

which would far outweigh all external badges,
and all conventional forms.....

In an obscure court, leading from a narrow street, in the heart of the city, might be seen a few wooden houses close packed together, and the words "Room to Let," written in large characters on one dilapidated window-shutter, attracted the attention of the passing idler. The houses were swarming with children, and every room, save that one which had just lost a tenant, was occupied by a family. The court was small, closed in by those over-crowded tenements, and the air stifling and polluted. In the middle of the yard was a pool of water kept full by the emptying of dirty suds and other questionable slops, and some half dozen ragged children were gathered round it with boisterous mirth, floating chips upon the stagnant water. From almost every window some untidy female looked out, or a meagre baby was held up to find amusement in gazing at the noisy children without. All manner of rubbish littered up the sides, and the feet slipped over decaying vegetables thrown out before the doors. It seemed strange that life could be supported in such a fetid atmosphere and pent up in such close apartments. Yet in these places the poor of cities are obliged to live, for rents are too dear where there is fresh air and comfortable lodgings!