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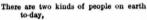
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To Lift or to Lean

BY ELLA WHEELER WILCOX



Just two kinds of people, no more, I say,

Not the saint and the sinner, for 'tis well understood

The good are half bad, and the bad are half good;

Not the rich and the poor, for to count a man's wealth

You must first know the state of his conscience and health;

Not the humble and proud, for in life's little span

Who puts on vain airs is not counted a man;

Not the happy and sad, for the swiftflying years

Bring each man his laughter, and each man his tears.

No, the two kinds of people on earth I mean

Are the people who lift and the people who lean.

Where'er you go you will find the world's masses

Are always divided in just these two classes;

And, oddly enough, you will find, too, I ween,

There is only one lifter to twenty who lean,

In what class are you? Are you easing the load

Of over-taxed lifters who toil down the road?

Or are you a leaner, who lets others bear,

Your portion of labor and worry and oare?

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