has been away for a fortnight now and you can't tell what the house is without her. She is a quiet little mouse, but one is dreadfully conscious of her absence."

"I shall be glad to see her too," said Michael frankly.

Mr. Gilman did not share Lady Anstruther's hopes as to the possible future of their two children. Such a thought had never entered his head and was not likely to. Not for worlds would he have stood in his daughter's light, but unconsciously he looked for her to be with him and the boys, as she had been since her mother died. In the home and the parish there was much useful work to be done, and that was her sphere. It was Lady Anstruther who reminded him sometimes that after all Norah was very young and that she ought to have the pleasures which later years cannot supply.

"Don't let her when she is old feel she has been deprived of her girlhood," she would say. "We know, you and I, that happiness is only to be found in the faithful performance of duty, but we have duties as well as Norah, and we must see that we do not abuse her conscientiousness."

Lady Anstruther entertained but little, but she had determined to do what she could this summer, that Norah might at least have the opportunity of seeing such society as was to be found within a radius of ten miles. She could see that Norah inherited from her father a retiring disposition that if encouraged might lead to eccentricity. She did sometimes want a girl friend, but otherwise she

was fairly content. She did not care for general society, and her happiest moments, except when she was with Michael, were spent in her household duties and in the cottages where there were old people and little children.

"But some day she must face the world," Lady Anstruther would think; "And is she having the best preparation for it?"

It was at her instigation that Norah accepted Mrs. Gilman's invitation, which both she and her father had been disposed to refuse. She thought that it might lead to Norah's having a season in London under her cousin's chaperonage in the following year, and to her seeing more of the world which even the most unworldly must inhabit, and in which the best as well as the worst of human nature is probably developed. Lady Anstruther's experience of life had not led her to find most admirable the type of character to be found in dwellers in solitude, nor those who voluntarily embrace a narrow sphere. She believed that the sanest, and healthiest, and noblest lives were lived by those who freely mixed with their fellow-creatures, sweetening and ennobling every gathering, purifying all intercourse, by the love which comes from God, and flows out to humanity.

(To be continued.)



QUESTION AND ANSWER.

GIRLS' EMPLOYMENTS.

EMIGRATION TO SOUTH AFRICA. *I am recommended for the sake of my health to go to South Africa. Could I obtain a post there as companion-help? If so, what preparation for the duties ought I to seek? Is there any society to which I could turn for guidance on arrival? I am fond of domestic work.*

FRIENDLESS GIRL.

If you go to South Africa, you must be prepared for hard work. The life, however, except in some insanitary towns, is healthy, and we have known delicate women return to England much invigorated by residence in the dry climate, although they have had to be at work from early morning till late at night, and engaged in duties of the most laborious domestic character. You should not leave home until you have acquired a thorough knowledge of all ordinary household duties, cooking, dairy-work, and, if possible, of poultry-keeping also. The ability to make good butter has been known to prove quite

a small fortune to its possessor in a land where butter is so scarce that people pay three shillings a pound for it. In any of the best schools of housewifery you would learn much that would be of service to you in your future life; but probably you could hardly do better than become a pupil at the Emigrants' Training Home, Leaton, Wrockwardine, Wellington, Salop. The arrangements for the reception of women emigrants in South Africa are not at present as satisfactory as could be wished. There is a good home, however, with moderate charges, at Pietermaritzburg, the Jubilee Institute, which has recently been opened by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and in Johannesburg there is the Women's Residential Club, 108, Kerk Street, which is conducted by Miss Plunket, who also endeavours to find situations for women who apply to her. You must remember that if you wish to go inland as far as Johannesburg, you ought to allow yourself a considerable amount of money over and above the bare cost of your passage, so as to cover railway fares and the probable expense

of having to spend a short time at your own cost before you found employment to suit you. In regard to the nature of the work itself, we cannot do better than quote some passages from an interesting letter addressed to us by one of our South African readers who signs herself "Natalia." "Nearly every housewife," says our correspondent, "keeps a Kaffir boy to do the rough work. The Kaffir girls will do beds and dusting, but (with very few exceptions) refuse to wash saucepans or even dishes. They say, when asking for work, 'No, missus, me no work in the kitchen.' As our daughters are quite capable of doing the ordinary house-work, we want a kind of general servant to scrub floors and work in the kitchen; so the little kitchen Kaffir suits us very well." This Kaffir labour, however, is extremely irregular, and long periods may intervene, during which the ladies of the house have to do everything for themselves. Consequently, a woman who contemplates going to South Africa should be prepared to supply all her own needs when circumstances require her so to do.