JUST DROPPED IN.

Neighbors are an excellent institution if they only keep their places. But neighbors out of their places are quite another thing. Every rural neighborhood has one or more of troublesome people who are continually dropping in. Your female neighbor comes over while you are at breakfast and begs you won't mind her, and she sit down in the dining room and stares at you while you eat and fixes her eyes on the patch on the tab'e cloth, and shows by her expression that she knows that your forks are plated. If you have bacon for breakfast she tells you she dislikes pork, and insinutes that it is unfit for Christians to eat, but she will add as a sort of qualifier, that if you like it. it is all right. Then she will want the pattern of little Joe's apron, and she will go into your parlor to get the last fashion magazine, to save you the trouble, when you know she only does it for an excuse to pass by your bedroom door to see if the bed is made. You never can have or do anything without your back-door neighbor's cognizance. Your new spring suit, that you vowed she should not see until you had appeared in it at church, she spies out by-a piece of trimming in your work-basket and she guesses at its cost and asks where you got it, and how many yards you had, and who cut it and if you made it yourself, and says she likes blue but then green is all the style. But she supposes you got blue because green is so trying to a sallow complexion. When she finds out that you purchased the material at Smith's she says she always shops at Jones'. Jones is to be relied upon, but then Smith just tells a good story, and knows just how to handle customers who do not understand goods. And then she asks again what you paid for your dress, and you dare not tell her a cent more on a yard than it really was, for you know she will go directly and ask Smith all about it.

AN IMPORTANT DUTY.

When young men are brought to ruin by extravagant expenditures, the fault is not often wholly their own, and th's is especially true of those who are living with their parents and are under age. The father and mother, if they do their duty and are not culpably negligent will know the amount of the income of the son, and the source from which it is derived, and also pretty nearly what his expenditures are, and the knowledge that they are giving attention to these matters will be a strong check against wrong doing, if any check is required. They will also know how he spends his evenings, and what his associates are; and if he is spending money freely they will find out where it comes from. And the employers of the boys, and especially of those holding responsible positions, neglect a duty they owe both to themselves and to those in their employ, if they do not inform themselves as to their habits and associations, that they may grow up frugal, industrious, and honest. It would be well, indeed, if there could be a return of the old relations between merchants and their clerks, but if this is not possible now, employers can very easily by their oversight and care do much toward rightly directing the lives of those who are, even under the present system, brought within the circle of their influence. Direct inquiries, kindly made, by the head of a firm to a junior clerk, as to the manner in which he spends his evenings, and whether he is improving his mind by study, are manifestations of interest in his welfare that have an effective influence in shaping the life of a young man, and at the same time make him more useful and faithful in the position in which he is placed, while those who show no more intesest in a young man thus employed than they do in the horse of the carman who hauls their goods, should not be surprised if their indifference and neglect produce unfaithful servants.

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