

These thoughts were suggested by a trivial little circumstance which occurred a few evenings ago. Walking leisurely along in company with a friend, we observed, slightly in advance of us, a couple of gentlemen, arm in arm, turning from Notre Dame up M'Gill Street. They were accosted by a cabman,—“Want a cab, gentlemen? want a cab?” The gentlemen did not want a cab, neither did they deign to reply. Passing on in silence, and coming immediately upon the scene of action, we heard from the lips of the disappointed Jehu, a sarcastic exclamation, certainly neither dignified, polite, nor pious. Our turn came next, and I must say not in a pleasant or agreeable tone of voice, was the solicitation extended to us,—“Want a cab, gentlemen? want a cab?” My friend replied,—“No thank you, not to night,” and thus all further discussion or colloquy ceased. A few yards further on, we were again greeted with the same almost interminable interrogatory,—“Want a cab, gentlemen? won't you take a drive?” and again did my friend *trouble* himself to reply. Here then was the exercise, the demonstration of true politeness. The deportment of a great majority of our cabmen is certainly not quite *au fait* or *debonair*, yet even the most uncivil are subject to the influence of courtesy, and when properly treated, lose much of that rudeness, which they otherwise indulge in so frequently; and if we would glide smoothly adown the rapid stream of life, we must learn to live—

“Respecting, in each other's ease,
The gifts of nature and of grace.”

Remember my caption, then, and try in the little, as well as the great things of life, to cultivate and exercise the spirit which prompted my friend to reply to the cabman, and my word for it, you will thereby pass beyond the reach of either odium or insult, and most assuredly will you escape unpleasant public reflections. Except to the criminally vile, common courtesy is a duty we owe to all; and a duty faithfully discharged is ever productive of satisfaction. With—

“Gentle words and loving smiles,
How beautiful is earth.”

Would you add to that beauty, deriving therefrom the sure reward of pleasure, then, *answer the cabman!*

PERSOLUS.

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