

RIGHT BEGINNINGS.

ESPECIALLY ADDRESSED TO YOUNG WIVES.

YOUNG people are supposed to improve themselves, but it seems to be the general opinion that marriage, or the ceasing to be young, is a dispensation from what girls call "anything sensible." "There are other things to be done." So there are; but housekeeping is very far from occupying all the time at the disposal of a newly-married lady. Even where small means cause the lady of the house to undertake some part of the work of the house, and all the needlework, she will, at all events, in the earlier years of her married life, have a good many silent hours, if her husband be a professional man. And most women, whether married or single, have time to dispose of, which may either be frittered away in busy idleness or turned to valuable account. The great hindrances are want of method, unpunctuality, dawdling, and talk. To take them in their order. Method is almost constitutional. Some people are never happy without a framework for their day and week; others feel intolerably fretted by any rule, and are wearied by the tedious vista of the same thing to be done at the same time at regular intervals, instead of when the humour for it comes.

To them, of course, the danger is that the humour for doing the more unpleasant parts of their duty never does come, and that much that is really important is apt to be forgotten and put off, kindnesses neglected, and promises broken, and the eyes of the needy left to "wait long"; while the danger to the methodical is that they are so much jarred by any disarrangement of their routine that temper frequently fails, and bewilderment makes them lose head and presence of mind.

But method is on the safe side, and is above all desirable in the class who are in authority. A housekeeper, a schoolmistress, or a governess, would be totally inefficient without method, and surely the mistress of a house must need it even more.

It is a discipline which all who deal with matters of conscience strongly recommend, and therefore should be made a principle, when no greater call breaks it up. A girl, who ever since she left the schoolroom has been at every one's beck and call all day long, and then has had all her habits deranged by her halcyon days of courtship, and afterward by bridal travels and visits, may often feel it difficult to settle into regularity when in her own house. But then is her time. Most likely, though her avocations are more needful, the arrangement of them is more in her own hands than when she was only one member of a household. If her husband be a busy man, he is probably bound to certain hours, and she knows exactly just what time he shall have to bestow on her. If he has a good deal of time on his hands, and is apt to want her at all hours, though all plans must be postponed to his pleasure, still it is well to have certain fixed landmarks in the day, to which to persuade him to conform, or that strange wild thing will grow up, a ramshackle household, in which no one knows when anything is to be done, nor where anything is to be found, and there is continual fret and worry, to all who do not chance to be born with a reckless, easy-going temper.

Let not the young wife be led away by the foolish saying that only tiresome people do things at regular times. Probably she has a good many hours of the day before her while her husband is engaged, and she will do much more wisely if she resolves against being desultory. If she picks up her work or her book, or tries the last bit of music, just when the humour takes her; rushes out to the garden or to the shop the moment an idea or want strikes her; encourages visits at all hours from the friend next door; and writes her letters either on the spur of the incoming post or in a frenzy of haste at its departure, she will ere long be weary, find nothing done, and have begun on a course that will not be easy to break.

She will be much wiser, and much less likely to spend a wearisome life of muddle, and of running after omissions, if she fixes herself with certain tasks at certain hours, and on regular days—putting foremost those that she is most disposed to shirk. Domestic affairs naturally are periodical, and good servants are only to be made, or kept, by regularity in all that concerns them. So charitable works (except on emergencies) are better followed out at regular times.—M. P. T.

The memory of an old man is a picture gallery of perished forms; a map of the world, not as it is, but as it was long ago.

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS.

"SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY" says: No man now standing on an eminence of influence and power, and doing great work, has arrived at his position by going up in an elevator. He took the stairway, step by step. He climbed the rocks, often with bleeding hands. He prepared himself by the work of climbing, for the work he is now doing. He never accomplished an inch of his elevation by standing at the foot of the stairway with his mouth open and longing. There is no "royal road" to anything good, not even to wealth. Money that has not been paid for in life is not wealth. It goes as it comes. There is no element of permanence in it. The man who reaches his money in an elevator does not know how to enjoy it; so it is not wealth to him. To get a high position without climbing to it; to win wealth without earning it; to do fine work without the discipline necessary to its performance; to be famous, or useful, or ornamental, without preliminary cost, seems to be the universal desire of the young. The children would begin where their fathers leave off.

What exactly is the secret of true success in life? It is to do, without flinching, and with utter faithfulness, the duty that stands next to one. When a man has mastered the duties around him, he is ready for those of a higher grade, and he takes naturally one step upward. When he has mastered the duties of the new grade, he goes on climbing. There are no surprises to the man who arrives at eminence legitimately. It is entirely natural that he should go there, and he is as much at home there, and as little elated, as when he was working patiently at the foot of the stairs. There are heights above him, and he remains humble and simple.

Preachments are of little avail, perhaps; but when one comes into contact with so many men and women who put aspiration instead of perspiration, and yearning for earning, and longing for labour, he is tempted to say to them: Stop looking up, and look around you! Do the work that first comes to your hand, and do it well. Take no upward step until you come to it naturally, and have won the power to hold it. The top in this little world is not so very high, and patient climbing will bring you to it ere you are aware.

JUDGE NOT.

Judge not; the workings of his brain

And of his heart thou canst not see;

What looks to thy dim eyes a stain,

In God's pure light may only be

A scar, brought by some well-won field,

Where thou wouldst only faint and yield.

The look, the air, that frets thy sight

May be a token that below

The soul has closed in deadly fight

With some infernal, fiery foe,

Whose glance would scorch thy smiling grace,

And cast thee shuddering on thy face!

The fall thou darest to despise—

May be the angel's slackened hand

Hast suffered it—that he may rise

And take a firmer, surer stand;

Or, trusting less to earthly things,

May henceforth learn to use his wings.

Ambitious and unscrupulous men often appropriate to themselves the credit which is due to others, as the bald eagle snatches the fish from the mouth of the fish-hawk.

PRAYER UNION.—Rev. John Thomas, of 39, Warwick-lane, London, writes:—"I shall be obliged if you will kindly allow me to call the attention of your readers to the Pennel Prayer Union, of which I have the privilege to be the honorary secretary. This Union is instituted for the purpose of securing the co-operation of members of all evangelical denominations of Christians, in united prayer for the Divine blessing upon Christian work and workers, and for definitely stated subjects; also for the systematic study of the Word of God. I shall be very pleased to forward particulars, *post free*, on application."