

Laurence only a necessary part of the complex machinery required to carry on a large organisation ; the idea that he could have any individual rights or refinement of nature he scouted when it occurred to him at all. These views, common to smaller minds before they have been wholesomely cleansed by the fire of experience, tinged his manner with a certain superciliousness which was at once felt and resented. The nineteenth-century workman resents nothing more keenly than supercilious patronage ; he knows his own power and place, and requires that others shall know it too.

The only thing Walter Bremner could do was to keep his son in a subordinate position as long as possible, until, indeed, the sense of years should come to him ; to give him power prematurely he foresaw would only make trouble for himself and all concerned. But the time came when it was necessary that he should raise him to some more responsible position, and the prospect was full of anxiety for Bremner, and added not inconsiderably to his worry and cares. He was discussing that very point with the neighbour at whose table he was dining, a man who had reared a large family, and had his full share of trouble and anxiety with them.

Laurence, however, all unconscious of the care he was to his father, played his game of billiards with his customary skill, taking great pleasure in beating his younger brother, who was too fond of his books ever to give the necessary practice to the game.

"Mother," said Adair, suddenly, after she had played some pieces of music with a quiet and artistic touch which her mother greatly enjoyed, "I forgot to tell you that I heard to-day that poor Mrs. Fletcher is very