

of superstition, we will not allow it to deprive the child of his trust in the Father's power and goodness.

In a delightful essay on "Fathers and Sons," Mr. Hamerton contrasts the old relation with the new. Fortunately for me, I never experienced the old relation, in which the father was the upholder of stern authority instead of his boy's friend, but I have seen it elsewhere. The "awful dominie" is a creature still extant in places, in homes which he makes miserable, in educational institutions, in banks and other commercial houses, in the army and navy, and in the pulpit. Though capable of inflicting much pain, wretchedness, and unnecessary humiliation, he is a played-out farce, the product of an exploded and most dishonoring conception of the Divine nature, which the surviving demigod of a past age of ignorance and arrogance strives to imitate. How many a really good man has said to me in confidence, "I honored my father, but could not love him." How many are compelled to say the same of the kind of God these same fathers preached! "The Rights of the Guest" is good, and contains useful lessons both for guests and hosts. "Priests and Women" is a long essay in three parts, not, on the whole, unfavorable to the priest, be he Catholic or Protestant. The essays on "Decline in Religion" set forth the attitude I referred to in the beginning of this review. That "On a Remarkable English Peculiarity," treats of the haughty indifference of the insular Briton, while travelling, to the company of foreigners, and more particularly to people of his own nationality. There are four valuable chapters on letter-writing; one on "Courtesy in Epistolary Communication," the others on "Letters of Friendship," "Letters of Business," and "Anonymous Letters." In the course of my life, I have received a few of the latter, the writers of which gave themselves most needless pains to disguise their hands, since I detected at a glance their authorship. Few things give a person away as readily and treacherously as an anonymous letter. Of course, I at once put them in the fire, but not in so large a one as will claim their writers unless they repent.