

and form a large part of the social enjoyment of the young people, keeping them out of harm's way and giving them the means of forming acquaintance with one another." "In works of active beneficence," he says, "no country has surpassed, perhaps none has equalled the United States. Not only are sums collected for all sorts of philanthropic purposes, larger relatively to the wealth of America than in any European country, but the amount of personal interest shown in good works, and the personal effort devoted to them, seems to a European visitor to exceed what he knows at home."

Most of these characterizations and criticisms apply with equal force to the social institutions of Canada as well as to those of the United States.

"No people," he adds, "seem less open to the charge of Pharisaism or hypocrisy. History tells us that hitherto society has rested on religion, and that a free government has prospered best among a religious people."

The chapter upon the position of women must read like a fairy tale to the oppressed workwomen of Europe, where the military system takes three or four millions of men from farm and factory, and largely replaces them by women. "American women," he says, contrary to the prevalent opinion in this country, "take less part in politics than their English sisters do." He commends the social freedom of the less conventional sisters of America and says there can be no doubt that the pleasure of life is sensibly increased by the greater freedom which trans-Atlantic custom permits, and as the Americans insist that no bad results have followed, one notes with regret that freedom declines in the places which deem themselves most civilized. Ladies travel unattended in America with the greatest facility and safety. Between fastness and freedom there is in American eyes all the difference in the world, but newcomers from Europe are startled." The high-bred courtesy which American husbands pay their wives, and with which nearly all men treat all

women, is an augury and omen of the higher civilization of the future.

He is greatly pleased at the facilities offered for higher education. He says, "Women have open to them a wider life and more variety of career, and if women have gained as a whole, it is clear that the nation gains through them. There is reason to think also that the influence tells directly for good upon men, as well as upon the whole community."

There is, however, one abatement to this generous eulogy, and that is the prevalence of divorce in parts of the Union. In this respect Canada appears at the greatest possible advantage, as the divorce rate is less than in any country in the world.

"In no country are women, especially young women, made so much of. The world is at their feet. Society seems organized for the purpose of providing enjoyment for them. Parents, uncles, aunts, elderly friends, even brothers, are ready to make their comfort and convenience bend to the girls'."

Mr. Bryce has an instructive chapter on the general pleasantness of American life, which arises in the first place from the prosperity and material well-being of the mass of the people. Throughout Europe, even in England, the masses live laborious lives, with rheumatism and the workhouse at the end of the vista. "In New England the factory hands lead a life far easier, far more brightened by intellectual culture and amusement than that of clerks or shopkeepers in England or France." He notes the miles of neat artisans' houses in the suburbs of the great cities, and the almost universal prevalence of freehold farms where the families grow up strong and sturdy on abundant food, the girls familiar with the current literature of Europe, as well as of America. Even the sky seems several stories higher, and "the fog and soot-flakes of an English town, as well as its squalor, are wanting. You are in a new world. A world that knows the sun. It is impossible not to be infected with the buoyancy and hopefulness of the people. The wretchedness of