

# LIFTERS AND LEANERS

There are just two kinds of people on earth today,  
Just two kinds of people, no more, I say.

Not the rich and the poor, for to count a man's wealth  
You must first know the state of his conscience and health.

Not the humble and proud, for, in life's little span,  
Who puts on airs is not counted a man.

Not the happy and sad, for the swift counting years  
Bring each man his laughter and each man his tears.

No, the two kinds of people on earth I mean  
Are the people who **lift** and the people who **lean**.

Wherever you go you will find the world's masses  
Are always divided in just these two classes.

And oddly enough you will find, too, I ween,  
There's only one lifter to twenty who lean.

In which class are you? Are you easing the load  
Of overtaxed lifters who toil down the road?

Or are you a leaner who lets others bear  
Your portion of labor and worry and care?

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox -