

HOUSE CLEANING.

The cricket on the hearth in the *St. Louis Journal* office sniffs the domestic battle from afar, and, lifting up its small voice, sings:—
The housekeeper giveth a cheerful hop,
And we hear the musical slippery flop
Of the moisty, misty, maddening mop.
And lo, the maddening horrors rush
Athwart our souls at the soapy gush
Of the slippery, slimy scrubbing brush.
From early morn to evening gloom
We hear the scratching in hall and room
Of the boisterous, busily-bobbing broom.
And now there cometh a woeome wail—
That augurs gen'rally gusty gale—
From a man with his leg in the scrubbing-pail.

How to Read.

If you are fond of reading, so much the better; but don't pursue the amusement injudiciously. Sit up to the table when you read; easy chairs abolish memory. Do not read the same book too long at one sitting. If you are really weary of one subject, change it for another. Read steadily for three hours a day, for five days in the week. The use of wet towels and strong coffee betrays ignorance of how to read. Test the accuracy of your work as soon as you have learned them. Never read after midnight. Do not go to bed straight from your books. Never let your reading interfere with exercises of digestion.

Happiness.

The idea has been transmitted from generation to generation, that happiness is one large and beautiful precious stone—a single gem, so rare that all search after it is vain, all efforts for it hopeless. It is not so. Happiness is a mosaic, composed of many smaller stones. Each taken apart and viewed singly may be of little value, but when all are grouped together, and judiciously combined and set, they form a pleasant and graceful whole—a costly jewel. Trample not under foot, then, the little pleasures which a gracious Providence scatters in the daily path, and which, in a eager search after some great and exciting joy, we are so apt to overlook. Why should we keep our eyes fixed on the bright distant horizon, while there are so many lovely roses in the garden in which we are permitted to walk? The very ardor of our chase after happiness may be the reason that she often eludes our grasp. We pantingly strain after her when she has been brought nigh unto us.

Civility and Ceremony.

Nothing is more honorable and pleasant than civility, and nothing more ridiculous and burdensome than ceremony. Civility teaches us to behave with proportionate respect to everyone, according as their rank requires and their merit demands. In other words, civility is the science of men of the world. A person of good address, who conducts herself with due circumspection, conciliates the love and esteem of society, because everyone finds herself at ease in her company; but a ceremonious woman is the plague of her acquaintance. Such a one requires too much attention to be a pleasant associate, is too seldom satisfied with what is paid her, and every moment feels her pride hurt for the want of some frivolous etiquette. You cannot be too formal to her, nor can she dispense with her formalities to others. In short, ceremony was invented by pride, to harass us with puerile solicitudes which we should blush to be conversant with.

Friendship

Many a friendship has been broken and destroyed by coldness of manner; hard words are no competitors at all, for they are so often satisfactorily explained. It is frequently said that "like begets like," and we believe that is often so. If we meet with an acquaintance who grasps our hand cordially, and gives it a generous and hearty shake, and their countenances lights up with a cheerful smile as they utter a pleasant and welcome salutation, if we are feeling dull and moody, we are, or at least should be ashamed of that feeling, and instantly put forth our energies to disguise and banish it. If, on the contrary, we met with one who repels our every attempt to be cordial by a studied coolness of manner, we very soon become impervious to any genial feeling for him, and a larger stock of pride springs to our aid than we ever dreamed our heart possessed, and a gulf is then and there formed over with a passable bridge can never be created.

There is a lady in Denver who says she has discovered the secret of living forever, but she declares she won't tell it. That is just the way of this naughty world. What we want to know most we can't find out and those who do know won't tell. It looks now as though we should have to die after all.

The Georgia negro has no more faith in banks. He lays all his money out in clothes and hair oil, and the news of a bank suspension causes him to exclaim: "Bust away will ye, but ye cant hurt dese lavender breeches!"

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December 7, 1877



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