

ing of evidence. The interest of women in character is passionate. In some instances this passion has given birth to genius. The dramatic faculty, so far, at any rate, as it concerns the study of the human heart, is as great in women as in men. Here alone women are their intellectual rivals, and here alone it is at present thinkable that they may, with the infinitely improved opportunities of the hour, finally outstrip them. But really to understand character it is essential to go deeper than action to plumb depths with which the law has very little to do.

The simplest and most convincing illustration of our meaning is to be found in the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. The Pharisee was perfectly satisfied with his own conduct, and it is certainly suggested by the story that, legally speaking, he had a perfect right to be. The Founder of our Faith, however, did not justify him, and did justify the dissatisfied man about whom we are told nothing as to conduct whatever. Obviously, the object of the story is to demonstrate what is in man, not to give an object-lesson in the weighing of evidence. No one, however little he acknowledges the authority of the Teller of the Tale, has ever failed to be convinced by it; but has it any bearing upon the procedure of a Court of law? It has to do with far more fundamental questions than those to be there discussed—and so has a woman's sense of justice. The law exists for the safety of civilisation, not for the salvation of souls. A just Judge must always have this fact in mind. If a man has a bad heart, a vulgar mind, and a cruel tongue but is far too timid to break the law, he is from a legal point of view innocent, and must go free to do what harm he will; but if a good-hearted, high-spirited, devil-may-care fellow breaks the law, he is guilty, and must go to prison, though in a very true sense he may be better fitted for paradise. All fairly sensible women will, we think, be willing to say this in a parrot-like way (as the present writer is saying it), because they have all been brought up to hear it, but whether they will act on it is another matter. Face a woman with a Pharisee and a Publican, and there is not much doubt as to which will go scot-free. She does not care for civilisation; she cares for humanity.

There are still to be found some old-fashioned cynics who