

luxurious living, thereby increasing the wants of the people. Nothing tries the average man more than prosperity. Take our intimate friends. Many of the heads of families were clerks or mechanics, intelligent and self-respecting. They owned their houses and took an interest in keeping them and their gardens in order. Every member of the family had a sense of proprietorship in the home nest. I return to find some families, whom I left happy in mediocrity, transported to grandeur and discomfort. Edward and I made a call yesterday. We were shown into a parlor in which there was not one chair fit for a man in business suit to sit upon. Scarfs and other incumbrances abounded, and not a sign of christianity in the room. What do you think Edward did?"

"I cannot guess," replied Mrs. Murphy; "either one of you is inclined to be reckless, but when you get together there is no telling where you will stop."

"This wild man from the west gathered a lot of the naked divinities that adorned the room, and stood them in a semi-circle in front of the register. He said they made him think of the Groves of Blarney and the

"Haythen Goddesses and Gods so fair,
All standing naked in the open air."

"You should have seen Nellie stare when she came down; I did not give Edward away, and he did not confess. I suppose the maid was questioned after we left the house, and with Nellie's remembrance of Edward's tricks in the olden time, she will have arrived at an explanation of the irregularity."

"It may set her thinking," said Mr. Dillon. "She was never stupid, but custom dulls the wit sometimes. Her father would never have allowed such images in his house."

"From the way you talk, Edward," said Mrs. Butler, "one would think we should never progress."

"Progress as much as you like, but not crab-fashion. The present tendency is towards paganism."

"Don't you think people have a right to raise themselves."

"They have every right to improve their condition by legitimate means, but I do not think a man raises himself, when, through worldliness, he turns his back on God and his neighbor, because his children

wish to gain admittance to the society of unbelievers."

"You remind me," said Mr. Murphy; "of an incident related by the late Bishop of Pittsburg: He was one of the first Directors of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum. After an absence of some years, he visited Philadelphia, and discovered a great falling off in the receipts of the Institution. He called on several of the old contributors, among them one who had grown very wealthy. The Bishop was cordially received, and after the exchange of compliments, made known the object of his visit. His host became very much excited and said, 'I have nothing to give; I have many expenses to meet; only last week one of my carriage horses died—he cost me \$300.' When the Bishop knew him in his early days he had no such luxury, and his heart was tender towards the orphan."

"Yes," said Mrs. Murphy, "as man grows wealthy he grows selfish. Each clique has its standard. In one, it is family, with another, wealth and ostentation; the third affects the intellectual, and excludes all who fail in grammar, or decline to adopt the broad A. I hold by the sentiment so well expressed by the late poet laureate,

"How e'er it be it seems to me,
'Tis only noble to be good;
Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood."

"To take a higher authority: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for their's is the kingdom of heaven.'"

"Can you induce the rising generation to adopt that practically?" inquired Mr. Butler.

"Not easily," replied Mr. Murphy; "if they have been educated to compare everything by the world's standard. You remember our parents taught us that if we were faithful to duty the testimony of a good conscience should be ours, and the reward that 'Peace that surpasses all understanding.' They kept before us the principle that pushing was vulgar; that the honor should seek the man. I always maintain that even in these degenerated days true worth is appreciated. All the worthy young women may not find husbands, wealthy and titled, but they who live according to the spirit of the commandments shall have the esteem of those in the community, whose good opinion is worth having.