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MY CARD BASKET.

BY MARY ASHLEY.

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Mr. and Mrs. OLIVER LACY.
Miss Ada Mar.

Ada was an only child. She was one of those slight, fairy-like creatures who seem formed only for love and luxury. To think of her as the pride and pet of some rich and tender husband was very easy—to associate her with any of the duties of housekeeping utterly impossible. There are people who eat and drink, and in every such thing prove themselves mortal like ourselves; yet we would as soon expect Titania and her troop to come to supper in the secret cave and grotto to cook ham and eggs, or to see these same people preparing and eating, or to see them doing anything more useful or actual than flitting about like human butterflies, fanning flowers full of rosy-nude sweets and lakes to reflect their bright beauty.

Ada's mother was careful to have her child well instructed in all the ornamental branches, and every accomplishment set forth in the circular as being taught in ——— Academy was placed upon the list of Ada's studies. She was a fine scholar—studied industriously, and seemed to excel in whatever she undertook. Unlike most pupils of her standing, she was never content with a "smattering" of anything. She was thorough, and was quite outspoken when she perfectly understood and mastered her tasks. She was the best musician in the school, and the rest of its girls used often to sit with ear eyes fastened upon our half-learned lessons and our whole attention fixed upon the sweet notes rising to our windows and telling us in most exquisite melody that Ada Mar had gone down to "practice."

When she left school, she was a well-educated girl; brilliant, beautiful and fascinating; formed to adorn a home, and make all who came in contact with her happy. Mrs. Mar seemed to see her own youth restored in her daughter, and accompanied her from place to place with untiring patience and unmitigated pride. An old country friend chanced to be visiting them one day, and she said to Mrs. Mar: "Ada is a splendid girl. She has more book knowledge, though, than she'll ever know what to do with, and unless she sets up for woman's rights, I don't see how she's to use it all. Her schooling is finished; but her domestic education, Mrs. Mar, that I think is not commenced."

"That is not necessary for Ada."

"Person may be necessary for every girl. I never saw a woman go through life yet, that did'nt need kitchen knowledge just as much as book learning. Board at the hotels just as much as book learning. Board at the hotels just as much as book learning. Board at the hotels