

THE BROADER HUMAN INTEREST.

For its broader human interest the censors of the present time visit the press with their reproaches. They tell us it has sunk to a low estate and wastes itself upon ignoble "chronicles of small beer." They condemn it for giving to the unimportant doings of persons of no account the space it might devote to weighty matters, and denounce the prevailing tendency to print much news about all sorts and conditions of men as an invasion of privacy and a debasement of journalism. We are not here concerned with those journals that carry to the extreme of vulgarity and impudence the practice of printing news about individuals, disregarding the privileges of private life and fattening on scandal, error, and misfortune. Upon them let castigation do its work. But concerning the printing of personal news that nobody is the worse for, it may be urged in justification that in this day man seems to care very much more about his fellow-man than in days gone by. Possibly we are approaching the idea of the universal brotherhood, but be that as it may, man is now his brother's keeper far more than in any past age, and acknowledges it in countless ways. The remarkable multiplication of charities is a testimony to the growth of man's interest in his fellow. It is reflected in the multitude of books upon social questions, whose writers, some of them sentimental, some silly, but all sincere, unselfishly apply the philosophy that is in them to the study of evils and remedies, that the standard of comfort may be raised and the sum of human happiness increased. There is evidence of it in laws that shelter the poor from the consequences of their own improvidence, from the greed of landlords, from the evils of food adulteration, from the employer's hard heart. Public sanitation at the cost of those who can protect themselves for the benefit of those who cannot, the broadened work of the churches, and the care and attention given to the development of the public school system all bespeak the working of the humane spirit.