

trade, mechanics or agriculture. The error is only too common that a boy who is not possessed of enough mental calibre for a profession, will do well enough for a shopkeeper, tradesman or farmer. Nor do I wish to convey the impression that dull boys at school need never hope to rise even if they fail in a profession. Sir Walter Scott was a dull boy at school, was apprenticed to the study of the law, but made such poor headway in acquiring legal knowledge that he was compelled to give it up to make a reputation in another sphere, such as no man in the ordinary practice of law ever attained

Pecuniary success is not the only nor even the first consideration which should decide the choosing of a life's work. Many other avocations have a wider scope of usefulness and require more brain power than the unravelling of legal technicalities or the putting the most favorable construction on a very doubtful plea. Many successful lawyers would make but very indifferent merchants, tradesmen or farmers, and from this very cause there are those of the latter who would make good lawyers and be no loss to their present callings.

While it is true that such names as Blackstone, Hale, Bentham or Lincoln shed a lustre, not only on their profession but on their race, yet the boy, who shows no talent for acquiring knowledge, for putting his thoughts into words for argument for conversation, is much more likely to succeed, if his energies be directed some other way. Overcrowding will probably meet him let his choice be what it will, but he will be happier as a poor farmer or tradesman than suffering the miseries of the "shabby genteel," trying to keep up the appearances of a large income without the income.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox is probably the greatest champion of her sex on this continent. There is much about Mrs. Wilcox to be admired, but I do not like her everlasting and repeated attempts at blackening the character of the male sex in order to accomplish her object. For instance, she says that it is the mistake of a lifetime to give a man any liberty which you would not want known, and to expect him to keep the matter secret. Now this is all right,

no woman should permit a man to take any liberties with her, whether or not he would take advantage of her momentary weakness and afterwards subject her to exposure. I believe that it is only the exceptional man who will hide the indiscretion of a young girl whom he believes spoke or acted from ignorance. The average man, in the highest the same as the lowest walks of life, boasts of his successes with foolish women, and the rendezvous, the letter, the embrace or the souvenir which she has given him, thinking it will never be known to others than themselves, is shortly the matter of gossip among a dozen people.

Women hide their secrets far better than men do. They fear the censure of the world too much to share their errors or indiscretions with confidence. But men are almost invariably vain and proud of their conquests, and relate their achievements with the fair sex to one or two admiring friends. They may not use names, but let the incidents once be told, it is an easy matter to discover the personages if one is at all curious to do so. Women, however, should know that the best way to keep men from betraying their indiscretions is not to commit them.

It is quite true that a few generations ago, young men and young women were not left alone the way they are nowadays. Young persons who were supposed to be "courting," as it is called, always met in the presence of their elders, and expressed sentiments of esteem with regard to one another in well chosen and appropriate language. There was none of the ostentatious kissing and embracing so prevalent at present, nor was there allowed any of the exaggerated language of affection which is now thought necessary—in fact, "courtship" was regarded as a serious prelude to the most solemn and momentous undertaking in life, and the contracting parties acted in accordance with this notion.

If this custom was still adhered to, there would be less unhappy marriages and consequently less need for divorce legislation. This reminds me that divorces are becoming quite common in this beautiful city of Victoria. During the week, I have heard of at least three cases in which the aid of the law was to

be invoked to sever the divine tie consummated at the matrimonial altar; and, just as I write, I learn of a fourth one, in which all parties interested belong to the "upper ten." A friend of mine suggests the query, "Will society ostracise the male delinquent as it should?"



PERE GRINATOR.

THE MOCK PARLIAMENT.

The division on the reply to the Speech from the Throne has taken place, and has resulted in the Government being sustained by the narrow majority of three votes. The last Monday night sitting was noteworthy, from the fact that the leaders of the



THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

Government and the Opposition first crossed swords. The speech of the leader of the Opposition was "truly loyal," while that of the Government leader was intended to prove that the Liberal people were just as loyal, although they did not talk so much about it.

Rev. Mr. Townsend, pastor of Emanuel Baptist Church, Spring Ridge, has decided to return to England, his health being sufficiently restored. The rev. gentleman has made many friends during his stay here, who will regret his departure from among them.