

does not tell us our failings, does not lecture us; he does not merely wear his manners because they are becoming or polite, but because he can no more exist without them than without air. They resemble the antique painted glass of Albert Dürer's day in which the colours were not laid on, but stained through; they are a part of his character; they are as much a gift as poetry is to another, or the inventive faculty. There are those who may be said to have a positive genius for them, as another has for conversation; they know how to sway others by them. Polite people have an influence that is not due to their positions or possessions, to their learning or their wit. There are those who believe that good manners are only

another name for good clothes and good food and good homes with modern conveniences and luxuries, that they are talkative and emphatic and showy; but we do not always find that the best-mannered people live in palaces. Good manners are something that nobody can afford to be without, no matter how rich or powerful or intellectual he may be. They add to beauty, they detract from personal ugliness, they cast a glamour over defects, they ameliorate the round shoulders of this person, and the squint of the other; where they exist, imagination supplies deficiencies of every other attraction. They are contagious, like the measles, but they must be more than skin deep to be of any service.—*Harper's Bazar.*

A CASE IN POINT.

MR. J. F. EWING, of Melbourne, writing in the *Spectator* of May 18th, corrects some statements by Dr. Dale, Birmingham, made in the *Contemporary Review*, regarding the educational system of Victoria.

"Dr. Dale evidently thinks that he has found in Victoria a system after the 'Birmingham' model. He speaks in flattering terms of it, and in somewhat severe terms of those who, he says, have stigmatised it as 'godless.' He totally mistakes, however, the charges that have been made against it. He speaks of a visit to a State school, in company with the present Minister of Education in Victoria, where he heard the children sing 'God Save the Queen,' and also a hymn which contained some rudimentary natural theology.

"But no competent critic has called our present system 'godless.' There is a 'thin Theism' left in the National school books, though it has been seriously proposed to make this a little

thinner by omitting any 'statement that might be offensive to our Chinese fellow-citizens!'"

Mr. Ewing points out that it is not that the system is "godless," but that it is anti-scriptural and anti-Christian in its tendency, and as examples of this fact says:—

"Readers of Longfellow's 'Wreck of the 'Hesperus'' know the verse:

Then the maiden clasped her hands and
prayed
That saved she might be,
And she thought of Christ who stilled the
wave
On the Lake of Galilee.

"This verse has been expunged, owing to its obvious dogmatic bias!—and all similar references to Christ and Christianity have been removed.

"Messrs. Thomas Nelson and Sons, of Edinburgh and New York, are obliged to bring out a special edition of their school series for this Colony, carefully purged of all taint of Christian fact and sentiment. The Educa-