

toward the river and park beyond. It was all so very ducal and so very vast that one wondered how such a small thing as a human individuality could make itself big enough to feel at home there, and I could not but think it a pity that the owner of Eaton Hall should not be immortalizing himself by spending his money on the cathedral in Chester, which they were trying to "restore" and complete, instead of lavishing it on a house that in a few generations his descendants may not be able to keep up; for the expense of these country seats is said to be something terrific. When the family is at home the innumerable rooms are kept full of guests, every lady of whom has her own maid and nearly every gentleman his valet. I am told that in the servants' hall these creatures call each other by the titles of their masters and mistresses, and take precedence of each other accordingly! They will not eat with the servants of the establishment lower in rank than themselves, but they take their meals in the apartments of the housekeeper or butler, and are nearly as sumptuously served as are the lords and ladies up stairs. The rent-roll of the Duke of Westminster is two or three of our millions a year; "too much for one," said his gardenery, *and there are*

*many, to us. Customs revenue in England. But there are so many my dependent lord. That*

these princely incomes are sometimes pledged in advance to the utmost penny, and ~~that~~ opulent dukes without *any* "ready money" are a not uncommon feature of the British aristocracy.

We did not leave Eaton Hall by the long, winding road by which we had come, but drove down the "grand" avenue, which was straight and much shorter, and so immensely broad that the old trees on either side of it could hardly see each other. The effect was somewhat garish and staring, and seemed to add the last touch to an impression of ostentation and newness which, perhaps, belies the Grosvenor family, since it may be as old as the hills for aught I know to the contrary, but which certainly suited well the owner's imposing new title of "Duke,"—so far less *distingue*, to my thinking,

than his ancestral one of the "Marquis of Westminster." They must be cumbersome and oppressive things, these modern dukedoms, even to those born to their burdens and conventionalities. One would think that the younger sons of England, who so far outnumber their privileged eldest brothers, would make common cause against this custom of entail which is concentrating property into fewer and fewer hands. But perhaps each one feels that however remote, there is always a chance that he may some day be the "heir!"

MELUSINA F. PERCE.