

departments, all the judges, and in addition to all these, the ten thousand richest proprietors amongst those who live like gentlemen.

"Such an accident would certainly afflict the French, because they are good-hearted, and because they could not view with indifference the sudden disappearance of so large a number of their compatriots. But this loss of thirty thousand individuals reputed the most important in the State, would be a cause of sorrow in one way only, that is to say, on sentimental grounds, because no evil would really result to the State.

"For, to begin with, nothing would be easier than to fill the places which had thus become vacant. There exist a great number of Frenchmen able to perform the functions of brother to the King quite as well as Monsieur himself; many, too, are capable of occupying the position of the Princes of the blood royal quite as well as Monseigneur the Duke of Angoulême, Monseigneur the Duke of Orleans and the rest.

"The ante-chambers of the palace are full of courtiers ready to jump into the places of the great officers of the Crown; the army possesses any number of officers who would make quite as good commanders as our marshals. How many clerks are quite as competent as the ministers? How many administrators better fitted to be prefects and sub-prefects than the present holders of those offices? How many lawyers as good jurisconsults as our judges? How many curés as capable as our cardinals, our archbishops, our bishops, our grand-vicars, and our canons! As to the 10,000 proprietors, their heirs would need no apprenticeship to do the honours of their drawing-rooms quite as well as themselves."

There is some exaggeration and perhaps some injustice mingled with the very dry humour of this compari-

son; but it is far from destitute of substantial truth. Remember that the picture is drawn from the France of the Restoration, where, in the filling of public offices, privilege and favouritism reigned supreme. We can, however, draw a lesson from it suited to our own time and country. The time is coming when it will be a dishonour to a man in the full possession of his energies not to be actively engaged in some useful work, when it will take as much hardihood for a man to avow that he lives only for his own amusement, as it would take now to avow that he lives by scheming and trickery. The public sentiment of today already makes the position of a fashionable idler a somewhat questionable one, and we cannot doubt that the public sentiment of a generation hence will erect a higher standard still of social duty. Of course there are always some who remain blind, up to the last moment, to coming changes: and what Carlyle calls "Joe Manton dilettanteisms," still make considerable show in the world: but they are doomed to disappear just as surely as the inferior civilizations give way before the superior.

It would take more time than it would be proper for me to occupy to trace, even in outline, the changes which might be expected to flow from a thoroughly rational system of education, or in other words, from the establishment of a perfect *entente cordiale* between man and nature. Suffice it to say that new value and dignity would be lent to life; we should have a sense of proprietorship in the world and the forces of nature such as we never had before; our best energies would be thrown into the work of improving our great inheritance, and common men would find how sweet it was to lose the sense of self in the sense of kindred and of oneness with humanity at large. The family, in modern times has reached