

chapter, that he has thus depicted the *great majority* of what he calls the "mercantile and manufacturing aristocracy."

I shall pass over the after dinner scene, in which the lady mayoress and her charming daughters, are represented in their dishabille, over a dish of cold tea, where they are surprised by the hero, as they had not expected that any of the gentlemen would leave their bottle to seek the company of the ladies. It is ludicrous in the extreme. I cannot refrain from laughing, when I consider what a figure would be made by Miss Jacky and Miss Lexy, if with their elegant mother they were to make their appearance at one of our social circles in Philadelphia or New York. They would probably be invited to display their graces in the more congenial atmosphere of the kitchen.

But, gentlemen, this is not all. We are next presented with a funeral scene, at some distance in the country. The deceased was a *laird*, or, what we would call here, a *country gentleman*, an uncle of the hero, and a brother of his protector. We are now to have a description of country manners. The hero and his surviving uncle, of course, go to the funeral, which is attended by a great number of the neighbouring gentry. They have hardly entered the house of mourning, that the scene opens with eating and drinking, and healths are pledged around in great style. The funeral at last proceeds; it is scarcely ended, when the company meet again at a sumptuous supper, where such gormandizing and bacchanalian orgies take place as baffle all description. Singing songs, roaring glees and catches, drinking toasts, and all the concomitants of unbridled debauchery, succeed each other during the night, until at last the brutes in human shape attain the last period of drunkenness, and are seen lying on the floor, amidst the wreck of dishes, glasses and bottles spread in confusion around them. Here, again, there is not one decent character to relieve the mind from the disgust which this picture inspires; not one righteous man to save that Sodom from destruction.

This is Scotland; town, country and all, as depicted by the author of *Men and Manners in America*. It will be said that it is in a novel, a work of fiction, and, therefore, that the writer did not mean to throw disgrace upon his country. But,

