

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

LOVE IN A LITTLE TOWN.*

Celia Bassingdale is sent to the little town of Great Marlton, for a punishment, her crime being that she flouted her grandfather in the matter of the choice of a lover.

Grandfather Cope, of Cope's Complete Cleanser, had indulged her every whim, and the change from his handsome mansion to the house of a poor relation was a somewhat severe ordeal.

Mrs. Wallerby educated her numerous family on a system; and, indeed, as she herself said, everything in the house was reduced to a system, even to Mr. Wallerby's bath in the tool house, which was adjacent to the soft-water barrel. Celia rather felt for Mr. Wallerby on winter mornings.

Celia's lover is not proof against the homeliness of her new surroundings, though she becomes perfectly happy with her poor relations. However, she does not lament her faithless swain for long, but, like a sensible girl, soon consoles herself.

"After the service Wayne joined Celia, and they walked up the orchard path together, where they were seen by Mrs. Wallerby from the dining room window. Several plates of bread and butter and rock cakes stood on the table, besides a dish of sliced onion and cucumber, which the Wallerbys ate upon bread and butter to an extent which had something really finely adventurous about it.

"But they knew it was not an aristocratic adjunct to the afternoon tea table—even Hildegard did; and when Mrs. Wallerby cried out, 'Do something with the cucumber; quick!' her youngest daughter without hesitation, opened the work-closet and poured the lot upon the stockings ready for darning. She did not mean, of course, to do that, but it all belonged to the agitation of the moment."

Mrs. Wallerby at times is quite delightful. "I have left Theresa and Hildegard to write an essay upon 'War.' I am now insisting on an essay a day. It is an essential part of my educational system to enable my children to clothe their thoughts in appropriate language, and it leaves me at liberty to make the puddings. The world, my dear Celia, is run by those who temper employment with discretion."

"Mother!" shouted Theresa, appearing at the other door, irate and inky, "Hildegard won't do her compound addition sum. She says what's the use of adding up pounds and pounds when you'll never have any."

"This comes," said Mrs. Wallerby, appearing from the scullery, "of training the reasoning faculty; but I do not regret it."

After a time Celia is reconciled to her grandfather, and happily married to Wayne.

Mrs. Wallerby's emotion at the marriage service was a source of great annoyance to Wallerby grandmamma. "Anybody would have thought you

were the bride's mother, at the very least, to see the soft way you went on," she snapped. "I hate that sort of pushing pride, that makes folks cry more at weddings and funerals than the relations themselves."

When these two ladies were a little ruffled, the more refined the younger became, so much the more vulgar was the elder; and there is no knowing to what heights and depths of demeanour they might have respectively attained had they not been interrupted.

"Love in a Little Town" is not a great work, but is a pleasant story, and Mrs. Wallerby alone is a creation that quite justifies its production.

H. H.

VERSE.

First let the soul be beautiful within;
Then the soul's beauty duly shall create
Form, colour, harmony, to awe and win—
Outward from inward as inseparate
As music from the river when it flows,
Shadow from light, or fragrance from the rose.

My portion be the austere and lowly fane,
The quiet heart that praises ere it sings,
The genuine tears that fall like timely rain,
The happy liberty from outward things,
The wing, that winnoweth the ample air,
The heaven's gate touched by the soft hand of prayer.

From "An Old Volume of Sermons," by the late Archbishop of Armagh.

READ.

"Casuals in the Caucasus," by Agnes Herbert.
"Unconfessed," by Maxwell Gray.
"The Iron Woman," by Margaret Deland.

COMING EVENTS.

October 9th to 13th.—National Union of Women Workers' Conference at Glasgow.

October 10th.—Certified Midwives' Total Abstinence League. Meeting, Room 18, Caxton Hall, S.W. 4 p.m.

October 10th to 13th.—Gresham Lectures:—"Flies as Carriers of Disease," by Dr. F. M. Sandwith. City of London School, Victoria Embankment, E.C. 6 p.m.

October 11th.—Matrons' Council Meeting, 431, Oxford Street, W. 3.30 p.m. Discussion on National Insurance Bill. Tea.

October 19th.—Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses. Executive Committee. 4 p.m. Tea.

October 23rd.—Central Midwives' Board, Examination. London and Provinces.

October 27th.—The Mansion House, E.C. The Lady Mayoress's "At Home" to the Territorial Force Nursing Service, City and County of London.

* By J. E. Buckrose. (Mills & Boon, London.)

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