

## OBSERVATIONS BY THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

IN the series, 'English Philosophers,' *Adam Smith* is by Mr. Farrer. The delicate irony of the biographer receives a fair illustration in the following sentence: "It is said, that after a disappointment in early life, Adam Smith gave up all thought of marriage; but if he thus failed of the happiest condition of life, it is equally true that he was spared the greatest sorrows of human existence, and a number of minor troubles and anxieties." The airy lightness of the chains of wedlock is supposed to be inferred from ninety-nine novels out of a hundred, and it is too bad that the novelist implicitly denies the inference. His tale always ends when the hero or heroine gets married, which betrays the author's opinion that he, after recording the touching incidents of ante-nuptial bliss, has treated of the better part of life. The part which follows is apparently considered too dreary and monotonous to be assimilated to the taste of the most patient reader. This silent and almost universal confirmation by works of fiction of Mr. Farrer's view receives a most thorough support from conclusions drawn from the study of the social history of the times. It has been remarked that the early loves of a former day were attributable to the comfortable tone of mental idleness which so largely pervaded life; while the new generation, having very little time unoccupied and many interests of greater importance, has adopted the very practical, if not very sentimental, view that matrimony is advisable only so far as it is a help towards the goal of one's aspirations. Otherwise marriage is a dead weight upon ambition, and keeps a man down in a 'mediocrity of respectability.' However ethereally love may comport itself, it is short-lived, and if succeeded by the enforced routine of domestic existence, causes—to borrow an oriental metaphor—the wings of the soul to droop.

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APPROPRIATE MOTTOES. For a money lender: 'Advance with courage.'

For a banker: 'Honorantes me honorabo.'

For an undertaker: 'Post funera virtus.'

For an actor: 'Spectemur agendo.'

For a lawyer: 'Deeds, not words.'

For a distiller: 'Stimulat sed ornat.'

For a cash tradesman: 'Ready, aye ready.'

For a credit tradesman: 'Confido.'

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'No, sir,' said the glove-seller to Spot; 'I could give you a smaller pair, but to sell you anything below fourteens, well-stretched, would render me liable under the statute for the prevention of cruelty to animals.'

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THOSE who believe that the world owes them a living don't stop to consider how many bad debts the old globe has to shoulder.

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It may be well to state, for the information of amateur artists, that plaster casts of royal personages are not made of court plaster.

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'TAKE me to see some places of interest,' she said. And, of course, he took her the round of the money-lenders' offices.

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THERE is nothing like being accurate in one's statements. After a poor fellow had been run over and killed by a locomotive—a very bad motive for going out of the world, by the way—a paper announcing the fact said that the man was very unlucky, for he had met with a similar accident only a few months before.

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If there is one thing I dislike it is ingratitude. Imagine the feelings of our staff when we heard that Spot had given a dinner to sixty of their myrmidons and not invited us. To quote the report: 'The dinner was of a liberal description, and after the removal of the cloth the loving cup was passed round, followed by the customary loyal toasts, when that of "The Firm" was proposed and received with the greatest enthusiasm. The remainder of the evening was interspersed with songs, recitations, &c.' Spot is acquainted—ay, well acquainted—with every one of us, and has been for months, and, what is more, is likely to be, and yet when it comes to loving cups and gorging we are left out in the cold. Shame! shame! We are almost inclined to cut our connexion with Spot.

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THE Scotch are a practical people. One day at a meeting of the parishioners of Fearn, Ross-shire, a clergyman—not famed for the number of his congregation—asked that certain repairs should be made in his church, which was very cold. The chairman informed the minister that the best way to warm the kirk was to have it better filled.