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TO LIFT OR TO LEAN

BY ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

There are two kinds of people on earth
to-day,
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 swift-
flying 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
care!

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