

THE SEMI-DETACHED.

(A LAY OF THE SUBURBS.)

I.

WHILST some can lay claim to a family seat,
 I only can boast a "suburban retreat";
 Our lot is wide-severed from fashion's light train, —
 We seldom intrude on its favoured domain:
 My muse would fain sing the romance that is matched
 With a commonplace lot in a "Semi-detached."

II.

It was here that we lighted, when courtship was done,
 And Nellie and I, and our fortunes, were one;
 Year in and year out, for these twice twenty years,
 We've shared all our pleasures, our hopes, and our fears;
 And what if the carpets be faded, or patched,
 The love never fades in our "Semi-detached"!

III.

The brow has grown furrowed, and silvered the hair,
 Since first our young castles we builded in air;
 Our lives have been chequered with sunshine and shade,
 With hopes of life's spring-time in autumn decayed;
 But the home is the home, be it gabled or thatched,
 In the court, or the cot, or the "Semi-detached."

IV.

There are bright, sunny patches on life's little scene,
 That shed a soft haze on the troubles between;
 But we have not forgot, in the years that have fled,
 The memories sweet that encircle the dead,
 Nor when, by death's fingers, our loved ones were snatched,
 How the tears trickled fast in our "Semi-detached."

V.

How little we care for the world's busy race,
 Its fumings for wealth, or its struggles for place;
 Do life's duty bravely, and then, when you die,
 Leave a villa on earth for a mansion on high;
 While voices long hushed, from their prisons unlatched,
 Will still echo round the old "Semi-detached."

CAMERON CHURCHILL, M.A., *Vicar of Crockham Hill.*

 THREE GREAT PHYSICIANS.

A CELEBRATED doctor, being surrounded in his last moments by many of his fellow physicians who deplore his loss, said to them, "Gentlemen, I leave behind me three great physicians." Each man, thinking himself to be one of the three, pressed him to name them; upon which he replied, "Cleanliness, Exercise, and Temperance."