

**MILLIONAIRE HOUSEHOLDS
AND THEIR DOMESTIC
ECONOMY, WITH HINTS
UPON FINE LIVING**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649648856

Millionaire Households and Their Domestic Economy, with Hints upon Fine Living by Mary Elizabeth Carter

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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MARY ELIZABETH CARTER

**MILLIONAIRE HOUSEHOLDS
AND THEIR DOMESTIC
ECONOMY, WITH HINTS
UPON FINE LIVING**

TO ALL THOSE GOOD WOMEN, TRIED AND TRUE,
WHO HAVE BROUGHT TO THE WRITER STORIES OF
THEIR EXPERIENCES IN THE WORK OF WHICH
THIS BOOK TREATS, THESE PAGES ARE SYMPA-
THETICALLY DEDICATED BY A DESERTER FROM
THE RANKS OF SUPERINTENDING HOUSEKEEPERS

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MILLIONAIRE HOUSEHOLDS

CHAPTER I

FINE LIVING OR HOUSEKEEPING

HOUSEHOLD work may be compared to Penelope's web, ever being done and undone. The woman presiding over it should be wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove. Above all, to a high sense of duty unswervingly loyal.

Housekeeping, upon any scale, has various phases to be considered; phases shifting and complex. Yet, however they may shift and vary, one and the same principle governs within every house worthy the name Ideal Home. All others are mere dwelling-places.

Fine Living is not necessarily synonymous with the elegant or fashionable conduct of a house; though the three may be united under one management, this ideal depends chiefly upon the degree of spiritual development attained by those who preside over a household,

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luxurious or simple. It is possible in a modest home to have Fine Living; albeit, in a small dwelling, as well as in large and handsome establishments, entire attention may be devoted to the exterior. In either case, each house will in its total management express the ideals fostered by those holding the reins of government. Tact, executive ability, and justice are absolutely essential qualifications. The conscientious housekeeper who is anxious to become familiar with her varied duties and obligations is brought into touch with many kinds of people and ways of living, in her own home as well as through the associations growing out of its general superintendence. She must know how to secure the most efficient service and how to adapt herself to difference of temperament; and those for whom she is acting must co-operate with her. To insure the satisfactory conduct of any house, whatever its size or elaboration, the superintendent must combine patience, tact, and executive ability with justice and kindness toward all within its walls.

Housekeeping should be ranked among the fine arts, and would be so ranked if the ma-

FINE LIVING OR HOUSEKEEPING

majority of those who are "at housekeeping" were in it and thus engaged from choice. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Through marriage, or some necessity, many find themselves obliged, against their own inclinations, to assume the duties belonging to a home. The consequences are usually sad—often disastrous, to all involved. It is not uncommon to hear women declare with emphasis that they "hate housekeeping." No one can do anything well while hating the work, unless governed by an unflinching sense of duty, and a conscience that permits no laxness; even then, the æsthetic touch that can only be secured through love of one's occupation will be lacking.

The loud and prolonged outcry against servants as a class unquestionably is due to inefficiency of the average mistress, past and present, quite as much as to servants' lack of training. The latter is an outcome of the former, because the ranks of housekeepers are constantly being augmented by women and girls untaught and inexperienced in the management of well-ordered homes. They know neither how to do nor how to direct the work