

and Demetri had many talks and consultations about it. The girl never asked for her violin, never seemed really bright and cheerful, and in her unreserved conversations with Mrs. Somerset persisted that she was unworthy to be the wife of Von Szantó, and that she never would consent to keep her promise to him unless his mother, being told everything, asked her to be her daughter. This last determination of Frida's struck her friend with dismay, as she thought it most improbable that the countess should request the girl to become the wife of her son after hearing of the "quarrels" of the music-seller and his daughter, as she would be sure to term the occurrences which seemed to Frida so tragic.

Affairs were in this rather hopeless condition when one day Demetri arrived, and joining the ladies under the lovely chestnut trees on the lawn, which was their favourite resting-place on the sunny afternoons, produced a packet of letters, that morning received, and proceeded to read part of their contents aloud. These were more interesting than usual, for a long letter from his mother told how a certain Count Heradius von Heidenluft had proposed for the hand of his youngest sister, and set forth the suitor's many perfections and excellent qualifications for the honour of becoming connected with the house of Von Szantó. Amongst these excellences, however, that of possessing wealth could not be reckoned, and the countess wrote pathetically to her son, lamenting this, and explaining how necessary it was that a suitable dowry should be forthcoming, in order that such an alliance should not be lost to the family.

As he read, a happy thought struck Mrs. Somerset, and calling him to the library as he was leaving the house, she said, "Forgive me for the suggestion I am about to make, but I think I see a way to help us through one of our difficulties with Frida."

"In that case there can be no need to ask forgiveness," replied Demetri, "whatever you may be about to say."

"Your mother is anxious that your sister's marriage should take place, is she not?" questioned Mrs. Somerset.

"Very much so indeed," answered Demetri. "We have known Von Heidenluft many years, and his family is one with which my mother has always wished to be connected."

"It seems to me," continued the lady, "that this question of dowry is an important one in your mother's opinion?"

"It undoubtedly is," said Von Szantó; "those matters are arranged by the parents of the contracting persons in a very business-like fashion, and I have no doubt that the old Count Heidenluft has named a sum, without which he will not be willing to allow his son to marry. I gather that it is a somewhat large one, but my mother carefully abstains from mentioning it, and only begs that I will go home at once."

"It has occurred to me," continued Mrs. Somerset, "that we have an opportunity for making a bold stroke. Cannot you refuse to be amiable in the matter of your sister's settlements unless the countess writes herself to Frida, saying she will be glad to receive her as a daughter?"

Von Szantó was somewhat astonished at the bargain proposed to him, but could not help acknowledging its advantages; he thanked Mrs. Somerset for the suggestion, but added that he thought it might make his mother more determined against Frida than she was now, especially as the girl had always said she should write to the countess herself, and say how wicked she had been, first in ceasing to love her music for anything but the gain it brought, and then for her rage with her father when she found he had not told her the truth. "And," continued he, "I fancy that the way she will state things

will give a stranger the impression that she is a miser and a murderer."

"We must risk something," returned Mrs. Somerset, "and this plan if it fail will leave us in no worse position than our present one."

"True," replied Demetri; "so let it be. I will write to my mother at once if you will encourage Frida to do the same, and I shall live in the hope of having good news shortly."

"Another thing," continued Mrs. Somerset, "has lately occurred to give me more belief that Frida may be restored to a healthy frame of mind—it is this, money was needed, and although of course I am delighted to be Frida's banker, she wished to understand her affairs, and for that purpose opened a desk that had belonged to her father, which contained all his papers. Amongst these she found a book in which was set down regularly all the amounts received for her playing, beginning, I think, three or four years ago. It was only yesterday afternoon this happened; the sums mentioned seemed larger than she had any idea of, and she fairly broke down and sobbed over the list, saying, sadly, between her tears, 'How could he have deceived me so! it was cruel, cruel.' And though the discovery that the deception or concealment was of such long standing and so deliberate, will not, to her sensitive mind, excuse her rash speeches, yet the knowledge of his really despicable behaviour will perhaps make her feel less guilty for feeling so enraged."

"Anyone else would have said a thousand times more, and felt no pang of remorse," answered Demetri, "but my darling is so good, and so gently made, that she can bear to criticise no one but herself."

Mrs. Somerset persuaded Frida to yield to Demetri's wishes, and no longer to postpone her letter to his mother. The next day this was accordingly written, and a more touching epistle than the girl penned it was impossible to imagine, and Mrs. Somerset privately thought that the countess must have a heart of stone if she did not send her a warm and motherly invitation to Szantó at once.

Demetri came and went almost daily, but the subject of the marriage was not mentioned again, and the peaceful days passed until in a week the postman brought for Frida a huge envelope, addressed in a beautifully neat style, all over flourishes, and with "To the highly well-born Fraulein," &c., duly set forth on the thick cover. Frida trembled visibly as she broke the seal, and a flush of pleasure and surprise covered her face as, handing the sheet to Mrs. Somerset, she said—

"This is indeed different from my expectations!"

The letter merely said—

"Fraulein, my son loves you. I dearly, dearly love him; make him happy, and come and be a daughter to

"Hildegard von Armintz von Szantó."

Whether wrung from the said Hildegard by Demetri's politely-worded bargain, or spontaneously offered on receipt of Frida's letter, it mattered not; the result was the same; and when Demetri appeared that afternoon it was to find his Frida her happy self again, with a look of peace and content on her sweet face that had been lost to it for months. She had asked for her violin, and when he came to the resting-place under the chestnut tree the sweet sound of the tarantella they had first played together at Weiburg greeted his ears.

Very soon a happy little party assembled at Old Court to wish the bride and bridegroom health and happiness as they left the quiet, lovely spot for their journey to Szantó, and in the old castle now there is a different régime from that which obtained at the opening of our tale, as the countess went with her eldest daughter to live in the dower-house, and Frida and Demetri reign supreme at Szantó, whose old walls echo to lovely music and still more

lovely childish laughter, while the count seems to have no shadow on his lot, or thought of care in his mind.

If Frida's exquisite features always bear a trace of sadness, and she has an almost exaggerated fear of hasty words and reckless speeches, yet the content she feels and the happiness she makes and shares are too great and obvious for her friends to doubt that for her the past has lost its sting and the future holds no terror.

GOOD BREEDING AS SHOWN IN GIVING HOSPITALITY.



HE terms host and hospitaller are derived from the Latin word *hospes*, which means "a guest." The host is one who entertains, the hospitaller one who keeps a house of entertainment,

such as the old hostels and inns; and the entertainment itself, in board and lodging, is aptly described as hospitality, from the Latin word *hospitium*. The distinguished order of knights in the Middle Ages who bore the name of "hospitallers" made it their duty to provide for the lodging, feeding, and protection of sick pilgrims. The earliest and most renowned institution of the kind was that in the Holy Land; and these charitable, though warlike "hospitallers," were originally designated the "Knights of St. John, of Jerusalem," for in that city a church dedicated to St. John was built for the sick Christian pilgrims. These knights were subsequently known as "of Rhodes," having possessed themselves of that island in 1310; but expelled thence by the Turks, 1523, they established themselves at Malta, whence their third and last name was taken. After this explanation of the term used in the title of this little article, I will suppose that my reader is in a position to invite guests to stay in her house.

In the first place, beware of expressing yourself in any equivocal manner; let your guests thoroughly understand what you mean. This is essential for their convenience, as well as for your own. They will then be able to arrange for all the changes of clothing to be brought with them, and for their subsequent plans on leaving. If you invite them "for a few days," you should add, "We hope your arrangements will allow you to give us the pleasure of your company at least till the end of the week;" or, "that you can remain with us over" (such and such a day). When this point has been settled, although you are at liberty—as the visit draws to a close—to say, "Do you think you could give us another day, without too much disarranging your plans? It would afford us so much pleasure," never press it, if difficulties be raised and excuses made. "Welcome the coming, speed the parting guest."

Write full directions, in the first instance, on receipt of their reply to your invitation, as to trains and other conveyances. If you have a carriage to send for them to the station, do so; and if they have more luggage than it will take, arrange to send for it by cart or otherwise. On their arrival, the degree of intimacy between you, and the circumstance of the house being a town or a country one, must decide the point as to where you are to receive them. In some cases you might go to the station, or meet them on the road, at the garden-gate, in the hall, or in the ante or

drawing room. One rule could not hold good under every circumstance. Direct your servants (if not fully trained) to take all their things to their rooms, unstrap the trunks, and leave hot water for them. Also, let tea be served at once, that they may have some refreshment on their first arrival; but do not detain them a moment after they have had it, as they must wish to disencumber themselves of bonnets and wraps, being tired after a journey, unwilling to acknowledge the existence of a headache, and uncomfortable in outdoor dress. Under these circumstances, to be put through a long series of questions—however kindly meant—becomes even more trying to the human sufferer than “the last straw” to the less nervously sensitive camel.

And here I may observe, *en passant*, that when giving your friends tea or coffee, do not say, “Do you take sugar and cream?” but send the tea without either, and the cream and sugar on a small salver, that they may help themselves as they please.

Immediately that they have finished their refreshments, lead the way for them to the rooms which you have prepared for their reception; look carefully round to see that all be right, and offer them the assistance of a maid to unpack, and to dress them. Tell them also at what hour you dine, whether any bell or gong will give due notice of the time for dressing, and how long they will then have before returning to the drawing-room; and also whether other guests have been invited to meet them.

When your guests are all assembled, carry out your previously considered arrangements in the matter of pairing them according to the best of your ability. Having sent down the lady of the highest rank with your husband, father, or brother, ask the gentleman of the second highest position (whether of rank or age) to take down “Lady,” or “Mrs. So-and-So,” and as each pair files off, call the next, reserving the chief male guest for yourself when you “bring up the rear.”

I have already given you an article in a previous series on “Dinners in Society,” so I will not enter into any detail of what follows the descent to the dining-room. But lest I should have omitted to tell you one or two little items in the etiquette to be observed on such occasions, I will name them here.

A man must give his right arm to his partner, and place her on his right hand at table. This is the ordinary rule. But other circumstances may interfere with it, and, if the balusters be on the right in descending, he must change the arm; passing round behind her, to place her next the wall. Then, again, the hostess may have been unable to invite a sufficient number of gentlemen for the lady-guests; disappointments occur, and where this is the case, gentlemen have sometimes to resign their places, so as to be placed between two ladies, as a joint cavalier of both.

Another point to be remembered is this. When your husband, or the host, in whatever relation he may stand to you, has taken down the lady of highest consideration (rank or age), the gentleman of second highest position is to follow next to him, with the lady of second highest rank. But in this little matter again a difficulty may arise, for if these two persons chance to be either a husband and a wife, or a brother and sister, the hostess should divide them; and give the lady of second rank to the gentleman of third rank, who should take her down immediately after the host, and place her on the left hand of the latter; he himself taking the place on the other side, so having her (as I before observed) on his own right. Precedence has to be conceded to the lady rather than the gentleman, who, being as in the case supposed, her equal in point of honour, should have taken

her down; and, for her sake, he must follow third in order, escorting the lady whose natural place was that of third rank amongst the guests. The gentleman of the first rank remains till all have left with their partners, being specially honoured as being reserved for attendance on his hostess. The direction of the guests to their several places is very commonly effected by the use of cards bearing their names, but in the highest circles of society they have never been adopted, it being the butler's duty to assist the host in guiding them all right.

After returning to the drawing-room, you, as hostess, will have much to do, especially should any guests come for the evening only, and professional people likewise to assist in their entertainment. If you play any musical instrument yourself, and you have no hired musicians, you should play the first piece, for two reasons—you invited your guests to entertain them, not that they should entertain you, nor that you might make use of them, as many hostesses only too obviously do. Secondly, you thereby give courage to those who are shy and nervous, and would not like to open the musical programme.

Endeavour to form little sympathetic coteries in different parts of the room, supplying games to some, engravings and photos to others, and be specially courteous towards your paid musicians, thanking them as if the performance were gratuitous, and seeing that they take part in the refreshments provided, the ices, &c., brought up to the drawing-room, or the supper at the conclusion of the entertainment.

When guests come to dinner, you should tell your servants for what hour the carriages are to be ordered, as also for any that come in the evening. These friends should be met at the door of the drawing or ante room, or even outside on the landing, for you must leave your dinner guests to show attention to those who have kindly come for the evening only.

As regards the introduction of one guest to another, of course it must be done when a lady has to be taken down to dinner, but otherwise it is not necessary, because the invitation to meet each other as guests of a mutual friend is sufficient guarantee for position in society and personal character, and thus all may converse together freely.

When the last carriage has left at night, invite those staying with you to retire; accompany them to their rooms, and tell them the breakfast hour, inquiring at what time they wish to be called, and whether they will have tea or coffee sent to their rooms in the early morning.

After breakfast next day, tell of any project in view for the afternoon; any invitations received, in which they may participate; at what hour the carriage will be at the door, and what engagements you may have yourself, asking them to excuse your absence, if unable to accompany them (which absence, however, you should avoid, if possible, in the afternoon). Luncheon hour named, and with the assurance that they may select to go out, remain at home, walk or drive, as they please, you should leave them to their own devices, while you go to your own household duties, which, however numerous your retinue of servants, must demand much careful thought in every department. You also have your letters to write, and, possibly, your nursery to visit; and politeness does not oblige you to return to your guests until an hour before luncheon, at 1 (or 1.30) o'clock; but the length of time is optional.

If you have little children, be very careful that they do not prove tiresome to your guests. Never allow them to hang about and lean upon them; nor to fiddle with their watch-chains and other jewellery, opening lockets and asking undesirable questions, such

as, whose hair or likeness you wear, or teasing you to “tell them stories.” The *enfant terrible* is no myth of the Middle Ages. How often some of us have been asked in loud, painfully distinct tones, how long we were going to stay (as a visitor), when we did not know ourselves! Or the children, who have been learning to play the piano, have insisted on showing what primitive tunes they could accomplish, and each in turn has pounded out her several contributions towards starting us with a headache for the rest of the day! Oh, that merciless stopping and breaking the time to correct each mistake on these occasions, showing a degree of conscientious feeling quite above our powers of appreciation! As to pet dogs and cats, they may tend to destroy all the pleasure of a visit by putting their heads on our lap, pawing, and tormenting us to give them food, walking over the skirts of our dresses, wetting and staining them with the dripping from their mouths (if big dogs especially), jumping on us with their dirty paws, scraping the silk and tearing lace, and making us feel nervous, it may be—for many their attentions are very undesirable. You invite your friends just as they are, with all their little predilections and prejudices. Respect them, like a kind and courteous lady—one to whom that pretty (but now much vulgarised) title is applicable in its ancient and truest sense. What are your dogs and cats as compared to them and their enjoyment during the few days that they are dependent on you for every comfort and necessary of life? Remember that they are bound by all the laws of good breeding to find fault with nothing, and to be silent, whatever the little annoyances which they may have to endure, so long as under the shelter of your roof.

If you take them to any exhibition and you do not go in your own carriage, pay for the conveyance and the tickets yourself. Say gently that “they must kindly excuse it, but that all has been settled, and that they are your guests for the time being.” Of course, if they order a conveyance and go anywhere without you, and on their own business, they should pay for themselves.

Again, there are few rules not subject to exceptional, and very proper, infringement; and were the hostess a daughter or niece of a guest, or a comparatively poor person, it would be quite out of the question for her to insist on paying for carriages, exhibitions, or admission tickets of any kind, and she need not feel at all mean in not offering to do so.

When the day arrives for the departure of your guests, let their conveyance be at the door punctually, and their luggage properly labelled and placed upon it (if not previously despatched), so that the travellers may feel no anxiety as to the possibility of their missing the train selected. Allow a good margin as to time, rather than oblige them to hurry at the last, and so to feel nervous and uncomfortable. Lastly, do not let them depart without expressing a hope that they will be able to repeat their visit before very long. Do not allow them to fancy that you have had enough of their company, and that, notwithstanding all your polite smiles of farewell, you are glad, *au fond*, that the visit is well over, and that you will breathe a sigh of relief when they are lost to sight and the sound of their wheels dies away in the widening distance. S. F. A. CAULFIELD.

