

frankness which showed an absence of all consciousness of any extraordinary merit in her own department, and which evidently sprang solely from a kind desire to gratify curiosity on my part, which, I hope, under such circumstances was not unreasonable. A short hour after this brought us into another relation; for the dinner bell summoned us, and this same lady was found presiding over a brilliant circle of the highest rank and fashion, with an ease, elegance, wit, intelligence and good humor, with a kind attention to every one's wants, and an unaffected concern for every one's comfort, which would lead one to suppose that this was her only and her peculiar sphere. Now I will not say how many mud-puddles we had waded through, and how many dung-heaps we had crossed, and what places we explored, and how every farming topic was discussed; but I will say that she pursued her object without any of that fastidiousness and affected delicacy which pass with some persons for refinement, but which in many cases indicate a weak if not a corrupt mind. The mind which is occupied with concerns and subjects that are worthy to occupy it, thinks very little of accessories which are of no importance. I will say, to the credit of Englishwomen (I speak of course of the upper classes), that it seems impossible that there should exist a more delicate sense of propriety than is universally found among them; and yet you will perceive at once that their good sense teaches them that true delicacy is much more an element of the mind, in the person who speaks or observes, than an attribute of the subject which is spoken about or observed. A friend told me that Canova assured him that, in modelling the wonderful statue of the Three Graces, from real life, he was never at any time conscious of an improper emotion or thought; and if any man can look at this splendid production, this affecting embodiment of a genius almost creative and divine, with any other emotion than that of the most profound and respectful admiration, he may well tremble for the utter corruption within him of that moral nature which God designed should elevate him above the brute creation.

Now, I do not say that the lady to whom I have referred was herself the manager of the farm; that rested entirely with her husband; but I have intended simply to show how grateful and how gratifying to him must have been the lively interest and sympathy which she took in concerns which necessarily so much engaged his time and attention; and how the country could be divested of that dullness and *ennui*, so often complained of as inseparable from it, when a cordial and practical interest is taken in the concerns which necessarily belong to rural life. I meant also to show (as this and many other examples which have come under my observation emphatically do show), that an interest in and a familiarity with even the most humble operations of agricultural life, are not inconsistent with the highest refinements of taste, the most improved cultivation of the mind, the practice of the polite accomplishments, and a grace and elegance and dignity of manners, unsurpassed in the highest circles of society.

THE ANALYSIS OF SOILS.

A few years since very high expectations were raised of the great practical benefits to agriculture from chemical analysis of soils. The earlier analyses were little to be depended upon, but of late they have been conducted with much greater care and scientific exactness. The most minute ingredients of soils have been strictly determined by measure and weight. Yet with all this exactness and deep scientific research, it would be difficult to point out a single instance in which this mere chemical analysis of the soil, has been of much direct benefit to practical agriculture. Some light has no doubt been thrown thereby upon the hidden processes of vegetable nutrition, and the composition and requirements of plants; but the chemist has been hitherto unable by his most refined analysis, to give the farmer such precise instructions as to the preparation of the soil for special crops, as to ensure in all cases a successful result. The fact is, pure science can do but little for agriculture, unaccompanied by *experience*. We would not underrate the service which chemistry has already done to agriculture, particularly in relation to the nature and composition of manures, and in her onward progress great triumphs are no doubt in store. But it should always be borne in mind that the mechanical condition and preparation of the soil, as well as its chemical composition, together with the state of the weather and other conditions, have a great influence on the