

fastidious crew and as strangers they came away, feeling that if they hunted from Morbey Anstead all their days, such they would remain. For after riding behind these exclusives the whole season, you were but too apt to find your existence overlooked just as much at the end of it as at the beginning.

Now there is no denying the fact that folks don't like this sort of thing; and various were the remarks made; often not altogether of a laudatory description. It may be vanity, but it is also human nature to desire some recognition from your fellow-creatures.

"Upon my soul, we might just as well be so much dirt," quoth one incensed sportsman.

"Dirt! say pitch," answered his companion. "For they *do* condescend to make the acquaintance of Mother Earth now and again."

"Ha, ha! very good, very good," said a third. "The worst of it is, though, after a bit a fellow begins to wonder what the deuce is the matter with him, when he goes out hunting and not a soul will say a word, or recognize his presence. He fancies that the fault must lie with himself, and that ain't by any means a pleasant feeling."

"True," put in a fourth. "But when you have seen a little more of the M.A.'s, then you turn round and inquire what the devil is the matter with *them*?"

"They are so confounded exclusive!" sighed the son of a grocer, who had taken to hunting, thinking he would get elevated into County society.

"My dear fellow," said the first speaker, contemptuously, "the whole thing lies in a nut-shell, and I for one say that the Mutual Adorationites are more to be pitied than blamed. They have only one idea in their heads, and that's hunting. They can think of nothing else, talk of nothing else. Their brains get brutalized, and their manners suffer in consequence. My own belief is that this rudeness and reticence proceeds from a very simple cause. They are not wise enough to know any better;" and so on, and on *ad infinitum*, for the malcontents were very numerous.

This remark happened to get round to the ears of those for whom it was not intended. Such remarks always do. They travel with marvellous rapidity, and