

enough to occupy the first seat, and do you take the second, you will win me for life.'

"'Squire Danel,' sais I, 'I am sold agin; I believe in my soul you would sell the devil.'

"'Well,' sais he, 'I would, if I could find a purchaser, that's a fact; but I'm thinkin Napoleon and Kossuth would be the only two bidders. The first, I am afeard, would confiscate the debt due me, and the other would pay for it only in speeches, take it out only in talk. Now, not having bought the devil yet, I won't speculate on him.'

"'Well, the bill came in, and he paid it; and when the waiter made himself scarce, sais he, 'Mr. Slick, now and then I admit a friend (not in public life) to a talk, and the interchange of a glass; but,' said he, 'soft-sawder here or there, I never admit him to the privilege of paying half the bill.' Just as he put his hat on, and was going out of the door, he turned, and sais he, 'Is that active or passive soft-sawder, Sam?'

"'Neuter,' sais I.

"'Give me your hand,' sais he. 'That's not bad; I like it, and I like your talk; but recollect, there are folks in this country besides yourself that *wern't born yesterday*.'

"'Well, I was alone: I lit a cigar, and threw myself back in the chair, and put my feet upon the table, and considered. 'Sam,' sais I, 'you are sold; and you didn't fetch much either. You were a fool to go to talk wise afore the wisest man we have. You are like minister's rooster: your comb is cut, and your spurs chopped off. When they grow agin, try to practise with your equals only. It was a great lesson: it taught me the truth of the old sayin' of mother's, *Sam, don't teach your grandmother to clap ashes*.'

"'Well,' said his Lordship, 'that is a curious story, Mr. Slick, and an instructive one too. The quiet drollery in American humour delights me beyond measure.'

"'There is a part of that lesson, my Lord,' sais I, 'with all due deference, you ought to learn.' He kind of shook his head, and looked puzzled what to say. Sais I, 'I know what you mean—that it's popularity huntin', and beneath your station.'

"'Not exactly,' said he, smiling; but looking as if a civil answer was sent for, that wouldn't come.

"'Well,' sais I, 'my Lord, it's a proof of knowledge and skill. Man is man, and you must study the critter you have to govern. You talk to a child like a child, to a boy like a boy, and to a man like a man. You don't talk to all men alike; you don't talk to Lord John and your footman the same, do you?'

"'Certainly not,' sais he.

"'Well, then, you must know the world you have to govern, and talk to folks so that they can onderstand you. The House of Com