

and a wealthy parent. Dr. Farley, supported by one of the wealthiest congregations in the state, resigned, and took with him, as a parting gift, a donation of twenty-five thousand dollars. Dr. Osgood has always enjoyed a large salary, has a fine city residence, and a country-seat, where he passes his summer vacations. In no place on the continent are parishes more liberal, more considerate, more devoted to their pastors, than in New York. Such seldom leave till borne to their burial.

II.

HIGH LIFE IN NEW YORK.

MONEYOCRACY. — A MASKED BALL. — WHO HAS MONEY. — PARTIES, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS. — BROWN, OF GRACE CHURCH. — CHURCH-GOERS. — THE OPERA. — YELLOW KIDS. — CLUBS.

WITH the élite of New York, so called, money is the principal thing. The best society of New York is not to be found among the élite. If you wish parties, soirées, balls, that are elegant, attractive, and genteel, you will not find them among the snobish clique, who, with nothing but money, attempt to rule New York. Talent, taste, and refinement do not dwell with these. But high life has no passport except money. If a man has this, though destitute of character and brains, he is made welcome. One may come from Botany Bay or St. James; with a ticket of leave from a penal colony or St. Cloud; if he has diamond rings and a coach, all places will be opened to him. The leaders of upper New York were, a few years ago, porters, stable-boys, coal-heavers, pickers of rags, scrubbers of floors, and laundry women. Coarse, rude, ignorant, uncivil, and immoral many of them are still. Lovers of pleasure and men of fashion bow and cringe to such, and approach hat in hand. One of our new-fledged millionaires gave a ball in his stable. The invited came with tokens of delight. The host, a few years ago, was

a ticket taker at one of our ferries, and would have thankfully blacked the boots or done any menial service for the people who clamor for the honor of his hand. At the gate of Central Park, every day, splendid coaches may be seen, in which sit large, fat, coarse women, who carry with them the marks of the wash-tub. These people have money. They spend it in untold sums for balls, parties, and soirées, and in drawing upper New York into their gaudy mansions.

A MASKED BALL.

A young Boston lady, by an eligible marriage with a princely merchant, became the mistress of an extensive mansion in Madison Square. While in France she captivated the emperor by her superb dancing and graceful skating. His majesty sent her a costly present. At Saratoga and Newport she drove her own dashing team with her footman behind, and became the most conspicuous of the visitors at those gay places. She resolved to give a fancy ball, and all the élite were in a fever of excitement. Brown, of Grace Church, had charge of the invitations, and five hundred were given out. All the guests were in costume. Three fourths of the guests wore masks. The dresses were rich, elegant, and costly. Suits were ordered from Paris and London. The hostess appeared as the Goddess of Music. Her dress was short, and her boots scarlet and trimmed with small bells. On her head was a lyre, from which issued brilliant jets of burning gas. Stock brokers, men in high life, and fast New Yorkers, appeared in various characters, among which the representatives of a monkey and of Satan

attracted the most attention. The mansion was superbly fitted up. Thousands of dollars were spent in floral decorations. Plate of gold and silver, china from beyond the seas, adorned the table. Servants in brilliant gold and silver livery waited on the guests. Hidden bands sent music through the mansion. The supper lasted till five in the morning. The last strains of music for the dancers closed at six. The counting-rooms were thrown open, the hammer of the artisan was heard, carmen and laborers were at their work, before the festivities ended and the door closed on the last departing guest. Such is high life in New York.

WHO HAS MONEY.

Much of the society of New York is very select, intellectual, and genteel. But the moneyed aristocracy, those who crowd gilded saloons and make up the parties of the ton, who are invited to soirées, fancy balls, and late suppers, are among the coarsest, most vulgar and illiterate of our people. Money is made easily by many in New York; fortunes are acquired in a day; families go from a shanty on a back street to a brown-stone front in upper New York, but they carry with them their vulgar habits, and disgust those who from social position are compelled to invite them to their houses. At a fashionable party, persons are invited according to their bank account, and to their standing on 'change. A fashionable party is made up of representatives of all nations and all religions — men and women who can speak the English language and those who cannot, Jews and Gentiles, Irish and Germans, red-faced and heavy-bearded men, coarse-

featured, red-faced, uncultivated women, who are loaded down with jewelry and covered with satins, who can eat as much as a soldier in the trenches. If they give a party, they give it to those who ridicule their position and manners. If they go to a party, they laugh in their turn.

BROWN, OF GRACE CHURCH.

The most famous man connected with New York high life is Brown, the sexton of Grace Church. For many years, Grace has been the centre of fashionable New York. To be married or buried within its walls has been ever considered the height of felicity. For many years, Brown has stood at the entrance to fashionable life. He gets up parties, engineers bridals, and conducts funerals, more genteelly than any other man. "The Lenten season is a horridly dull season," he is reported to have said; "but we manage to make our funerals as entertaining as possible." No party in high life is complete without him. A fashionable lady, about to have a fashionable gathering at her house, orders her meats from the butcher, her supplies from the grocer, her cakes and ices from the confectioner; but her invitations she puts into the hands of Brown. He knows whom to invite and whom to omit. He knows who will come, who will not come, but will send regrets. In case of a pinch, he can fill up the list with young men, picked up about town, in black swallow-tailed coats, white vests, and white cravats, who, in consideration of a fine supper and a dance, will allow themselves to be passed off as the sons of distinguished New Yorkers. The city has any quantity of ragged

noblemen, seedy lords from Germany, Hungarian barons out at the elbow, members of the European aristocracy who left their country for their country's good, who can be served up in proper proportions at a fashionable party when the occasion demands it. No man knows their haunts better than Brown. He revels in funerals. Fashion does not change more frequently in dress than in the method of conducting funerals in high life. What constituted a very genteel funeral last year would be a very vulgar one this. Cards of invitation are sent out as to a party. Sometimes the shutters of the house are closed, and the funeral takes place in gas-light. The lights are arranged for artistic effect. Parties who have the entrée of fashionable life can tell, the moment they enter the rooms, what fashionable sexton has charge of the funeral. The arrangement of the furniture, the position of the coffin, the laying out of the body, the coffin itself, the adjustment of the lights, the hanging of the drapery, the plate-glass hearse, the number of horses, the size and quality of the plumes on the hearse and team, indicate the style of the funeral, and the wealth and social position of the family. Mourning has a style peculiar to itself, and the intensity of the grief is indicated by the depth of the crape. Brown is a huge fellow, coarse in his features, resembling a dressed-up carman. His face is very red, and on Sundays he passes up and down the aisles of Grace Church with a peculiar swagger. He bows strangers into a pew, when he deigns to give them a seat, with a majestic and patronizing air, designed to impress them with a realizing sense of the obligation he has conferred upon them.

YELLOW KIDS.

Fashionable New York is distinguished by yellow kids. The supply must be large, for the demand is great. Wherever you find fashionable New York or young New York, there you will find yellow kids. On New Year's Day, when thousands throng the streets, every man you meet, young or old, who makes any pretension to society, wears yellow gloves. When the Common Council turn out, every man sports a pair at the city's expense. In Broadway or at Central Park, at the opera or in church, these glaring appendages flash before the eye. A fashionable New Yorker may have seedy clothes, a hat out of season, boots the worse for wear, still he will sport his yellow kids.

CLUBS.

After the London fashion, clubs are becoming common among the upper ten. They have not yet got the political significance of those of the old world. The Loyal League, in its elegant quarters on Union Square, is Republican. The Manhattan Club is Democratic. But these are for occasional festivals. The members of each belong to the different clubs of the city. The most elegant buildings on Fifth Avenue are club houses. They are furnished in the most gorgeous manner. Every convenience of comfort and luxury that can be conceived is found within the walls. Nearly every club-house indicates the brief life of a New York aristocrat. A lucky speculation, a sudden rise in real estate, a new turn of the wheel of fortune, lifts up the man who yesterday could not be trusted for his

dinner, and gives him a place among the men of wealth. He buys a lot on Fifth Avenue; puts up a palatial residence, outdoing all who have gone before him; sports his gay team in Central Park, carpets his sidewalk, gives two or three parties, and disappears from society. His family return to the sphere from which they were taken, and his mansion, with its gorgeous furniture, becomes a club-house. These houses are becoming more and more numerous. They are breaking up what little social and domestic life remains in the city. Few homes are known to New York high life. Men go to the club to dine, and spend their evenings amid its fascinations.