#### AS THE GIRL SEES IT.

BERVANTS HAVE VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT OF HOUSEWORK.

Failings of Mistresses Freely Discussed. How the Girls Who Do Kitchen Work Regard the Actions of Autocratic Women Who Are More Fortunate.

At a little gathering of working girls I chanced to overhear the mistress discussed from her maid's standpoint. In the group were some eight or ten servants. Two of them were desirous of securing places, and were making eager inquiries about certain women who were known to be without help. In short, the girls were seeing if their would be mistress could furnish suitable recommendations—rather a reversal of the usual status of affairs. Yet be it known this is by no means an unusual proceeding. A sort of Freemasonry exists among all servants, in consequence of which they advise, warn, dissuade and ad-monish one another in regard to all places. But let them speak for themselves, and remember that this is no fancy sketch at all, but a bit of servant talk to which the writer deliberately listened.

Mary was out of a place and Mrs. Smith, Bridget's former mistress, was endeavoring to engage her. Bridget listened nervously to the statement of the case, and then her words burst forth in a torrent: "I would sooner starve than go back to her. Sure, she gave me three dollars a week, and there was a second girl and a washerwoman, too, but for all that, and though there were only two in the family. I wouldn't go back again for no amount of money! I never dared eat any meat or potatoes until her dogs had been fed, as if wasn't as good as a dog, and better too! I had to eat after them and to cook for them and to wash them as if they were babies. And I never dared to be out after 9 o'clock in the evening, though, gracious me, she would be out until 3 or 4 in the

morning.
"And I didn't dare to have company either. What did she think I could do all evening anyway? I can't read, and she knows it. I've heard her complain often enough of being lonely when her husband was away and no one chanced to call, and goodness knows she had her books and magazines and music and fancy work. And that was her house, too, and of course she would feel more interest in it than I would. But she expected me to be in every evening of my life and never see my friends. I stood it for nearly a year, for I hate to change places, but I tell you I'd have gone crazy sure if I'd staid a week

A very animated discussion followed Bridget's harangue, and it was most obvious that the "evening" was a sore topic with the girls. Help chanced to be very scarce in the city, and there were evidently certain women who would find it extremely difficult to get girls because of their stand on this question.

Apparently the girls did not wish to be unreasonable. At least they so asserted repeatedly. They were willing to remain at home whenever there was any real emergency demanding their presence. When no such cases arose, however, they felt that they were entitled to some liberty

after a hard day's work.
"How about Mrs. Brown?" questioned

Mary; "she hasn't got a girl either."
"I don't believe you'd like her at all,"
volunteered another of the group. "You
dussn't eat in the tlining room, and you can't use the same dishes that the family does. She keeps cheaper ones for the girl. Then, too, she'll buy cheap meat and cheap butter for you, and you won't dare touch what the family has. I know all about her. I've tried it there. I used to have hard work getting a square meal some-

"I wish Mrs. A. wanted a girl," was Mary's next remark. It was evident that Mrs. A. was well known, at least by reputation, judging from the complimentary chorus that greeted this last utterance. "When she wants a girl she can get twenty." "Her servants have to do their work well, but she knows how to treat them." "Her girls never leave unless they die or get married." "She is a real lady." "She doesn't poke her nose into a girl's private affairs."

A running commentary on well known women of the place followed, and some of

the strictures passed were very keen. 'I staid a month once at Mrs. D.'s, but she thought she could go into my room and look through all my things whenever she wanted to. I found her reading my letters more than once. I wonder how she would liked to have had me going through her things that way. I would have had just as much right to do it as she had."

"Mrs. F. was awfully funny. She was always leaving a ten cent piece or a quarter around some place to see if I would take it. I tumbled quick enough to her little game, but it made me mad. She had the worst children I ever saw. They had to mind her, but she let them be as impudent to the girls as they chose. I never heard children talk so in all my life, and their mother seemed to think it was all right no matter what they said to me.

"The oldest boy slapped me in the face one day, and I put him out of the kitchen. I wouldn't stand that sort of thing, you can just bet. Then there was a scene. The mother scolded me, but never said a word to the child, so I up and told her that I wouldn't stay another hour unless she would keep the youngsters out of the kitchen and make them behave respectably to me. She wouldn't do it, of course, and I left. It was in the midst of a large wash-

ing, too, but I didn't care one bit. "You know Mrs. M.? Well, she doesn't know any more about housekeeping than a baby does. She wouldn't own up to it, though, and she used to act as wise as an old grandmother. She never knew what to order for a meal, so at last she began to give me published menus. Well, half the time I couldn't get the things in those old bills of fare. They weren't to be had in the market, and that is all there was about it. So I got in the habit of buying just what I could, and she never knew the difference between the printed bill of fare

"I wonder if any of you ever lived with Mrs. O.," remarked another girl, who had kept silent up to this point, "because if you haven't, you don't know a thing about work. She only kept one girl, and I had to do all the work, even the washing and ironing. There were eight in the family too. She never did an' earthly thing, not even to make her own bed or look after the mending. I had it all to do, and half the time I had to mind the baby while cooking or washing. Then she had an awful lot of company. I've ironed there sometimes until 3 o'clock in the morning, and that wasn't any fun either, for I had to be up again at 6 to get breakfast. I stood it green then. Besides, I couldn't help liking burg Dispatch.

and mine, for I'd never let on.

#### Lady Rent Collectors.

Probably no city of the world has in its poor so much as London to be ashamed of, and in its dealings with them so much of which to boast. As the need has been very urgent, the response in organized charity has been astonishingly great.

London's model tenement houses are models worth copying in every large city. The success of some of them is due in no mean measure to the plan by which the rents are collected.

Miss Octavia Hill, in 1864, began the system by which women took the place of men as rent collectors. Ladies in no need of remuneration offered their aid at once. But Miss Hill saw the wisdom of putting the plan upon a purely business basis, and insisted that the collectors should receive

a commission of 5 per cent. She took as her field the very lowest grade of tenement houses. Besides the mere duties of collector, she undertook to better the condition of tenants. First inducing them to give up living in cellars, and removing other evils, she has gradually educated her tenants up to wanting the best possible quarters. Through her agency many model tenements have heen built. The builders are always guaranteed a good percentage on their invest-ments, and now it is said that a million and a quarter dollars' worth of property is under her management.

Many other ladies are engaged in the work, and though their achievements may not be told in large figures, it is very easy to see what good they can bring about. They must come into constant contact with the poorest classes and full of the spirit of charity, must see countless ways to help the tenants' wives and children.

The men, too, come to look upon the rent collector, not as a heartless agent to be shunned and put off, but as a friend with ready sympathy and real power to aid.-Youth's Companion.

In England the East India element has domesticated curry, and at South Kensington Indian dishes are taught at the school of cookery. There is a famous receipt for curried hare, in which the curry is made Indian fashion for the dish, which I am able to give, and which may tempt some one who has reasons for suspecting the insidious and uncanny looking yellow pow-

Take half an ounce of coriander seeds and pound them in a mortar with a pestle. When powdered remove carefully. Then put in the mortar two cloves of garlic, one dessertspoonful of turmeric (I will remark here that I have not the slightest idea what turmeric is; except for the company it is in I would have thought it something that went into paint or glue and was sold with indigo and copperas, but that can hardly be.) To continue, put also in the mortar eight berries of red pepper, one inch of a stick of cinnamon, one piece of green ginger cut in thin slices, three small onions cut in quarters; pound these as fine as possible. Then add the powdered coriander seeds and moisten with a teacup of stock, or cold water may be used.

In using this with the meat, the hare is first cut into joints and fried brown in butter. When it is removed an onion is sliced in the pan and fried thoroughly, but not too brown. The curry is then put in and is cooked at least twenty minutes. Before taken off the meat is added and some lemon juice sprinkled on liberally.—Harper's Bazar.

#### Disinfectant.

Carbolic acid and chloride of lime have long been known by the laity as disinfectants, though both are open to objection. the one on account of its odor, the other because of its bleaching propensities, and both because unpleasant in their action on the skin of the hands; yet either one is better than no: e even in the sick room, and ative reader can readily forget. It is for some purposes they are all that is

To prepare carbolic acid for general use in the sick room the officinal preparation should first be diluted with water in the proportion of one part of the acid to thirty of water. This can be used to wet cloths hung round the sick room, to moisten the sheets that should curtain the door leading uncommon and precious gift of symfrom the sick room into the other part of pathy. the house, and to sprinkle all clothing that must be washed before taking them to the laundry.

A preparation of carbolic acid of this strength kept on the kitchen shelf and poured in small quantities at regular intervals down the sink spout has a wonderful effect in keeping things sweet and would prevent many a case of illness from sewer gas. It is equally beneficial in the water closet. See to it the bottle containing it is plainly labeled poison.

Chloride of lime has been almost super seded as a disinfectant in the sickroom, its legitimate field being sink drains, cess-pools and earth closets.—Housekeeper.

### Clothing for Children.

Experience must teach the mother how much clothing children need and not produce perspiration, which is always to be avoided, because it makes the skin delicate and tender. In sleep the body loses nearly 1 deg. of temperature. All the functions are less active than in wakening hours. Delicate children or adults who easily take cold may wear overalls of muslin and over these overalls of flannel.

Those children who are restless and throw their arms and legs about may need woolen socks attached to their flannel overalls. Some children are in the constant habit of throwing off the bedelothes. For such children we have repeatedly advised that the night clothing be cotton and flaunel overalls with stockings attached, in place of cetton and flannel gowns. - Farm

One Reason Why Housework Is Disliked. Among the many reasons why girls will not go into domestic service is the distinct sense of loss of identity, which is signified by giving up everything but their briefest Christian name. There are very few mistresses that know their servants' names beyond the curt Ann or Jane. While the tendencies toward combination and socialism are everywhere apparent, the individual was never more strongly insisted on, and his place as a party to the compact represented by his legal signature. This may be a foolish sentiment as compared with the more substantial value of wages and a good home; but any consideration of these questions that fails to take sentiment into account leaves out not only one of the strongest, but most wholesome qualities of human nature.- New York Evening Sun.

### Taking Care of the Heart.

A physician writes: "Life would be prolonged by a little more attention to the criticise or carp at one another in newheart, by paying a little respect to the most faithful servant we ever have. Much good might be done also if parents would teach their children the danger of over for more than two years, though, for I was | taxing the heart. They should teach them tostop and rest a few moments during their her too. But, I tell you, I wouldn't go play when they begin to feel the violent back again."-Miss M. C. Jones in Pitts throbbing of their hearts against the chest wall.

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

Ideal Gentleman and the Perfect Blossom of American Manhood.

[Special Correspondence.] WASHINGTON, Conn., July 28.-With the public life of George William Cur tis, now believed to be, unhappily, near his end, every cultured American is acquainted; but comparatively few of his countrymen have known of him it his private capacity, for he has alwaybeen extremely modest and reserved, as men of his rare stamp proverbially are As a man he is more remarkable, more exceptional than as a journalist, ar author or an orator.

Since he first drew attention in yout by his brilliant and scholarly letters from the east in The Tribune until his recenillness he has been wholly devoted to principle, to wholesome reforms, to the diffusion of liberal ideas. He has been on the right side of every question, and yet has ever shown-with all his carnest ness-moderation, tolerance and gen erosity. This is so unusual that the who did not understand him have some times styled him a rosewater advocate a dandified defender of dainty convic tions, and the like.

A nature so sensitive yet so firm, so generous yet so uncompromising, + considerate yet so courageous, is entirely beyond the comprehension of the av erage mind-unwilling to accept what it cannot explain. Above everything else, Curtis is instinctively and completely a gentleman, in an ideal sense the facts of whose unpretending lif would put reproach on the pompouchronicles of many a trumpeted here He is the culmination and perfect blossom of the highest and truest American manhood, unsurpassed if equaled by the of older and more resounding civilization

While a public man and in the lofties sense a politician, he has never filled any public office, which is a severe reflection on the republic, since no American of his time has been better qualified for the most exalted positions.

What a national senator, what a gov ernor of the great state of New York what a minister to any foreign court i: would have made! What honor is would have reflected on his native land What laudable pride the best of u would have felt in him! And when we remember many of the men who have occupied such places we must admit. with a sense of shame, that in the great democracy of the world the best fitted are the least likely to be chosen.

Nevertheless, his influence for good must have been strong and felt in count less quiet ways, less directly than in directly, not by his writings and speecher alone but by his uniform kindness and courtesy and what may be called the salubrity of his example. Such a life a his can never be in vain; its mental and moral beauty cannot fail of wide productivity.

It has been by no means eventfu: His brief connection with The Tributahis editorship, with others, of the first Putnam's Magazine, in which he had : pecuniary interest, and his long association with the Harpers comprise its main features, exclusive of his lectures and literary and political addresses.

His most representative work, per haps, is "Prue and I," originally con tributed to Putnam's, which no apprec: one of the choicest, daintiest specimenof our literature and must become an American classic. The reveries and reflections of the old bookkeeper convey a clear and eloquent impression of the mind and temperament of the au thor, who has in a special degree the

The financial failure of the publishers of the magazine in which Curtis was a silent partner, though not, it is said legally responsible, swallowed up his private fortune, inherited from his father, and left him wholly dependent on his own exertions. He might easily have avoided responsibility for the debts of the house, but he preferred poverty to the slightest blur on his escutcheon. After the loss of his fortune he was still heavily in debt, and to discharge it he labored faithfully for some twenty years.

When Henry J. Raymond died suddenly, the New York Times offered Curtis three times the salary he was reputed to be receiving from the Harpers. He declined the generous offer, and made no mention of it to his employers. But having heard of it through others, they voluntarily advanced it to the figure that had been named by the newspaper.

Although poor, in a New York sense most of his life, he has again and again declined all compensation for elabor :addresses for academic anniversaries. for eulogies on distinguished men, etc. No amount of persuasion would induce him to change his mind. Generosity has ever been one of his shining virtues.

He has always been ready to lend any

body in need, whether actual or imagined, a helping hand. The amount of service he has rendered gratuitously every year to all manner of applicants to every worthy object proposed, is beyond calculation and the belief of ordinary selfishness. Young authors and aspirants for literary fame have taxed his time and patience most unreasonably, without the slightest rebuff or symp tom of irritation. The spirit of courtest and chivalry is incarnate in him. Hi fine eulogy on Lowell-his last publiappearance in New York-would apply almost word for word to himself. If he should die his death would be a loss to the nation and humanity. Men of his order are not born once in a generation JUNIUS HENRI BROWSE.

### Women Must Bring Peace.

Women in politics must bring in peace rather than war; their ways must be "ways of pleasantness" they must not paper or in convention. We believe t would be to the advantage of every w. man politician if she would answer ever press reporter as one of our readers of at the Circinnati convention: "Ye cannot interdie we me at the expense of any other woman; I have no criticism to make-at least, not for the public ear."

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