

There is in the treatment of social
joys by Scandinavian dramatists a
and an outspokenness which according to
views of two antagonistic parties con-
their charm or their offence. In
"Plowdens" we have a breach of the
dealt with in a fashion the frankness
which Dumas fils might envy, and a
subtlety that Thackeray cannot surpass.
breach is there, it is true, of con-
chastity, and no offence on the part of
heroine by which any suffers but her.
A girl, young, guileless, captivating,
yielded to the promises of a man
superior in station, and has been de-
by him with masculine indifference
decision. For such offence society
constituted itself a tribunal before
the male always goes scathelless, while
female is condemned to social death. As
this "The Plowdens" is a dramatic pi-
It shows arrayed against an orphan girl
but friendless, poor, and occupying a po-
quasi-menial, all the prejudices and
ventions of a narrow, Philistine, and
vincial society. But one worthy is
there to save this moral "City of the
He is the eldest son of the house.
Plowdens, in which the heroine lives
as lady's-maid, half as companion. The
fact that he purposes to make his
wife is discovered, and also that
has been wronged by a man not
accepted suitor of Miss Plowden.
conceivable attempt is made to annul
marriage by which it is felt that
Plowdens, rich Nottingham manufac-
will be dishonoured. The girl is
with ignominy from the house, and
courses failing, the would-be bridegroom
told her shameful secret. This she
fails. He has known the fact all
When he offered her marriage she told
him all, and his love had pardon-
augmented. In the end the triumph
of the girl triumphs and the defeat
Plowdens is signal, since the daugh-