THE DEMOCRATIC WATCHMAN.

BELLEFONTE JULY 14, 1859.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

WHAT IS RESPECTABLE SOCIETY?—We heard a man, otherwise intelligent enough, lately sneer at another, "because," said he, "one never meets him in respectable society." The speaker did not mean, however, that the person he affected to look down upon was immoral, but merely that his circle of intimates were not composed of the fashionable or the rich

This notion of what constitutes respectable society, is quite a favorite one with that class of individuals, whom Thackeray has so significantly called "snobs." Empty pretence is always making its own characteristics a standard, by which it strives to measure the respectability of persons at large.—In a community of mere money getters, wealth is the test of respectability. Among the proud, narrow minded, effete nobility of the Faubourg St. Germain, respectability depends on being descended from ancestors, who have married their cousins for so many centuries, that neither muscle nor brains are left any longer to the degenerate descendants. With the dandy officers, who constitute a considerable portion of the American Navy, respectability consists in living sponged on Uncle Sam, in wearing gilt buttons, and in talking treasons. Every conceited fool thinks himself in like way, the only man really weighty, the only person who is respectable

But the respectability, depends on no such adventitious circumstances. To be respectable is to be worthy of respect, and he most deserves respect who has most virtue. The Farmer's man, who heavily discharges his duty, is more worthy of respect, is more truly respectable, than the swindling money king, who, among his money bags, sits on his throne. The blackguard who defiles his breast with the foul stains of rotten politics, is more respectable than the sneaking lawyer who, for a fee, will do any thing, from stealing a horse to cutting a throat. The honest mechanic who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow, is more respectable than the idle, drone, who, living on his income, sneers at the mechanic who earns his income. The man who, by his industry, economy and virtue, rears a family of children to be useful members of society, is more respectable than the man who, by his profligacy, drives his children from his door to earn their bread as they may, or to beg it if they will. The man who, by his talents, his virtue, his patriotism, his philanthropy, adds to the happiness of his fellow men, is respectable, let his occupation be what it may. The man who, by his vice, his profligacy, his want of talent, his want of virtue, his want of patriotism, his want of philanthropy, adds to the misery of his fellow men, is disreputable, let his occupation be what it may. The man who, by his industry, economy and virtue, rears a family of children to be useful members of society, is more respectable than the man who, by his profligacy, drives his children from his door to earn their bread as they may, or to beg it if they will. The man who, by his talents, his virtue, his patriotism, his philanthropy, adds to the happiness of his fellow men, is respectable, let his occupation be what it may. The man who, by his vice, his profligacy, his want of talent, his want of virtue, his want of patriotism, his want of philanthropy, adds to the misery of his fellow men, is disreputable, let his occupation be what it may.

Such is the respectability, which we would have our sons aspire to. It is the respectability, which will follow them, let their occupation be what it may. It is the respectability, which will follow them, let their occupation be what it may. It is the respectability, which will follow them, let their occupation be what it may. It is the respectability, which will follow them, let their