

THE CHILDREN'S VACATION.—I.



ARRIVING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON—"The children will have such a nice time."

HARD ON THE CLASSES.

IN the picture gallery at Hampton Court are the portraits of a number of Court beauties of the reign of Charles II. In the catalogue which is furnished to visitors, the remark is appended to the name of one of the number, "This lady is believed to have been virtuous." A forcible reminder of this bit of sarcasm by the compiler of the catalogue is afforded by the lengthy press despatches from England describing the reception of the German Emperor William in London, under date of the 9th inst., we read as follows:—

A youthful, determined, but pleasant-looking man, observing everything round him with quick eyes, recognizing friends among the ladies and gentlemen standing by him. He steps out of his way to shake hands cordially with Lady Dudley, one of the handsomest and one of the purest women of the age. On her fair fame the foul breath of scandal has never left even a passing cloud. All honor to her.

If the morals of the English upper classes can fairly be judged by this despatch, the aristocracy must be about as corrupt as they were in the days of the Merry Monarch. It looks as if reputable women were a rather scarce article in the charmed circle of the nobility—when the fact that a lady's fair fame has never been clouded by the breath of scandal is deemed worthy of special comment and grateful adulation. Among ordinary middle-class English people, as among those of corresponding positions here, the purity of a woman holding

a respectable position is taken as a matter of course. But it seems that when a titled lady's reputation is left untarnished she becomes a *rara avis*—a sort of freak whom Emperors go out of their way to shake hands with, in recognition of her remarkable moral endowments. It is, of course, something that virtue is still at a premium, but if things go on as at present, we may expect that after a while those people who persist in displaying their singularity in this way will meet the usual fate of unconventional minorities and be ridiculed rather than applauded.

TEACHING BY CONUNDRUMS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER (formerly a funny paragrapher)—"Now, then, boys, which of you can tell me who was the first artificer in metal?"

[Dead silence.]

TEACHER—"Why, you ought to know that. What's this I have in my hand?"

SCHOLAR—"A cane, sir."

TEACHER—"Just so. Well, now, suppose that cane were hollow, it would be a tube, would it not?"

SCHOLAR—"Yes, sir."

TEACHER—"And now, why would a hollow cane be like the first artificer in metals?"

SMART BOY—"Tubal Cain, of course."

THE CHILDREN'S VACATION.—II.



LEAVING AT THE END OF THE SEASON—"The children have had such a nice time!"—Puck.