

sion that no religion is the best method. Free schools they consider their worst enemy, and are making strong objections, both openly and secretly. Schools are established by various creeds, theirs and no other doctrine preached. A certain class think their religion ought to be authorized by the government. So long as one creed does not interfere with another, an unlimited number can exist in a free government, but when one becomes so bigoted as to think theirs ought to be the only one and the authorized one, factions and wars will inevitably be raised, by which the government will tremble. And there is a class so addicted to their religious belief that they consider it wrong to follow styles and fancies of this fast and civilized age. The absurdity of this may be seen, as the people act according as their wisdom teaches them, which is continually becoming increased and cultured, and as education and christianity go hand in hand, and the more educated the people become the better they are, so the fashions of to-day are no more in the wrong than at any previous age.

In the United States two political parties will ever continue to watch over the management of the government, and it is well they do—they need to watch each other—for the leaders have proven themselves to have no fear for their hereafter and let their souls go uncared for. It seems as if their only object is to obtain wealth, and they get it; they may, or they may not, take more than the law allows, but they are the law makers. A party too long in power becomes too licentious, and the leaders reap the rewards, no matter, the people will not discard them; they are too conservative to think they are in the wrong, though they hold their power by an army or by fraud. The people should look at them with an independent air. They are the best judges of right and wrong. They are the ones that can change from party to party without being politically killed.

E. F. S.

*THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, OR THE
CONTESTED INHERITANCE.*

CHAPTER IV (concluded.)

"If he was had once, I'm sure he isn't now, and I don't believe Mr. Garnett would suspect him of it. I believe he is honestly trying to do right now. He changed his name, it is said, from John Kelley to Daniel Johnson. He did that, I s'pose, so that the effects of his old misdeeds wouldn't stick to him."

"Is that all that is known about his previous life?" asked Mr. Bennet, in a tone of interest.

"Yes, about all," was the reply; "unless that he is an orphan."

"Did those young Bennets have any relations?" next questioned the old man.

"No, I guess not. At least, I haven't heard that they have any very near ones. They were orphans. Their father was a sailor, and lived at Newburyport. They came to Meredith, because one of their old friends came beforehand and advised them to," said Mr. Bennet's companion.

The old man asked a few more questions, and then silence fell between the two. The information that was gained had directed the old man's thoughts into a different channel. He had taken an assumed name upon his arrival in Meredith, that he might prosecute his inquiries without having gossip and suspicion directed against himself as a near relative to Richard and Stephen.

In the midst of his thoughts the driver, by request, halted the carriage in front of Mr. Garnett's residence to allow him to get out. He spent the greater part of the day in visiting the scenes of the recent robberies, but to his discouragement the signs of guilt on the part of Richard and Stephen were, if possible, even more manifest here than at Meredith.

The indignant victims were so positive that the "smooth-tongued book agent" was the thief, that they denounced him in severe terms, and would not give credence to any theory whatever of his innocence. And thus Mr. Bennet felt obliged to close