

Woman's Work.

BY LINA MOLLETT.

(Continued from page 468.)

LADY ABERDEEN, who encourages a servant's club, library and art class, and others like her, possessed of large means, large houses, and large hearts, enjoy that reward of good masters to the full—good servants. Lady Aberdeen's club is described as a very great success.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are described as devotedly served by their domestics; and who has not heard of the care and kindness of our gentle and noble Queen for those who contribute to her comfort?

In large houses the peace and comfort of system lends something of the dignity of a profession to those employed in well-defined domestic tasks, and the feeling that it is "bad taste" to cause unnecessary distress to a dependent is a powerful safeguard to the servants of less kindly families than those I have mentioned. There is fellowship, life, usually a good deal of liberty and work almost as well regulated as that of a Government establishment.

In a small house, however well regulated, odd jobs must constantly crop up, and unless the mistress knows from personal experience, something about the proportions of strength and task, life in her employ may be a very great trial. There exists no more unconscious tyrant than the ignorant woman of small means, who has made up her mind to be well "waited upon."

The late Empress Augusta was in the habit of rewarding faithful domestics by a sum of money and a badge. A friend of mine gave an account of an old woman of eighty-five who had always been a servant in the same family (I think for seventy years). The old lady was pleased with the badge, which she took as a present, pleased with the kindly words of the gracious lady, and pleased with the money.

"But what is it for?" she asked. "What did the lady say it was for?"

"For your faith, your truth, your honesty! You have lived in the same family for seventy years."

"Well," said the old servant, "of course I did. Was I to run away from my home?"

She often repeated her question, as she sat knitting, and always wound up with an amused little chuckle. "Was I to run away from my home?" Perhaps that last word enshrines the

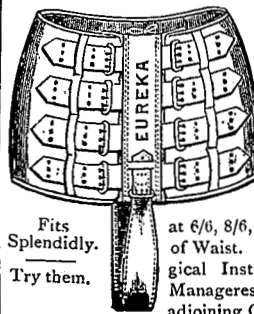
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