

THE LADY IN SOCIETY.

COURTESY AS AN ESSENTIAL TO GENUINE HOSPITALITY.

Hostesses Who Make Their Entertainments Unpleasant for Their Guests.
Story About a Society Autocrat, With a Moral—Good Nature and Good Manners.

BY SELENE.

"You must come home and be my guest; You will give joy to me, and I will do All that is in my power to honor you."
—Shelley.

To become convinced of the fact that modern society has largely missed the spirit of true hospitality, as expressed by Shelley in his song to Mercury, one needs but to remember Mrs. Sherwood's late assertion, that in New York there are hostesses who "apparently make a party in order to show to half of their guests that they despise them." But one need not make a pilgrimage to Gotham to learn that many persons who entertain have not grasped the first principles of hospitality—good nature and good manners; for the essence of hospitality is courtesy, and courtesy is consideration for the rights and feelings of others, and, as an able writer lately said, "Persons who lack that fundamental feature of good breeding have no place in the company which forms our ideal."

Many a member of the society who is now either entertaining or being entertained would readily confess that the fact of being invited to the home of another is by no means a guarantee that you will, upon entering the portal, be made to feel that "the house is yours," as does the friend or stranger who crosses the threshold of the warm-hearted Spaniard. That this gracious air of welcome is not familiar to the so-called hospitable homes of our country was exemplified in the experience of a young Baltimorean who was among the first exodus from the East to New Mexico. Upon his arrival in the quaint little town of Santa Fe he called upon the chief official with letters of introduction from personal friends. The old Spaniard received him with the salutation, "Senor, the house is yours." The young man was overcome with the generosity of the venerable Spaniard, supposing that he had presented him literally with his comfortable adobe house. He, however, soon learned to appreciate the genial hospitality more than he would have valued the mere walls of heartless clay.

I have heard of an old man who would invite people to his house to eat with him, and when they were seated at his board he would help himself to whatever he wanted, and proceed to eat without offering a single viand to his guests. Upon being reproved for his rudeness on one occasion, he replied that when he invited people to his house to eat they knew they were welcome to all he had, and as he had to help himself, he did not see why they should not do the same; and so they had to, if they wanted anything. His was a false, though honest, idea of hospitality, and one that could not be safely adopted by the present generation. But there are many entertainers who ask persons to their homes who pointedly slight them when they accept their invitation. These are the ones whom Mrs. Sherwood describes as "the haughty hostesses who have been suddenly raised to a prominent position either by wealth or their husband's political rank, and who seem to think that the assumption of a haughty manner will improve their position." These are the most unpopular members of society, although their parlors are always crowded when they give an entertainment, because they can and do supply plenty to eat and drink, and, to some natures, these are the all-neededful.

The haughty hostess makes a difference in the treatment of her guests: to those who are richer and more powerful socially, she is the fawning hostess; to only the less favored, she is haughty and overbearing. Imagine one who called herself a leader guilty of such ill-breeding! for, to quote once more from Mrs. Sherwood, "There is no such detestable abuse of one's privileges as to be rude on one's own ground. If a woman is rude everywhere

WINTER IN THE SIERRA

Mountains Covered with Snow in an Avalanche.

SIERRA CITY, CAL., January 4.—Details of the snow slide here yesterday that six women and a boy were killed, and other people may die, and several and the Catholic Church were wrecked and commenced at the Sierra Butte slide and swept with terrific force down the valley, carrying everything in its path. Stout trees were snapped off ground like pine sticks. Several bad narrow escapes from death, slide came without the slightest warning. It is believed that a Chinaman and a little girl are still buried in a mass of snow and debris. Fears are set that another slide may occur at any time, and the people are in a great state of alarm. As soon as possible after the slide a number of men began the work of digging out the unfortunates who had been buried in it, and in a few hours had taken the bodies of Mrs. Rich, her two daughters, Miss Ryan, of Downsville, and T. Mooney with her daughter, Miss Langton. The two last named were breathing when removed from the snow, but efforts at restoration proved unavailing. The search for others is still going on, and it is feared that more than now known have been swept out of existence in the avalanche.

Telegraphic reports to the office of the Southern Pacific Company say that the snow on the Sierra mountain side, on the line of the General Pacific Railroad is deep. At Summit there is sixteen feet on the level, and twelve feet on the slope. With their huge rotary plows the road has been in general successfully kept open this winter.

HELENA, MONT., January 4.—Last night was the coldest so far this winter in Montana, the thermometer going to 35° below at some points. There is a heavy snow reported in Eastern and Central Montana, but there is some delay to the western part of the state. Considerable snow is already reported on some ranges, though confined to limited areas.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, January 4.—Overland trains are all delayed in Washington by snow storms. The snow is the coldest known here for years.

DEADWOOD, S. D., January 4.—The thermometer registered 28° below zero yesterday, the coldest of the winter. The city is practically suspended, owing to the intensity of the cold.

AGAINST BANKER DITMAN

A Charge That He is Not Dead, Absconded.

PHILADELPHIA, January 4.—Lawyer to-day brought a peculiar and unprecedented in the Common Pleas Court of the Domestic Attachment act of 1834, on behalf of Charles H. M. Stoever against Joseph C. Ditman, the missing president, who, it was supposed, committed suicide by drowning in the Schuylkill river. The writ on this domestic attachment has issued, and all parties indebted to Ditman will be served as garnishees. Affidavit made by Mr. Stoever sets forth that Ditman is indebted to him in the sum of \$100,000, and avers that Ditman on December 1st absconded from his usual place of business in this city, and has concealed himself somewhere, with design and intent to defraud his creditors, and that Ditman has no Philadelphia county sufficient estate to pay his debts. The writ is returnable on the 10th next, and when the return is made proceedings under the act will go on.

THE GREAT BASE BALL

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I know of a lady the counterpart of the one described by the social critic. She gives elegant little tea parties, her invited guests go in high spirits at the prospect of such an exclusive and charming affair; but, presto! before the evening is half over—through some inadvertent remark, perhaps, of one of the party, or for some reason never fathomed—she who should be all graciousness, amiability and gentleness, makes her visitors realize that there is a "tempest in the teapot," and all pleasure and comfort vanish.

This same woman is a self-constituted autocrat, and in her own eyes aristocrat, and she has put forth the decree that she will meet no one but those she may be pleased to specify by nod of her royal head. No friend, however intimate, dare take the liberty of presenting another friend, be the latter no more aggressive a personage than a shy, modest debutante. But, on one occasion, an intimate of the autocrat, while driving out of town in the summer, behought her of her Royal Highness, whose country seat was near at hand; so, with criminal lack of thought, she turned the pony's head thusward, her companion being the debutante referred to. As it happened, Her Highness was at home, and ready to welcome her friend until she espied the young creature with her. Immediately her manner became icy. She scarcely recognized the introduction, and addressed no remark to the girl during the call. The next night the fiancee of Her Highness called in high dudgeon and demanded to know why his niece had been so rudely treated when Mrs. Somebody took her to call. The result was a rather serious one to her autocratic highness, as it very nearly ended the engagement, which has since terminated in a marriage. However, be it said to the credit of the unoffending niece that she has never accepted the smallest hospitality from the woman who slighted her because she did not carry her credentials of high social standing on her sleeve.

No lady at heart would decline to meet a friend of her friend: she would take for granted that one whom she would honor with her confidence would not introduce any one unworthy her acquaintance. To a woman who is blessed with the courtesy of a lady, the feelings of others are sacred, and one who enters her home will never be made to suffer mortification or rebuff at her hands, whether they are there at her own or another's invitation.

Good nature is really the basis of good manners, and "elegance comes of no breeding, but of birth." But many women fail to realize this; for they conduct themselves in their relations to each other and society at large as though elegance of manner could be purchased with gold, and friends gained by snubbing and haughty bearing. The successful members of society are those who are thoughtful of others, who lose sight of their own overweening importance in the desire to put others at their ease. We have all, no doubt, heard of the hostess who, when an awkward guest dropped one of her Sevres plates, lightly picked up another like it, and smilingly broke it in two, saying, "Pray, don't be annoyed; for, see how easily they are broken." Not one woman out of a hundred could have so sacrificed her china to her ideas of politeness.

True hospitality is such a different thing from so-called hospitality. The hostess who is worthy of the name is entirely incapable of such a thing as the "possibility of being overtaken by the desire to be uncivil" to the persons she has invited to her home. She is one of the women of whom Emerson says: "They fill our vase with wine and roses to the brim, so that the wine runs over and fills the house with perfume; who inspire us with courtesy; who unloose our tongues, and we speak; who anoint our eyes, and we see. We say things we never thought to have said; for once our walls of habitual reserve vanish and leave us at large."

Hospitality includes so much more than something to eat and a warm house. "For what is it we seek in so many visits and hospitalities? Is it your draperies, pictures and decorations? or, do we not insatiably ask, was a man in the house?" In this paragraph Emerson makes apparent that it is not the environment of wealth that constitutes hospitality; but, rather, the sympathy and presence of a human heart.

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[Special to The American]
NEW YORK, January 4.—On Monday the greatest case that has ever come before the court in which a base ball club or player interested will be called upon before Morgan J. O'Brien in the Supreme Court Chambers. It is the suit of the New York Club against John M. Ward, the shortstop of the club, in which the club asks for an injunction restrain Ward from taking any further part in the promotion of the new Players' League, and a preliminary injunction to play at least one more season for the New York League Club.

The papers in the case were filed with Judge O'Brien on December 28 last, and January 6 named as the day on which he was to make an answer. In the serving of the papers the League players had nothing to say, and, in fact, their beyond expressions of confidence, just as little.

Judge Beacon has not the slightest doubt that Ward will win his case, but he is prepared to say anything as to what will be submitted, but he feels sure it will be strong enough to make it so that the players cannot be held, as is claimed by the League magnates. Mr. Beacon has had several consultations with Judge O'Brien as to what course they will take, and everything is in shape for Monday.

The League men, on the other hand, are more than confident. The point at issue will make their fight on is: When signs a contract, does he give an option on his services for the following season? If the courts decide that he does, then the player must win its suits. If they decide otherwise, then the player is free to sign with the League.

At the office of George F. Duyckinck this morning that gentleman would not say that there was the slightest possibility of failure, and he, like the manager of the club, said that the court must favor the world's champions. The League men have much confidence in Ward's supplementary contract if it is upheld.

Thus the great case stands, and great cases, it must be decided on Monday. There is no certainty that a decision will be arrived at on Monday, or even in three days, for it may not be ready for calendar on that day. Still, both sides are ready to go on with the fight when it comes up.

In a private letter received from President Hewitt, of the Washington Club, he says: "I would like to be put on the League next season. I no longer wish to sell out, but am in the fight to stay."

The Races at Guttenberg

GUTTENBERG, N. J., January 4.—Six and one-half furlongs. Hemet, Barrientos, Jerry, Lexington, James McCormick, Mayfield gelding. Hemet won, Barrientos second, Jerry third. Time, 1:25 1/2.

Second Race—Seven furlongs. King Idle, Pat Donovan, Glenmou, Electricity, Velvet, Alfred, Bordel, R., Shakspeare, Glenmou won, King Idle second, King Idle third. Time, 1:31.

Third Race—One mile. Starters: St. Nick, Battersby, Lemon, Bootie, Lotion, Neptunus. St. Nick won, Lotion second, Lotion third. Time, 2:05.

Fourth Race—Six furlongs. Buckstone, Dalesman, Herman, Roter, County Lima, Cheeny, Nina, Barefoot, Fred B., Steve Jerome, Zebulon. Steve Jerome won, Herman second, Roter third. Time, 1:17 1/2.

Fifth Race—Six and one-half furlongs. Starters: Fordham, Carnegie, Blaine, Faunus, Issaquena filly, Marie Lovell. Marie Lovell won, Blue Rock second. No third was placed. Time, 1:21 1/2.

Sixth Race—One and one-eighth miles. Clay Stockton won, Clay Stockton second, Clay Stockton third. Time, 1:59 1/2.

SOCIAL PLEASURES IN B

A Dance at Hon. Stevenson's House—Other Enjoyable Events

[Special to The American]
BELAIR, MD., January 4.—Belair was unusually gay during the past week. Treasurer Stevenson Archer and his wife gave a dance Monday night at their beautiful residence, Hazel Dell. The rooms were beautifully decorated with evergreens and holly, and the ladies and gentlemen were in evening dress. Mrs. Archer was assisted by her daughters, Miss Estella and Miss

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Those who entertain their friends in small congenial parties are the ones who receive and give more real pleasure by their hospitalities, than any other class of entertainers. It is not at all necessary that the chosen few at each affair should previously know each other, as it often happens that much pleasure is experienced by meeting thus intimately for the first time persons whose tastes are congenial, and whom it is desirable to know. It is generally supposed that the first object in entertaining people is to make them enjoy themselves; yet, I have read of hostesses who were thoroughly miserable if their guests seemed happy, and who would not hesitate to break up all tete-a-tetes that offended their jealous eyes. Some hostesses, after inviting their guests, pay no further heed to them, but leave them to entertain themselves as best they may. At a large gathering there is little alternative, unless music be provided, in which case there is no need for further concern on the part of the hostess.

The old idea that only the rich can dispense a pleasant hospitality has almost entirely disappeared since the introduction of the afternoon teas, at which only light refreshments are served, unless the hostess prefers a more elaborate and expensive menu, in which case, a veritable banquet is spread. There is really no more charming way to entertain than by giving a series of afternoon teas, one the same day of each week for several successive ones. Dispense with the caterer entirely. In the back part of the parlor have a brass tea-kettle swiveling on its stand of twisted iron, beside a small table holding the dainty cups and spoons, decorated tea caddy and sugar bowl and tongs. On another small table, which, like the first, must be covered with a white linen cloth, embroidered with some appropriate designs—like, for example, one I saw lately done in green lotus flowers with the quotation from the "Lotus Eaters": "And they came to a land where it seemed always afternoon"—on this table have the plates of small cakes, wafers or tiny sandwiches, three by two inches, each plate covered with a pretty little doyle. Have one or two attractive girl friends to preside at each table, and, if possible, insist that they wear tea gowns of artistic cut. Several softly-shaded lamps and a moderate number of good-natured, bright people will make your affair a success. Too much to eat spoils the afternoon tea, while nothing to eat makes it a hollow mockery, and sends the guests home with an aching void, and the steaming cup of tea, dispensed by fair hands, taken with a light, but nutritious wafer, is just enough to promote sociability and make your callers feel glad they came.

The teas give greater scope for originality in entertaining than any other kind of social gathering. At a reception one cannot deviate from the regulation program of paying your respects first to the host and hostess and then to the supper room, and thereafter, as soon as possible, to the women. At a ball the rules are equally rigid; one must dance and flirt, or the affair will have no charms. But the possibilities of the "tea" are limitless, if the women who entertain would not realize the fact, and instead of making each a vain repetition of the other, would bestir themselves and add their individuality and their own china to their own treatment.

Killed by Her Insane Husband.

LEWISTON, Me., January 4.—John McWilliams, residing on Lincoln street, Lewiston, who has been sick several days, became insane to-day. Officers tried to arrest him, but he escaped from them, ran into the house, and with a axe laid open the head of his wife, killing her instantly. She was twenty-five years of age and leaves one child. McWilliams was finally captured, and the coroner is holding an inquest.

A philanthropist of Ohio gives Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup to the poor every season.

treasurer Stevenson Archer gave a dance Monday night at his beautiful residence, Hazel Dell. It was beautifully decorated with holly and the ladies and gentlemen in evening dress. Mrs. Archer was by her daughters, Miss Estelle, Mrs. Benjamin Silver, Jr., and her daughter, Miss Daisy Archer, who were from school during the holidays. Present were: Miss Fannie Archer, Miss Lizzie Street, Miss Amanda Scott, Miss Haughton, Miss Juliet Street, Misses Norris, Miss Archer, Miss Edna Powe, Miss Susan James Mitchell, John A. W. Rice, G. Street, Griffin Lee, E. Hall, Harold Welsh, Harry Strausbaugh, Tallaferrero, J. W. Franklin, C. Henry J. Buel, of Ohio; R. Harlow C. Crawford Norris, Richard D. Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Street and Street were at home to a number of friends New Year's Eve. The house was handsomely decorated with evergreens and laurel. Dancing kept until late. Those who were present were: Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Watts, Miss Helen Lee, Miss Marie Norris, Mrs. S. W. Brahma, Miss Norris, Miss Powe, Dr. and Mrs. Butler, Miss Maegie Rosan, Miss Virginia Lee, Miss Blanche Lee, Miss W. S. L. Tallaferrero, James G. G. Street, William Richard Buel, W. G. Rouse, C. C. Rouse, Archer, Jr., Septimus Davis, Waitton, J. Edwin Webster, J. W. Smith Norris, Frank H. Jacobs and Walsh.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Preston gave a party Thursday night, in honor of their daughter. Those present were: Miss Street, Miss Amanda Scott, Miss Archer, Miss Carrie Webster, Miss Haughton Lee, Miss Lizzie Archer, Miss Powe, Mrs. Daniel Tallaferrero, J. Edwin Webster, W. James F. Mitchell, Mr. Carey, of G. G. Street, Charles M. Hinkle, Mr. Harrison and Mrs. Sterling.

Arrivals at the Hotel

Eutaw House—A. P. Pannill, Hardie Henderson, city; J. H. Shans, N. C.; Julius Nouffries, C. B. Howe, Maryland; W. M. Ogleton, W. Va.; E. O. Brookline, Wash. D. C.; G. Lindenthal, Pittsburg, Pa.; T. H. Blackwell, Ga.; J. D. Baker, Frederick, Md.; Birmingham, Ala.; B. S. Walcott, Mt. Vernon; H. G. Patterson, Pa.; G. L. Decker, New York; P. I. Cumberland.

Carrollton—Theo. H. Kraft, Md.; H. Harvey, Boston; B. Gallagner, John S. Torbert, Laurel, D. C.; Washington, D. C.; Mrs. E. K. W. D. Milburn, Rochester; J. H. Row, Virginia; W. W. Hutchinson, Virginia Crosby, San Rafael, Cal.; O. B. Norfolk.

Natby—James A. Edwards, Bert Booth, Savannah; Benjamin Maryland; G. Robert and lady, Philadelphia; E. A. Parsons, Salem; M. W. Parsons, Washington; Thos. and wife, Miss Hines, New York; Pett, Rock Island, Mo.; M. H. Pittsburg.

Pepper's—J. D. Prince, Metropolitan Company; John G. Coder, Pa.; George E. Trice, West Point, S. C.; New Wind or, Md.; W. W. Loway, Legal Wrong Company; N. Maryland; E. L. Mitchell, Calif.; George W. Maguire, New York.

Mansion House—E. J. Oiler, Waynesboro, Pa.; L. Clark, Laurel; John Roberts, Oxford, Pa.; B. Chambersburg, Pa.; Miss Young, Pennsylvania; Miss Carry Moore, Stevens, Miss Sappington, Maryland; St. James—Chester Parker, Mass.; Thomas B. Harris, New York.

The earth moves.—Evidence, you a first-class liniment, Salvation Oil