

rights or position of our people. To attempt this would be invidious—would be a folly—

“ To gild refined gold, to paint the lily,  
To throw a perfume on the violet,  
To smooth the ice, or add another hue  
Unto the rainbow, or with taper light  
To seek the beauteous eye of heaven to garnish,  
Is wasteful and ridiculous excess.”

So, too, would be an attempted definition of polite society. And thus it comes that nothing more is claimed for this book than a pretty fair surrounding of the social element. The club and association lists represent, as impartially as anything possibly could, the literary, artistic and social features of our every-day life. The “Army and Navy,” and “Hotel,” and “Special Calling and Address Lists” contain a majority of those of our people entitled to the claim and recognition of “Society,” if such a fixed fact there be. As a matter of course, perfection in this list is impossible. “Society” is altogether too elastic and nimble a thing to get hold of. But its representation is as select, and complete, and correct, as careful inquiry can make a first attempt of this kind. The club and society lists are official. So are the hotel lists. The army and navy and special calling and address pages have been made up from a dozen or more party and ball, and public and private reception lists, subject to a hundred revisions by as many prominent and well-informed society people. If, therefore, there are any—and undoubtedly there are many—entitled to mention therein whose names have by chance been omitted, it must be attributed rather to the difficulties attending the obtaining of information than to the idea, which will naturally arise, of deliberate exclusion. Next season the matter will be better understood, and a more perfect and satisfactory representation reached. As it has been found