

"Let no man charge me that I mean
 To clothe in sable every social scene,
 And give good company a face severe,
 As if they met around a father's bier ;
 For tell some men, that pleasure all their bent,
 And laughter all their work, is life misspent,
 Their wisdom bursts into this sage reply,
 'Then mirth is sin, and we should always cry.'
 To find the medium, asks some share of wit,
 And therefore 'tis a mark fools never hit.
 But though life's valley be a vale of tears,
 A brighter scene beyond that vale appears ;
 Whose glory, with a light that never fades,
 Shoots between scatter'd rocks and opening shades :
 And while it shows the hand the soul desires,
 The language of the land she seeks inspires."

That has been said, has not been said in anger, or in satire, or in ridicule ; but in sorrow, and still more in the hope that our young friends will devise a more excellent way.

In order to assist in finding that more excellent way, we might advise thus, or in some such way as this. Let discrimination be used in sending invitations for an evening party ; let the individuals be as much alike as possible in their tastes and feelings, and circumstances ; that when brought together they may breathe a congenial atmosphere ; that none may be daunted at the presence or disaffected taste of another, and thereby be prevented from giving vent to the language of the heart in reference to his or her best-beloved subject. Let not the company be too large ; for, in such a case, the warmth and glow of sociality cannot exist, and in despite of almost every effort, the whole will, in the course of the evening, be broken up into groups and sections completely isolated from each other, that is, as far as the purposes of friendship are concerned. Let the invitations include a person of known intelligence and influence if it be possible, who is known to be interested with the society of youth, and who is alive to all their sympathies : such a person may frequently be found in the Minister of the congregation ; and when he cannot be had, one who fills some subordinate office in the church might profitably take his place.

Such a person is generally presumed to have at his command a fund, greater or less, of anecdote and recollections ; and with this advantage he could lead the conversation without the least appearance of obtrusion. The circumstances of the occasion would lead him to this ; his influence would justify him in doing it ; and nothing but indifference, or offensive loquacity, on the part of those who were present, would prevent him from being completely successful. A well-told anecdote of the great, the illustrious, and the good, whether they are living or dead, or a revived passage of private history, has often in a well selected-company called forth a most animated and de-