

are more at home among perfect strangers than others would be in a year."

"Well, ministers certainly have very many social advantages, and, to tell the truth, I think they sometimes presume upon them."

"How, pray?"

"Oh, they sometimes exact, or at least expect, an amount of deference merely on account of their professional status, that the merchant or lawyer never thinks of claiming. Then some of them make such ridiculous guys of themselves by their ultra-clerical costume; their coats and vests are so fearfully and wonderfully made, almost like a Ritualistic or Romish priest, so unlike what other civilized gentlemen wear; and their manners are so frightfully formal and 'other worldly,' that persons like myself, of a rather 'worldly' disposition, can scarcely help feeling that there is a wide gulf between us, and that we have no common grounds of sympathy."

"I confess I don't like that either. I think a minister should take his place as a man among men, relying for his influence, not on the cut of his coat, but on his force of character and magnetism of human sympathy. I cannot help thinking that this was the charm of the divine Teacher, in consequence of which the common people heard him gladly. But at the same time there are certain proprieties that I would not like to see violated. I don't think a minister should go about like a bagman or a travelling pedler, nor wear a shooting jacket or a jockey cap. He should exhibit some respect for his calling if he would have it respected."

"Of course. What I dislike is the extremely conventional manner, particularly of some young ministers. Then, if they happen to be popular, they are so petted by the ladies, and are presented with as many pairs of slippers as though they were centipides, and are generally so caressed and flattered, that, unless they are blessed with an extra amount of common sense, they are apt to become conceited and selfish."

"Poor fellows, they cannot help being the objects of sometimes superfluous attentions. They are to be pitied rather than blamed for that."

"I am inclined to think they rather like it; whereas a little