

line of demarkation into Tragedy and Comedy. The characteristic motive of tragedy is the exhibition of man in unsuccessful conflict with circumstances. In the Attic Tragedy the apparently undeserved disaster which thus overwhelms the man of average morality is explained by the doctrine of *Nemesis*, or inherited curse: that is to say the man himself has not deserved the punishment, but he is punished for the sins of his fathers. In this doctrine the existence of evil is sought to be explained in a manner identical with the declaration of the second Commandment, and in harmony with the general purport of the Jewish and Christian theology. In the Elizabethan drama this undeserved suffering is rather connected with contemporary circumstances; and in the novels of "George Eliot," which were written in respect of their philosophic basis under the influence of the leaders of the positivist school of thought, the same problem is presented in close connection with the scientific principle of heredity, or the transmission of physical and mental defects from parent to child.

In comedy the motive is furnished by the same conflict viewed from an opposite point of view. In unexpected and even in undeserved suffering, provided that it is not so acute as to actively enlist our sympathy, there is an element of satisfaction which arises from the contrast thus presented between our own good fortune and the bad fortune of our neighbours. If a man's hat is blown off by a high wind, and we see him chasing it, or if a passenger arrives on the platform breathless and excited, only to see the train steam out of the station, we laugh: for these are such slight disasters that our perception of the comic element is unrestrained. But if the same person, instead of losing his hat, were to be run over by an omnibus, the sight of his suffering would at once command our sympathy, and instead of mirth an instant sensation of pain and alarm would arise in our minds: for this would be not comic but tragic. Further, if the person to whom the unexpected disaster happens is an evil character, or a character possessed of anti-social