

luxuriously housed than most European princes. To this excessive expenditure there will come an end, not perhaps until the next generation begins to scatter the means which this has accumulated. Our millionaires show no disposition as yet to economize, though for the last year or two many people of moderate means have evinced that desire by discontinuing the tribal relations of the hotel, and resuming the more private family ties of the domestic hearthstone. Society in San Francisco has in it the possibilities of the greatest refinement and the best culture. It is at present liable to the reproach of the *nouveaux riches*, as are most communities that have had similar experiences. The lines that divide its different classes are not yet distinctly drawn. The different sections overlap at the edges. If we speak of it as composed of superimposed strata, we may say that the composition of the lower changes insensibly into the next higher, and so on to the aristocratic capstone. It is not always easy to see where the adventurer merges into the gambler, the gambler into the stock-sharp, the stock-sharp into the regular broker, the broker into the man who follows occupations of greater certainty, until we reach the summit of wealthy leisure and unexceptional gentility. In reply to this it may be urged that it is changing rapidly. The lines are year by year more tightly drawn. Moral distinctions are oftener observed. Good taste is more generally displayed in private residences, in dress, in equipage, and superior decorum is seen in social gatherings. It has been remarked by Eastern visitors that in no hotel in the country, excepting perhaps those of the fashionable watering places, can there be daily seen so well dressed and self-possessed an assemblage of people as gathers every evening in the dining-room of the Palace. The generation of young people coming on the scene has had the advantages of good schools, and the experience of foreign travel. These results