

For the last few minutes of the afternoon the children were "little waiting maids." They played visiting, answered the door bell, received cards, carried messages and waited at table. Very graceful they were about it, too, with the unconscious grace of childhood. Their last little song, set to a well-known opera air, still lingers in my ears.

We're little waiting girls,  
Just little waiting girls,  
We wait on the table as well as we're able.  
We're little waiting girls,  
We pass the tray like this,  
We pass the tray like that,  
We try to hold it, always hold it very, very flat.

Very simple rhymes, of course, but the childish voices make them musical, and the childish motions keep them graceful.

Meantime, in the room below, a cooking class consisting of six little girls were being initiated into the mysteries of the culinary department by two young ladies who kindly volunteered their services once a week for this purpose. This branch of the Kindergarten has been established only a few months, consequently it has many needs yet unsupplied, and the chiefest of these is a new range, for the rusty stove used by the class is inadequate for the purpose.

I watched the children while under their teachers' supervision. They made cream toast and apple pudding. Very good pudding it was, too, as I can testify. When the cooking was done the small cooks sat down at the table and enjoyed the result of their work.

They sang suitable rhymes while superintending the cooking. Let me quote one or two:

O dear, what can the matter be,  
Cook has forgotten the salt?  
We need it in bread, and we need it in butter,  
When boiling potatoes we put it in water.  
We use it on meat, and we use it on puddings,  
We never cook without salt.

And another:

If potatoes you would boil,  
And potatoes would not spoil,  
You must pare them very thin,  
For the meal is next the skin.  
Cover them with water cold,  
Pray, remember what you're told.

This cooking class is the first of its kind in Toronto; and though begun in a very small way, will be extended as rapidly as means will permit. Its great usefulness is obvious, and it will, no doubt, be liberally sustained. In an after talk with Miss Tilley, who has been the pioneer of the Kindergarten work in Toronto, she informed me that it is carried on under the auspices of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

"We need better accommodation, I know," she said, as I commented on the dreariness and smallness of the apartments, "but these rooms are hired, and we cannot afford to pay much. When the union get their headquarters they will find a place for us."

"We only take children of the poorer class," she continued. "We want only those who will probably go out to service or who are likely to be the wives of poor men."

"Have you received testimony as to the results of your efforts?" I enquired.

"The children's mothers have frequently told me that they work much more heartily and take great pleasure in displaying their knowledge of household duties," was Miss Tilley's reply.

And so in a small way these young ladies are helping to solve one phase of that hydra-headed monster, the labor problem. Ladies of Toronto, by all the inflictions that you have borne from the incompetency and ignorance of the nineteenth-century servant, you are bound to give your aid to this domestic Kindergarten.

FAITH FENTON.

#### HUMOR IN SARCASM.

The sting of sarcasm lies in the intention of the speaker, and one may trust that the best of the pleasantries over which preceding generations have made merry were uttered with enough good humor to take most of the venom out of them. There was surely a genial smile on the face of M. d'Argenson when he congratulated his ignorant nephew on his appointment as librarian to the King, and observed that he would now have a fine opportunity of learning to read. Illustrated with a gracious smile must also have been the famous retort of the Perfect's wife upon Napoleon. She had been an object of gossip, and Napoleon, meeting her at a state ball, rudely addressed her, "Well, madam, are you as fond of men as ever?" The poor lady had enough presence of mind to answer, "Yes, sire, when they are polite;" upon which the Emperor turned away rather abruptly, and illustrated the littleness of his mind by depriving her husband of his place three days later. And the alleged impertinences of the celebrated Abernethy must have been relieved with a grim humor and *bonhomie* that took away much of their grossness.

The Duke of Norfolk, who applied to him for treatment, probably enjoyed, as well as needed, an heroic diagnosis, for he notoriously paid little attention to his person. "Did your Grace ever try a clean shirt?" asked the old doctor; and what a freemasonry of good fellowship is implied in the very terms of the question! It is difficult to know where to draw the line between what is permissible in conversations and what is not. Reflections on the moral character of anybody while that person is present are unpardonable, however brilliant may be the wit in which they are wrapped. Of course there is a further rule which is very comprehensive—namely, that nothing should ever be said that will in any way give pain to any person within hearing. But while human nature remains what it has been from the beginning, men can hardly be expected to refrain from a thousand-and-one ways of suggesting to each other that they are fools.

#### INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The Organ manufacturing business of Messrs Chute, Hall & Co., Yarmouth, indicates the growth of our home manufactures, as well as the changes a decade of years may bring forth. Ten years ago there were very few if any musical instruments made in the Maritime Provinces, and a large trade was carried on by dealers in Organs and Pianos which were made in and imported from the United States. To-day that state of things is much modified, and, although the demand has increased ten-fold, our own manufacturer-furnish a much larger proportion of the supply. Chute, Hall & Co. tell us their trade is about double what it was a year ago and prospects for this year's business are excellent. From a beginning of one organ per week, and a trade purely local, their business has increased until they are now shipping upwards of 40 organs per month to New Brunswick and P. E. Island, besides supplying their local agents and many dealers in this Province.

Their factory on Water Street, which is now being extensively enlarged, is a scene of busy industry. Here may be seen material in every stage of development, from the broad walnut plank just from the "dry-room" to the artistic organ case ready for the polisher—or from the rough shapeless mass of birch or hard maple to the smooth polished pieces being rapidly put into place. Machines of various kinds are busily planing, sawing, shaping, moulding and sand-papering to a finish the intricate mechanism of the organ action. A babel of noises—the roar of the big planing machine, the shrill scream of the buzz saws, the angry growl of the shaper heads with their hungry looking knives and four thousand revolutions per minute, and other indescribable sounds, send the visitor from the machinery room half deafened by the din. In other rooms are men busy engaged in fitting, polishing, trimming, building the actions, adjusting, tuning and packing, and out of all this are evolved and developed organs which their manufacturers claim to be unequalled in point of beauty, tone, finish and completeness of operating mechanism.

Home manufacture has also had the effect in this line of greatly reducing prices. One of the beautiful and sweet toned Chute-Hall Organs can now be bought for the same or less money than was paid for an American organ of the dry goods box design ten years ago.

The Yarmouth Woollen Mill Co., limited, Yarmouth, N. S., at present employs fifty hands, works full time, out put 12,000 yards cloth and 1000 pounds yarn per month, besides a large amount of custom work. For the past six months the mill has worked exclusively on orders. The manufacturing department is under the able superintendence of Mr. Frank Gerboth. The general management is conducted by J. R. Corning. This company manufactures a great variety of cloths, from a cheap union to fine all wool Tweeds and Ladies' dress goods, which, for durability, style and finish are equal to any of the kind manufactured in the Dominion. Selling agent are the Maritime Provinces, Mr. C. G. Brown, St. John; Upper Provinces, Messrs F. W. Newman & Co., of Montreal.

The American Steam Compressed Fish Co., of Halifax, with a capital of \$200,000, which has all been taken up, expect to commence operations in a short time. They will employ about forty or fifty hands. The business was started by Mr. Cathcart Thompson, who secured patents for this manufacture.

It is certain that no one of the coal establishments of Halifax supply a better article than the old established firm of S. Cunard & Co., while the facilities they command in the possession of depots north and south of the city tend materially to the convenience of the purchaser.

The manufacture of Washing Machines is being carried on in Wolfville to quite a large extent by Messrs Clarke & Dodd, the latter being also the inventor. The machine is called the Ideal. About twenty men are employed in their factory, and at this date they are wholly unable to fill their numerous orders.

The St. Croix Soap Company's brands of soap, Surprise, Sea Foam, White Cross Granulated Soap and toilet soaps, are gaining rapidly in popular estimation. They send quantities of goods all over the Maritime Provinces, and are opening up quite a trade in Montreal, Quebec, the North-West Territories and Newfoundland, and are now arranging, in response to enquiries, for shipments to Jamaica. The factory of the Company is situated near the N. B. railway at St. Stephen, convenient for shipping and receiving goods. The factory is equipped with all the latest and most improved machinery for making soap cheaply and well, and the quantity of goods on the market bearing the imprint of the St. Croix Soap Company speaks for their popularity. The original factory building was of three stories, 30x50 feet; since then, in the last four years, three additions have been made, one 20 feet front, the second 25 feet front and the third four story, 30 feet front and 75 feet deep, making in all at the present time ample room for the carrying on of the manufacture of soaps, with every advantage for turning out goods. The capacity is now 400 to 500 boxes weekly, of which a large portion is Surprise, the laundry soap. The factory is supplied with four large soap kettles, three of them ranging from 16,000 to 18,000 lbs., and the fourth somewhat smaller. Besides these there are a number of smaller kettles for similar purposes, such as toilet soap, etc., and other plant in proportion for carrying on the process of soap making. Superior quality of goods, good management and a judicious use of printer's ink, may be called the factors in the success of this company.

Messrs. Griffin & Keltie's new marble works, at 323 Barrington St., will be ready for occupation about the first of May. Messrs. Fraser & Phelan are the contractors.