

Another essential point in cookery is *attention*. Many persons think they have done all that is necessary, when they have fairly commenced or set a going any particular process in cooking, they seem to imagine that they may safely leave a roast to roast by itself, or leave a pot with broth to boil by itself, and that they have only to go back to the fire at a certain time, and that they will find the thing ready for dishing. Now, this kind of inattention is certain to spoil the best meat ever put to fire.

Some processes require much less attention than others, but none can be properly performed if left long to itself.

A good cook is pretty frequent in her visits to the fire to see how the operation of dressing is going on, and seize the proper moment in giving her assistance.

A kitchen should always be well furnished, there is no necessity that it should be profusely so, but there should be a sufficiency of every thing which can aid in producing the dishes preparing, with the success which is so essential to the gratification of the palate. A good workman cannot work well with bad tools, neither can good cooks do justice to their proficiency if they possess not the necessary utensils suitable to the various modes of cooking. And when this important point has been realized, *cleanliness in every article used should be scrupulously observed*, no utensil should be suffered to be put away dirty, it not only injures the article itself materially, to say nothing of the impropriety of the habit, but prevents its readiness for use on any sudden occasion. No good cook or servant would be guilty of such an act, those who are, do so either from laziness or want of system, or a nature naturally dirty; if a very strong hint will not suffice, it is of little use speaking out, for it would be the result of a bad habit, that no talking in the world would cure. A servant who is inherently dirty or slovenly, should never be retained, it is better and easier to change frequently until the mistress is suited, however unpleasant frequent changes may prove, than Quixotically attempt