

century may well feel proud of the fact, for it is an indisputable truth that never since the creation of mankind has the world produced such a highly civilized, such an enlightened, such an enterprising people as those who characterize the present century. They have exceeded those who lived before them in almost everything. Our predecessors may have taken many steps in the road to progress and improvement but it has been reserved by an all wise Providence for the present age to not only add to and perfect all the crude beginnings but to produce and utilize new inventions and to advance original theories, some of which have altered the customs of the entire world. Among other things in which the nineteenth century eclipses all previous ages there is one in which her pre-eminence stands forth strikingly manifest, namely, her society. Place our modern society side by side with that of the most brilliant and cultivated period of which history gives us any account, no matter whether you go to ancient mediaeval times or even to the years immediately preceding those of the present century, to find one comparable to it, the result will be that our high order of intellectuality and of true knowledge, will place us far ahead of all would be competitors.

Every young man and woman must necessarily occupy some position in social life and of course each one has an ambition to reach that point of advancement beyond which he can go no further.

Some faint heart may long for an exalted place in society but he or she possibly thinks that it would be useless for them to try to enter a social world which is so remarkable for its high state of culture and elegance. The question which

naturally arises in the mind of every such aspirant is, what must I do in order to fit myself for the position toward which my ambition leads me? There are almost numberless requirements which every one should meet, many accomplishments which they should possess, but among all of these it will be found that the basis upon which they are founded lies in a few all important conditions which seem to furnish a foundation from which all the minor details are derived.

One of these is a thorough literary education. This is an essential attribute which every society man or woman who lays well-founded claims to an honorable place in society must possess, and the lady or gentleman who is well up in the literature of the past and present possesses that which will prove a source of pleasure to themselves and instruction to others. Upon this, in a large degree, will depend their conversational powers, for no matter how richly endowed one may be in this particular, if they do not possess a liberal knowledge of things literary, they can never reach that degree of perfection and excellence which they might otherwise have done.

To possess true conversational ability is to command that which many seek after but few there be indeed that find, and the man or woman who is thus gifted by nature and who has cultivated and improved his or her talent, manifests his accomplishments continually, whether in the drawing-room debate, the after-dinner speech or in that most portentous moment of his life when he pours out his tale of love into the ears of the woman he loves.

The manners of one who aspires to reign in society must be perfect and it is absolutely necessary that they should be