

"The idea is preposterous to have the rich and the poor worshipping side by side."

"There will be no reserved seats for the rich in 'the many mansions,' Hester," said aunt Judith, with a grim smile.

"Did you notice the bride in church, mamma?" asked Lydia, breaking a pause in the conversation.

"Yes. She looked quite pretty and was elaborately got up for her first appearance."

"Did you observe her exquisite little bonnet," broke in Carrie, eagerly. "It is, I presume, the latest Parisian style."

"Do you still give the name of bonnet to that tiny fabric you ladies wear, Hester?" asked Mr. Beverley, addressing his wife. "What a contrast between it and Judith's!" he added, laughing.

"Aunt Judith is opposed to innovation in any form," remarked Claude, slyly.

"I don't stand alone in that respect. Thank Heaven, there are yet some sensible people in the world! although all the innovations in religion and fashion are enough to turn one's head." Then turning to her niece Carrie, aunt Judith asked curtly, "what was the text?"

"Really I forget. I did not pay particular attention to the sermon, because"—

"You were too much occupied admiring the bride's dress," interrupted aunt Judith, severely.

"Not that reason, aunt, but it was Dr. Fanshaw who preached this morning; and you know he is very prosy: no one listens to him. It is so different when Claude preaches."

"What is the use of having such a man in the Church!" broke forth Mr. Beverley. "He really is so tiresome you gain nothing listening to him. One might as well stay at home"

"Oh! no, father," observed Claude, eagerly. "Remember we have a beautiful liturgy; the sermon is the least part of our Service."

"Still the people require to be taught," remarked aunt Judith. "And I quite agree with your father in saying, what is the use of having clergymen who do not instruct their flock? who, from their advanced age, have lost their brightness of intellect? Besides, Dr. Fanshaw's private character is not without reproach; a man of the world he still is, though he has grown grey in officiating at St. Leonard's, and without holiness he can have no influence for good."

"He is not an immoral man, aunt," said Claude. "The worst that can be said of him is what you observed, that he is worldly-minded, and there are many of the clergy like him."

"Unfortunately there are, Claude," said aunt Judith, sadly; "and this is the reason why so little good is effected by the preaching of the Word. The ministers differ so little from other people. Instead of be-