

While the delicately nurtured may only with great care relieve their pangs by the use of chloroform, in the hospitals to which the laboring poor of large cities are taken, it is freely used to prevent indescribable suffering. The illustrations in fact of the tendency of all that marks modern civilisation to diffuse itself into universal expansion, are endless. There is only one more to which I shall refer. It is in connection with the tendency of ideas, thoughts, to spread themselves over the whole world. The English Commissioners to China a few years ago, on their journey crossed the desert by railways and omnibus precisely like those they had last seen in London and when at the end of it were astonished to find that the Imperial officials, who had been appointed to negotiate with them, were familiar with the names of Cobden and Bright, and could quote recent debates in Parliament. They had taken measures to procure supplies of English papers, and to have them translated. The proverb has been that one half the world does not know how the other lives; the great wonder of to-day is, that through the ramifications of steam communication, the vast amount of travelling, the sending newspaper correspondents to every part of the earth, of permanent or temporary interest, the flashing of intelligence over the wires and the cheapness of newspapers, each half of the world is beginning to know what the other thinks, and both to have much knowledge and many opinions in common.

2. A TENDENCY TO REMOVE ALL UNJUST ADVANTAGES AND ARTIFICIAL DISTINCTIONS.

"We call life a journey," says Sydney Smith, "but how variously is that journey performed. There are those who come forth girt and shod to walk on velvetest lawns and smooth terraces, where every gale is arrested and every beam is tempered. There are others who walk on the Alpine paths of life, against driving misery and through stormy sorrows, over sharp afflictions; walk, with bare feet and naked breast, jaded, mangled, chilled." Perhaps to some extent so it must be and will be. But society is disposed to *try that question*, and there is a marked disposition and tendency to find out what *common vantage ground belongs to all*, and to remove as far as practicable all the depressing influences and injurious distinctions which cre-