

Pamela, might secure hints from the present heroine's letters. With commendable diligence she only kept the hero waiting her reply till next day. The dramatic unities are so far well observed. The action of the plot itself begins *in medias res*. The heroine having been assailed by the villain, she and the hero agree that he will take upon himself all the brunt of the attack, on the principle that Cæsar's wife should be above suspicion. The heroine is a saint (of the Order of the Woman o Samaria) and uses her saintly reputation to shield the hero from the aspersions cast against him. This is somewhat of a departure from dramatic tradition, but accords well with the new age of woman's rights. With great dramatic skill Mr. Pierce omits from the letter of the confidential agent a clause that might interfere with this artifice, and so concentrates the interest. On page 12 a sentence reads: "Your assertions in your letter of impurity in those who remain near the Leader," but in the original historical document deposited in the National Archives, the sentence reads: "Your assertions, in your letter, of perfidy in the Leader, and of impurity, etc." The omission of this little clause removes the shadow of imputation from the heroine's fair fame, so far as can be gathered from Mr. Pierce's "Facts."

The heroine's letters are full of such good advice that there can only be the deepest regret that these counsels are not more stringently followed. But even the exponents of these ideals do not appear to have completely apprehended them. The lecturers, as Mr. Pierce points out, have almost without exception fallen under the influence of some deadly blight. Some foolish people have supposed this to be the result of association with the hero and heroine. Others have declared that these lapses are purely imaginary, and as we know that Shakspeare would sacrifice any historical fact for the sake of dramatic effect, it is possible that Mr. Pierce, aiming at "the great literary touch" which the heroine speaks of, and following a high example, may thus have been induced to deal with

the material at his disposal. The depth of the fall of these minions, if there be a fall, can be judged from the terms of a letter addressed to the Irish villain in November, 1897. What deceit he is capable of is also clear when it is remembered that at this time even "the greatest adept in five thousand years" failed to perceive his true character. Thus tenderly she addressed him:—"There is a thrill in the heart for thee, son, after reading your letter of November the third. Ah, you do understand what I am driving at. I can assure you that if every member would grasp my plans as you do and work, that in the next ten years I could bind all the churches in one great whole—Universal Brotherhood. My heart grows sick when I look out over the world and see the millions of souls that are calling for help. The Masters have the help, but where are the torch bearers? So few, so few." The heart-sickness of the heroine seems characteristic. She gets sick over the villain's "hard and fast plan," whatever it is, on page 11. This, perhaps, should only be understood in a Pickwickian sense, for we know that adepts do not worry over the antics of the miserable little homunculi that ape them. As Maeterlinck has it, "What god, that is indeed on the heights, but must smile at our gravest faults, as we smile at the puppies on the hearth rug?" This is a weakness in portraiture which Mr. Pierce can remedy in future editions—we would suggest an illustrated one—and, as the letter in which this passage occurs was never received by the villain to whom it is addressed in print, no violence will be done to "facts." As the letter is dated the 16th September, and the "Scotsman" sailed on the 14th it cannot be said that it was lost in that wreck. Possibly we can appreciate the consideration which found time for an immediate and prolonged reply amid the excitement of meeting King Oscar.

"Facts" is really a most amusing document. It was impossible that I could take it seriously, although there are some who thought I should. To those who know the real facts, however, there