

drones. And in a commercial, manufacturing, artistic and learned nation, the position of those who choose to be agriculturists is far better than elsewhere. They have far more to cheer them and encourage them. They don't know how much those well-filled *book-shelves*, and those numerous household inventions they use, contribute to the rural happiness they boast of! No, we could not go back; and take it all in all the nation is happier that the minds of the people, as well as their bodies, are kept well employed."

This learned professor was himself in the possession of a very handsome pension from the government for having introduced "street railways" in the cities. He said he did not deserve it. He had not *invented* street railways. They were but the old "tramways"—the original of modern railways; and the only novelty was in re-introducing them. And he said at first there was a good deal of opposition. The streets had not been laid out wide enough to make them comfortable. New streets were now, of course, laid out wider. But the benefits had been gradually seen. A working man could now buy a site and build a cottage, three or four miles from his work, and could very well afford to pay a quarter or two per week to be carried back and forward with the street cars. Cities could now extend in every direction, instead of becoming more and more crowded in the centre. The population was more healthy, both physically and morally, to be distributed in the ever-extending suburbs. These things had gradually become apparent as years went on, and his advocacy of street railways, much to his own surprise, had been officially reported on, and he was now in possession of the pension he had named. "And this," he added, "is a sample of what is continually taking place. The most unexpected rewards sometimes reach men, even in the most obscure situations. It has become a custom with us, for a man to register any invention he does not succeed in getting a reward for; and often, in after years, his registration (which gives him no patent right, however—merely perpetuates his *claim*) is the source from whence arise these postponed and unexpected, but sometimes most welcome, *rewards*."

A principle was in operation here, I have since recommended to our own people though with indifferent success, that is for young men to fit themselves for any special position they desire, in faith that the position will come to them! The world is always searching for capable men. The trouble is young men strive for a "position," instead of making themselves capable of it! I found in Vetulia professors, engineers, and experts in all sciences, who had been taken out of the densest social obscurity, because they were discovered to have qualified themselves in some branch of human knowledge.

CHAPTER IX.

MAGISTRATES "APPOINTED"—HIGH-COURT JUDGES "ELECTED"—HOARDING OF MONEY—HOARDING OF LAND—WIVES EQUAL PARTNERS—INHERITANCES TAXED—THE QUINQUENNIAL ASSESSMENT LAW.



ONE of the *principles* long ago passed, was, "That no one can be a judge in his own case." In the gradual working out of this *principle*, great changes were made in the way of selecting and appointing judges. Anciently, all judges and justices of the peace were appointed by the Crown, but a democratic streak generally extended over the political sky of the country; and after a time, as Vetulian history shows, all these officers were elected by the people. But some time after, and as more perfectly

carrying out the spirit of the *principle*, it was settled that the magistrates and inferior judges, who have to deal with cases immediately around them,—man with man, and neighbor with neighbor—should *not* be elected by those neighbors, but be appointed by the Crown. And the judges of the various higher courts, who have often to decide on the constitutionality of Acts of Parliament, and cases between the Crown and the citizen, should not owe their position to the crown, (or, in other words, to the ministry of the day), but be elected by the people:—and for their legal "lives;" for it was considered intolerable that a judge should have any temptation before him of shaping his conduct on the bench to secure a reelection. And I was told that the justiciary enjoyed and deserved the highest reputation for probity and incorruptness.

A jury consisted of fifteen, and (as in Scotland) a majority could convict. And a neutral verdict might be given, which acquitted the person at the time, but did not prevent his being tried again if further evidence made this desirable. In criminal cases, the accused was invited to make his own statement before the Court, and could be questioned (by the Court only), on any part of his statement. An innocent man, as I thought I noticed, in a few times attending their criminal Courts, could make a good impression on the judge and jury, by a plain honest statement of the facts. And, to the jury especially, this provision seemed to be a very welcome one; for they began