commonly in loud and harsh tones. Their general air is sly and coquetish; and they have no idea that their carriage can possibly excite disgust, or even that they can fail to be objects of admiration. They have few opportunities of conversing with the other sex, and what good fortune offers they use with eagerness.

Such manners may be attractive to their countrymen, but their influence can extend no farther. To a taste a little more refined, it is more material that the ornaments of these females have a pleasing effect, and set off the charms of a face, the features of which are round and regular, of a black, lively, inquisitive eye, a smooth and open forehead, a mouth expressive of simplicity and good temper, furnished with a white and even set of teeth; united with a moderately handsome figure, a sprightly laughing air, and a demeanour gay, frank, and unsuspicious. Such is the common appearance of a young lady, about thirteen or fourteen years of age; a period when she usually takes upon her the cares of a household, or rather, notwithstanding obvious disqualifications, assumes the character of a matron. Indeed, at eighteen, in a Brazilian woman, nature has attained to full maturity. A few years later she becomes corpulent, and even unwieldy; acquires a great stoop in her shoulders, and walks with an awkward waddling gait. She begins to decay, loses the good humour of her countenance, and assumes, in its place, a contracted and scowling brow; the eye and mouth both indicate that they have been accustomed to express the violent and vindictive passions, the cheeks are deprived of their plumpness and colour, and at twenty-five, or thirty at most, she becomes a perfectly wrinkled old woman.

Early corpulence appeared to me to arise from their secluded and indolent habits. They were seldom seen out of doors, except when going to mass, so early as four o'clock in the morning, on Dias Santos, or days of sacred obligation; and even then the whole form and face were so wrapped up in mantles, or enclosed within the curtains of a Cadeira, as to preclude the enjoyment of fresh air, and to conceal every feature, except perhaps a wickedly talkative eye. These Cadeiras answered, less

commodiously, the same purpose as do the Palanquins of the East. They consist of an arm-chair, with a high back, to which is attached a long foot-board and a canopy. Around the latter are suspended curtains of blue cloth, edged with some gaudy colour, and kept closed, as the machine passes along the streets, in order to conceal the haughty or the constrained Donna from public view. The whole is attached to a long pole, passing over the lady's head, and is suspended between two black men, who support it on their shoulders. Such were the only Carriages used formerly in Rio, by people of fashion, and, like the modern Chaise, to which they have lately given place, they were sometimes very splendid, being decorated in such a manner as might best display the taste, the wealth, and the rank of the owner. On the foot-board, which is large enough for the purpose, is often seated a little Senhora, forming the same idle habits as her mother has done, and laying a foundation for future unwieldiness of a similar kind.

The exercise which these ladies take is almost wholly confined to the house; little exertion is necessary, and that little opposed by inclination; they are surrounded by slaves, and it is their privilege to be waited upon. I have seen this carried to an extent which would be ridiculous, were it not something worse; and am sorry to add, that such sights are not unusual. A lady was seated on a mat, (one morning when I called upon her,) surrounded by a number of slaves, with needle-work in their hands; a drinking vessel, full of water, being placed so as that she could conveniently reach it. She interrupted the conversation by suddenly calling aloud for another slave to come from a different part of the house. When the negress entered the room, the lady said to her, "give me that drinking-vessel." She did so, her mistress drank and returned it; the slave replaced it in its former situation, and retired without seeming to feel that the command was an extraordinary one, or that she had performed ought which she had not done a thousand times before. Ah! ladies, thought I, what wonder that you become corpulent, and ruin your constitution; these are the natural effects of inanity.

Other causes of the change which has been noticed might be found, I have often thought, in an obstinate adherence to unsuitable customs. The shrunk and furrowed appearance of the brow seems to me to arise, in a great measure, from following European fashions under the burning sun of the torrid zone, "where the full tide of day is poured." Even the white and genteel females of Brazil wear no covering on the head, no shade for the eye; hence the brow and pupil contract themselves as much as possible, to shield the tender organ from the superabundance of light. The walls of the houses too, both within and without, are universally whitened, heightening, by reflection, the mid-day glare, and sometimes producing an almost intolerable uneasiness in the eyes of persons possessed of the strongest sight. Is it wonderful that the forehead and eyes of delicate females should gradually assume an habitual contraction, which overclouds many a fair face with appearances that sometimes misrepresent the real turn of the mind? Premature age is owing partly to climate, partly to a constitution enfeebled and ruined by inactivity, most of all to the unnatural and shamefully early age at which females are allowed to marry.

Their early good humour, or the show of it, soon wears away; they often become the very reverse of what they were, and exhibit the alteration too plainly. This change may be attributed principally to the childish ceremony, and more foolish flattery, with which every woman is treated who ranks above the condition of a slave. They seem to be regarded by the men as dolls, or as spoiled children, whose whims must be gratified, and even anticipated; and she who has the greatest number obtains the most attention. The generality of ladies, treated in this way, become, almost of course, fretful and peevish, and pour their spleen upon their slaves; and when these resist or neglect the orders given them, endeavour to subdue them by a noisy and boisterous behaviour, not always free from malignity, and by castigation, not the less severe for coming from a lady's hand. Here is exercise, and perhaps the most efficacious that they ever take, quickening the circulation, giving some tone to the muscles, and discharging

peccant humours; but at the same time destroying the temper, implanting in the heart the principles of a vixen, and stamping on the countenance the plain indications of what passes within.

As to the Employments of females the most common is the spinning of cotton, chiefly performed by women of colour, but not quite laid aside by others, even in the city. The instrument used is the Rock and Spindle. The workwomen have, probably, never heard of Arkwright and his improvements; and if they have heard of the invention of St. Catherine, have not the wisdom to adopt it. Indeed the Rock alone, and that of a smaller size than what was formerly used for Wool and Flax, can suit the purpose of those who spin as they walk. But though so generally in their hands, the negresses are far from being so expert in the use of it as the better taught females of the North.

Many women, white as well as black, employ themselves in making lace. Their method is somewhat curious; they sit cross-legged upon a mat spread on the floor, with the pillow before them, which is a sort of flat cushion nailed on a wooden frame, with two legs or feet at the hind part. The bobbins are very heavy, and loaded with spangles. The material is Cotton-thread, very coarse, the pattern simple, and the work ill executed; the colour cannot be good where the workwoman perspires profusely. She has no knowledge of parchment, particularly of the kind used in lace-making in the counties of Northampton and Buckingham; instead of it she uses a piece of paper, which is not firm enough to maintain the regularity of the pattern, consequently the work is often very indifferent. Nevertheless the process is so tedious, and so much skill is requisite to produce a tolerable article, that the price is high, and a present of lace always acceptable. It is used, not on ladies' caps, for they wear none; but is sometimes quilled round the bosom of a chemise, or set as a flounce at the bottom of a petticoat; it is also employed as a footing down the shoulder, and about the arm. When this lace is exhibited on a black skin, it forms a not unpleasing contrast.

In every superior family plain sewing is done by the slaves, for this is an employment which fashion, here as elsewhere, has very absurdly

marked as a degradation to a lady's fingers. In general the domestics are placed upon the floor, with their legs crossed, round an idle mistress, who finds something like occupation in overlooking their labour, and reproving its failures. They do not hold the work in their hands, in the way common with us, but place on their knees a small hard stuffed pillow, to which one end of the article is attached, while the sewing proceeds towards the other.

Among the occasional occupations of females of the higher ranks are tambouring and making artificial flowers. The fabric of the latter, and the produce of the skill employed upon it, have been already noticed. The ladies perform their tambour-work with a very small frame; their labours in this way are trifling, though the work is often devoted to particular favourites. In these employments they display little fancy, and appear quite satisfied with their powers of imitation.

Domestic cares and occupations seem to be, in a great measure, out of the question. Among the most affluent, I do not think that any great pains are taken with the family arrangements of the table, and they have commonly a superabundance of slaves to manage these matters, and to absolve the ladies from all concern in them. Yet few are so high as not to value and cultivate skill in the preparation of confectionary, and without such skill there appears no chance of being esteemed a good housewife. They pique themselves upon the excellence of their sweetmeats, and make with them very pretty presents, generally enveloped in fancifully cut paper, on which much time and pains have been expended. When guests are to be entertained, the interference of the mistress appears to be a little more immediate and active. I have observed ladies, to whose tables I have been admitted, manifesting great anxiety to excel in their puddings; nothing, which is deemed good, is spared in the composition of them; and as it seems a settled point, that each lady's pudding is to be peculiarly her own, the guests feel themselves strongly called upon to eat of it with avidity, and to praise it with ardour. No such praise of other articles is necessary; for this is almost the only dish, of which a Brazilian lady acknowledges the superintendence, and

is, no doubt, in many cases, the only instance of her meddling with the kitchen.

What can be expected from women of this country transformed into mothers? Happily, in so warm a climate, no early demands are made upon a mother's care as to the dress of her children, for both boys and girls run about the house naked, until they are about five years old, and three or four years beyond that period they wear nothing but the under linen garment. In this state, it is true, they are seen only by the members of the family, or by intimate friends; when rare occasions call them to church or to a visit, they are dressed up in all the fashionable stiffness of a former age; there is no difference, except in dimensions, between the dress of a boy, who has recently assumed the manly garb, and his father's, between little miss and her matronly mother. As to early instruction, what can be communicated by persons who know nothing? What pains are likely to be taken in the cultivation of good morals by those, who lay no personal stress upon them? There was, at the period of my earlier acquaintance with the country, a necessity that the education, to which any pretended, should be entirely at home; for there were no schools, and if there had been, the young Senhor or Senhora then would have been too lofty or too delicate to attend them. Nothing remained, therefore, but that the children should be permitted to run wild, amidst a host of slaves and vagabonds of the worst description, where they witnessed, and learned to practise, all the villanies, of which their tender age was capable. The object of the little restraint, under which they were occasionally placed, was to make formal and ceremonious young people, without the slightest regard to the virtue of youth, or the steadiness of maturer age.

Children, in general, appeared to me of an affectionate cast of mind, particularly towards their mothers. It is hardly to be questioned that this was produced by the affection, with which they had been treated. There was great actual neglect, but, probably, no real extraordinary indifference with regard to the welfare of their children, to their life or death. Yet I have marked some curious facts occurring at the funerals

of children; more complacency than sorrow among remoter relatives, and even in the mother, no deep anguish, nothing scarcely to distinguish her from the other attendants.

On one occasion of this sort, a mother was heard to express herself in this strain,—" Oh, how happy I am! Oh, how happy I am! for my last child is now dead; Oh, how happy I am! When I die, and go to the gate of Heaven, I shall not fail of admittance, for there will be five little children, all pressing toward me, pulling my skirts, and saying, Oh mother, do come in,—do come in. Oh, how happy I am!" she again exclaimed, and laughed immoderately. Were this a solitary instance of strange maternal feeling, it might have been considered as the effect of temporary mental aberration; but satisfaction in such events is too general, and too openly inculcated, to leave room for an excuse of this kind. I cannot think well of representations of a future state, which thus dissolve the strongest bonds of social beings in this world.

Domestic Arrangements in Rio will appear, if brought to our standard, extremely defective. Neither in the habitations, nor in their furniture, do we meet with many things, which we have accustomed ourselves to regard as essential comforts; they are not to be found in the most spacious and the best provided dwellings.

Many of the Houses, as was mentioned before, have only one story. In this case, the front is generally occupied by a good-sized room, floored with substantial boards, laid upon sleepers in the natural soil, which renders the room almost constantly damp. Behind this, are alcoves, containing beds, a kitchen, and a small inclosed yard; in which, if the master of the house be wealthy enough to keep a horse, there is a shed, to answer the purpose of a stable. As few such houses have the advantage of a back door or separate passage, the way to the stable is commonly through the principal apartment. In houses of two stories, occupied by the higher classes, there is an open space, the entrance to which is by a large folding door, for the admission of horsemen and carriages. A broad flight of steps leads from the court to the story above, where are the sitting and lodging rooms, some of which are rendered offensive to

British delicacy, by the noise, the heat, and the strong smell, of the animals confined below; but these things appeared to produce no unpleasant effect on Brazilian nerves. Where the lower story of a house is occupied, the front by a shop, and the hinder part by a large room, serving as a warehouse or repository for all sorts of lumber; the upper apartments generally form the abode of other individuals or families.

The Shopkeeper and his Servants eat, drink, and sleep in the miserably close and damp rooms below. The master sometimes has a bed, the counter or the floor generally forms that of his dependants and slaves. The shop doors are closed, or nearly so, at noon; a cloth is spread upon the counter, which then serves as a dinner table. The meal, sent in ready drest, is hastily taken, and is the only regular one allowed during the day.

Persons connected with the higher departments of trade, and others of sufficient rank and means, occupying the upper stories, have the advantage of a separate entrance from the street, which by a long passage conducts to a stair-case, always placed at right angles to the line of the passage, and having at the top a gate to prevent any one from entering unexpectedly. On the one hand, a door conducts into the front room, called the Sala, or drawing room, which generally fills the whole breadth of the house, and is nearly square. Before it is the inclosed balcony, which is entered from the room by three doors, answering the purpose of windows, and admitting light and air. These doors are generally open day and night, a slight fastening to the balcony being thought a sufficient security against thieves and intruders. On the side of the room opposite to the front is a pair of folding doors, in which is sometimes seen the only window glass, which the house contains; these are thrown open at night, and lead to an alcove or recess, forming the principal bed room. On each side of this recess there is a paneled door, opening into passages, which lead to other smaller and closer alcoves, and terminate in an open Varanda, surrounding an area, from which the back part of the house, and the warehouse are enlightened. Beyond the area is the kitchen.

The Sala has a curious mixture of gorgeous painting with plastered and white-washed walls. The cornice usually consists of fillets of brown, yellow, light blue, red, pink, and other colours, variously arranged; but in whatever order placed, show seems to be the chief object. The ceiling is divided into compartments, and painted in a similar manner. Round the bottom is a broad, brown, or deep red border, being a substitute for a washboard. The doors and door-posts are generally yellow, with red, or pink, or blue mouldings. The front of the alcove is sometimes gilded as well as painted, and gives an air of richness to the room, which could not be expected from other portions of its ornament.

Poor and scanty is the Furniture of the most fashionable apartments. There is generally seen in them a wooden sofa, at once clumsy and fantastical in its form, together with a few chairs of a similar pattern; most of them are painted red and white, and ornamented with groups and wreaths of flowers; some of them, it may be, made nearly a century ago. In rooms of lower pretensions, the sofa alone appears, or two or three chairs; instead of such seats, the females use mats, on which they usually sit with their legs folded under them. Sometimes to these is added a small table, holding some of the ensigns of religion, and instruments used in its ceremonies. In the alcove is a well-made, but far from modern, bedstead, furnished with mosquito curtains, a hard mattress, round pillows and bolster, excellent sheets, and a light coverlid. Blankets are never used, a quilt only in cold weather, and night caps very seldom. This small cabin is encumbered with trunks and boxes made of hide, and baskets of various descriptions; a chest of drawers is a rare article.

The family commonly occupy the Varanda at the back of the house; and here are almost as much secluded from the world as they could be in the depths of a forest. The females sit around in their usual posture, and sew or knit, weave lace, tambour, or the like; while the men loll on any thing they can find for the purpose, or saunter from room to room. Here also they take their meals; and use an old table set upon two tressels, a couple of wooden forms to suit it, and sometimes, if there

are such things, a chair or two. The chief meal is a dinner at noon, at which the master, mistress, and children, occasionally sit round the table; more frequently it is taken on the floor, in which case the lady's mat is sacred, and none approach it to sit down but acknowledged favourites. The viands are generally soup, wherein there is abundance of vegetables, Carne Secca, and Feijam of different kinds. Instead of bread, Farinha, or the flour of the Cassava root, is used. The food, if moist, is served up in calabashes or tureens; if dry, in baskets; and is eaten from small Lisbonian plates. Knives are used only by the men; women and children employ their fingers. The female slaves eat at the same time, in different parts of the room; and sometimes are favoured with a mess from the hands of their mistress. If there be a dessert, it consists of oranges, bananas, and a few other different kinds of fruit.

Kitchens have generally a large open chimney, and an oven; the hearth is about ten feet long, five broad, and three high; the fire-place consists of a range of partitions on the hearth, formed of bricks. These partitions are about two feet long, and a fire can be placed in any one of them alone; over the top of those in use bricks or stones are laid, with spaces or holes to allow the heat to reach the cooking-vessel, which is commonly a pan of earthenware, manufactured in the country. Neither grates, fire-irons, nor fenders are used; such furniture would be thought a superfluity and an incumbrance. A sort of fan, made of the leaves of the Palm-tree, is used to quicken the fire, and well supplies the place of bellows. The dresser is a solid plank of wood, fixed at one end of the kitchen, and above it are a few shelves. On a stool, formed for the purpose, stand pots containing water, always ready for drinking or for other uses; and over them hangs a ladle, made of a Cocoa-nut shell, which serves to take the water from the pots as it is wanted, and as a drinking-vessel for the slaves.

When a gentleman calls upon another, if he be not intimate at the house, he goes thither in full dress, with a cocked hat, with buckles in his shoes and at the knees, and with a sword or dirk by his side. Having