

with him,"¹ Mr. Morley at heart is none of his. For the wisdom of this world is complacency and indifference, but Mr. Morley writes often with all the austere and concentrated bitterness of the spiritual reformer. What more scathing piece of satire, for example, could we wish to revel in than this on the "man of the world"!

Who does not know this temper of the man of the world, the worst enemy of the world? His inexhaustible patience of abuses that only torment others, his apologetic word for beliefs that may perhaps not be so precisely true as one might wish and institutions that are not altogether so useful as some might think possible; his cordiality towards progress and improvement in a general way, and his coldness or antipathy to each progressive proposal in particular; his pygmy hope that life will one day become somewhat better, punily shivering by the side of his gigantic conviction that it might well be infinitely worse.

This is a note which comes from a later school than Lucretius, and reminds us of that unsuspected confession of Voltaire—"During that time [whilst Calas remained unvindicated] not a smile escaped me without my reproaching myself for it as for a crime."

Of positive teaching Mr. Morley gives us little, and intends to give us little. As we have seen, he regards religion as subject to all the pains of dissolution, and he has hard words for those who, like Comte, would have her suffer, at one and the same time, the pains of birth. Thus he commends Voltaire, "perhaps the one great Frenchman who has known how to abide in patient contentment with an all but purely critical reserve, leaving reconstruction, its form, its modes, its epoch, for the fulness of time and maturity to disclose." So, too, and for the same reason, he praises Mill. Yet he is too good an historian and moralist not to contemplate with pathetic enthusiasm the ages of belief, "the too short ages of conviction and self-sufficiency." Even now "we fight that others may enjoy; and many generations struggle and debate that one generation may hold something for proven." Thus for the

¹ "John Inglesant."