

To Be Nicely Naughty.

In the art of being wicked gracefully and bewitchingly, if not becomingly, we have still much to learn, and it seems to a trans-Atlantic observer that some of the London writers are pursuing the substance without the alleviating nuisance. It is task enough for one generation to vulgarize our literature by giving conspicuous place to the sordid and mean, without reducing it to the risqué level of the gossip of the "smart" set anywhere. Better even "realism," as it is called, than the vulgarity of "society."

Fiction is a great spreader of morals, as well as manners, and if the London life is what it is depicted in many recent romances, it is a pity to risk its diffusion in the middle classes by means of the circulating libraries.

Young Gladstone Played Pranks.

Mr. Gladstone was once a country house guest with Henry Chaplin. Mr. Gladstone one evening asked him whether his grandmother had not lived in a certain street in Mayfair. Mr. Chaplin assented.

"Ah," said Mr. Gladstone, "I remember it very well. I lived next door to her for awhile when I was a child. She used to give evening parties. When the carriages were assembled to take up my brother and I used to creep out of bed—it was summer time—softly open the window, get out our squirts and discreetly fire away at the coachmen on the boxes. I remember the intense delight with which we used to see them look up to the sky and ask each other whether it was not beginning to rain."

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