

purpose. "Braggin'," observes our shifty New-Englander in "Nature and Human Nature," "*saves advertisin'*;" it makes people talk and think of you, and incidentally of your wares. "I always do it," confesses Slick; "for, as the Nova Scotia magistrate said, who sued his debtor before himself, 'what's the use of being a justice, if you can't do yourself justice!'"

But, observes his chronicler, "like most clever men, he prided himself less upon what he did than upon what he did not know, and was more ambitious of being considered a man of fashionable manners than a skilful mechanic, an expert salesman, or a shrewd, intelligent man." This trait reminds one of Congreve, who, when he received a visit from Voltaire, says Dr. Johnson, "disgusted him by the despicable foppery of desiring to be considered, not as an author, but as a gentleman; to which the Frenchman replied 'that if he had been only a gentleman, he should not have come to visit him.'"

When Slick, as attaché to the American Legation, has become a regular party-goer in London, he becomes proud of his position, and attempts to suit himself to his environment by gaudy overdressing. At this juncture his father, animated by another weakness not unknown among Americans, comes inopportunistly to visit him. "Colonel" Slick has undertaken the costly task of proving his title to a supposititious peerage. At the advent of this uncouth relation Sam could sympathise with the young lady who "wasn't at all exclusive, but was really obliged to draw the line at pa." Sam, however, though mortified, is far too manly to give the cold shoulder to his parent, though he does attempt to bottle