

each of us has a noble mission to fulfil in life and to its accomplishment each of us must direct our energies. Leaving aside the novel and bearing in mind its moral teaching, we thank God that life with truth and justice is worth living. "Done to death by slanderous tongues" conveys the moral lesson that this novel teaches. A reticent, over-cautious girl, the idle gossip of fashionable society leaders endeavoring to fathom the mystery which surrounds this young girl's engagement, her want of prudence in its concealment even from her dearest friends, the slanderous tongues of "Our Set" estranging her from her lover, and finally the reconciliation of the estranged couple, form the woof which a skilful artist has woven into a novel of real life. Esther Ward, the leading character of the story, is a noble type of woman. Religious, intellectual, affectionate, keeping the even tenor of her way regardless of the affectations and caprices of what this world terms society. She, however, lacks prudence in her reticence, for life's battle can not be fought single-handed. The secrecy of her engagement to Arthur Esmond and everything appertaining to it give motive power to wagging tongues. The machinations of "those women who do not scruple to chatter 'just between ourselves you know,' about other people's business and family affairs and misfortunes," result in the sudden estrangement of the lovers. Esther Ward's cup of sorrow overflows with bitterness. The night of darkness which covers this period of her life is at times illumined by the attentions of a few devoted friends. Yet her great heart breaks under the weight of those afflictions of the soul and the agonies of her secret, lonely sorrow. The shadow of death is upon Esther Ward. A tragic climax is reached, but the skilful dramatic power of the author turns it for a grand and necessary effect. This is most important, for this last chapter is the only one where some true knowledge of Arthur Esmond's character may be found. Ere this we know him as a clever business man, cautious, truthful and generous; then as the rash, jealous and estranged lover. His reconciliation at the death-bed, when consciousness has almost flit the soul of Esther, unfolds the nobler part of his character to our view. The two grand lessons taught by this book—charity towards our neighbors and the sinfulness of "slanderous gossip," appeal with mighty force at this