

of the standing defects of our age that social classes, or let us say more narrowly, social categories, know so little of one another. For the purposes of ready reckoning, of that handy transaction of business which is the passion of the hour, we have adopted a way of labelling one another with the tag mark of a profession or an occupation that becomes an aid to business but a barrier to intercourse. This man is a professor, that man an "insurance man," the third—*terque quaterque beatus*—a "liquor man"; with these are "railroad men," "newspaper men," "dry goods men," and so forth. The things that we handle for our livelihood impose themselves upon our personality, till the very word "man" drops out, and a gentleman is referred to as a "heavy pulp and paper interest" while another man is a prominent "rubber plant"; two or three men round a dinner table become an "iron and steel circle," and thus it is that for the simple conception of a human being is substituted a complex of "interests," "rings," "circles," "sets," and other semi-geometrical figures arising out of avocations rather than affinities. Hence it comes that insurance men mingle with insurance men, liquor men mix, if one may use the term without afterthought, with liquor men: what looks like a lunch between three men at a club is really a cigar having lunch with a couple of plugs of tobacco.

Perhaps I may be pardoned a digression at this point. It is only to say that there is one exception to this rule,—the players of chess. They belong to their club, and face the same adversary for years, without knowing or caring anything else about him except that he is the man who plays the Bishop's Gambit, or breaks down before the Sicilian opening. I remember once an opponent with whom I was playing,—he, like myself, was a beginner, having only been ten years in the club,—arising in disgust after losing the game and saying: "It's no use, my mind is off it to-day." "What's the matter?" I asked him. "Oh," he said, "I've had a bad disappointment. I expected a couple of cobras and a giraffe on the train to-day, and they