

it will be necessary shortly to build a new wing. It has been Trinity's aim to surround the mere instruction of a curriculum with ennobling and higher influences that make for complete education. In this metier which she has made peculiarly her own she has been encouragingly successful, and her present position shows that she has a very strong claim for existence alongside the Provincial University, and a role of usefulness enlarging every year."

A PARALLEL VIEW OF ENGLISH SOCIETY.

THE reviews and magazines have been busy for the past six months with the present state of English Society and the impression is gained that that portion of the world is in a bad way. Lady Jeune's sensational article is well remembered, while the utterances of Mr. Mallock and Mr. Lecky have been perhaps the most weighty on the question. It is in the nature of things that society should have its cycles and its changes. Its present condition in London may not be most wholesome but it is at least better than at the corresponding period of the last century. It is a curious fact too that the end of a century always seems to see greater excesses and greater deterioration in manners and morals. The term *fin-de-sieclism* though a cant expression of a litero-fashionable brand is yet full of signification and expressiveness. The latest articles on the subject are found in a series current monthly in the new *Pall Mall Magazine* which the wealth of an Astor has added to the *Pall Mall Gazette* and *Pall Mall Budget*. The last one, which is in the August number, is anonymous, but, "a woman of the world" is evidently speaking of matters with which she is familiar and there is much discernment shown in her remarks. She says:—

"The two characteristics of English Society which have chiefly developed themselves during the last twenty years are, to my mind: firstly, blatant vulgarity; secondly, undistinguishing, slavish, and almost universal adoration of the Golden Calf."

She points out how in England the lower classes are aping the customs and costumes of the higher classes, and that the outward lines of separation that obtain on the continent where the *ouvrier* and *bonne* are known by their dress are being erased in England where the whole community seems given over to ostentation and display.

She strikingly compares the young man and young woman of society of the present day and the comparison is all in favor of the latter. One will recognize the truth of these two pictures. First the young man:

"I now touch on the manners, or rather lack of manners, of the young men of to-day. The deterioration here is so marked that none of my contemporaries—none of those, that is to say, who have lived for half a century, more or less, in the world—can fail to acknowledge it. Our gilded youth seems to have almost entirely lost its respect for women; the stately courtliness of old days has of course disappeared for ever. But what I complain of is the nonchalant, free-and-easy tone, tempered with a shade of condescension, which in my young days no gentleman would have dared to use to any save members of the *Hetira*, but which seems to be universally accepted now as a *fin-de-siecle* outcome of all the old traditions of a chivalrous and deferential treatment of the weaker sex. We women are, I think, ourselves greatly to blame in this matter. The taxes which custom and the recognized convention of common civility imposed on young men twenty years ago were but slight; still, slight as they were, they are now far too onerous for the youth of the present day to dream of submitting to them. Young men in London *never* now answer a ball invitation; should they deign to grace the entertainment with their presence, indeed, in nine

cases out of ten they will omit the elementary civility of being introduced to, much less exchanging a courteous word with, their hostess.

"After a ball not one of them will dream of either calling or even acknowledging with a visiting card the attempt that has been made to amuse him; and, in spite of this, we London hostesses swallow the affront and bid again and again to our houses men who, in my younger days, would have been held, by their apparent lack of that which then constituted good breeding, to have shown themselves unfit to be asked into decent society. *Autre temps, autre mœurs*: but it is allowable to hold that the *mœurs* which prevailed in my youth were preferable to those I remark in my middle age."

The young woman gives cause for comfort:—

"Our girls are healthier, more natural, less helpless, and venture to think for themselves and to have ideas of their own. That in some cases this independence has been carried to extreme limits, does not in the least modify my views. Formerly, an insipid "missishness" was considered becoming in a young girl, a certain amount of helplessness was regarded as attractive and ladylike—in fact, most girls thought it due to their self-respect to emphasize their physical weakness by fainting incontinently at odd moments. Women had not then taken to athletics, and the acme of good breeding in a girl was supposed to be a mawkish *fadeur*, which nowadays would be voted quite intolerably affected. This, I take it, was a remnant of the artificial life of the eighteenth century. Fresh air and plenty of exercise have changed all this, and have rendered our sex better able to fulfil their duties as mothers, and to maintain sound minds in sound bodies. Intellectually, I think, also, women have made vast strides. The high pressure of modern existence, the perpetual changes of scene, have tended to sharpen and polish the wits of any girl with a moderate intellectual endowment. The fear of being thought prim, old-fashioned or dull, may sometimes tend to lead a girl perilously near the border-line, but on the whole the healthy natural instincts of English womanhood can be trusted to preserve an even balance in this respect."

In spite, however, of the intense vulgarity of English society and its lax observance of morals, the writer finds that some things have greatly improved:—

"Taste has marvellously improved. Our houses are beautiful with a graceful daintiness undreamt of thirty years ago, during that carnival of universal ugliness which characterized the middle Victorian period. Our women are unquestionably better dressed: we have realized the delight and beauty that flowers impart to our homes; even in culinary matters good taste has asserted itself, and put an end to the Gargantuan and indigestible banquets that formed so marked a feature of the London of the middle of the century. Indeed, recognizing as I do the incontrovertible historical fact that excessive luxury has always marked the decadence of a nation, I sometimes fear that our national virile qualities may be sapped by the general love of luxurious surroundings, which is entangling us in its tentacles.

"But to my mind the healthiest and most encouraging sign of the times is the awakening of the richer classes to their duties and responsibilities to their poorer brethren. They seem to have realized the truth of that awful text, "To whom much is given, of him shall much be required." Of course this sense of duty is no new thing among the much-decried landed classes. The daughters of such families have always, in my time at least, supposing their mother to have been worth her salt, been brought up from their earliest childhood to visit their poorer