

should have won the heart of his child— for as such he always considered Carita—only to make light of it and to forsake her. He set his teeth, and then went off to smoke out his wrath a little before he could talk quietly with her as to the future which lay before her, and which must be always in his home.

What he had told her of her father had done her sore heart good. It soothed and comforted her to know that she came, at least on one side, from the same Saxon race as did Stephen and the boys. And in time she trusted God and prayed that He would strengthen her weak heart, and help her to give up what was most precious in it if such was His will. Her pain was, she tried to remember, small compared with what her poor mother must have endured.

Still, in all her prayers, Phil's name was mentioned, so there was not much chance of her love being forgotten

(To be continued.)

### GOOD BREEDING AS SHOWN IN RECEIVING HOSPI- TALITY.



Not giving our girls a little advice with reference to their conduct as guests, it is impossible to avoid going over some of the same

ground which we had to traverse in dealing with the obligations of a hostess. Still, I may supply a few brief notes that may serve to contribute to a comfortable feeling of assurance when they try their wings for a first flight from the shelter of the old home-nest.

The duties of a hostess are more especially of an active character; those of a guest are comparatively passive or negative, and thus there seem to be more jottings in the memoranda I have made with reference to what they must not do rather than the contrary.

In the first place, on receiving an invitation to spend a few days at a friend's house, the intending guest must not take it for granted that a few days means a week. With some hosts the term may signify three clear days, or four, only; and you should ever place yourself in such a position that no possible humiliation could be entailed on yourself by seeing that you had overstayed your welcome, and no slightest inconvenience on your entertainer by

a disarrangement of plans unknown to you. Propose, if possible, to leave one day sooner than you imagined to be the limit of your visit, to afford the latter the pleasure of asking for another day. There should always be a "press day," as we have heard this extra day called, to ensure the comfort of both parties concerned. Without this little margin, the host and the guest must part with a feeling of constraint and a misgiving on each side as to the possible impressions of the other. The former is apprehensive of having appeared inhospitable: the latter that she has worn out her welcome, and her society has not been appreciated. Nay, worst of all, that her entertainers consider her to have taken an undue advantage of their hospitality, and shown a lack of tact and delicacy in remaining to the very last day it was possible to keep her.

Once an inmate of a friend's house, and, however intimate with each other, never forget for a moment that although pressed "to make yourself at home," as homely folks are wont to say, though not in the higher circles of society, you never can with propriety do so. Good breeding exacts that you should have all the polite and graceful ease of manner that would contribute to the comfort of your hosts and their enjoyment of your society; but you cannot hold the distinct position of host and visitor at the same time, the duties and privileges of each being so entirely dissimilar.

Half-bred people imagine that to show themselves at ease in society they must conduct themselves with most intrusive familiarity, lounge about, laugh loudly, talk of their own family and friends by their Christian names, thus dragging them and their concerns into a position of unreal intimacy with persons who may tolerate the guest's acquaintance, but by no means desire to extend it to their relations. Tom, Dick, and Harry may be still more obtrusively vulgar, without some redeeming characteristics that they themselves possessed. While on this subject, I may take the opportunity of observing that even when the persons conversing together are equals in position, it is very ill-bred to speak of any third party by their Christian name to a person who would only address them with a prefix to their surname. This endeavour to force on the stranger a spurious kind of familiarity with members of your own family may be highly offensive, and is in any case objectionable.

I said that you could not act in the house of another person in every respect as in your own. For example, a guest may not open a window, draw up a blind, stir the fire, light a candle, put their feet on the fender, clear a place on a table to suit their own work, kiss their babies, nor feed dog, cat, or bird, without asking the express permission of the master or mistress of the house. Nor is this sufficient, for tact must be shown in these matters; and careful observation previously made as to the habits and little crotchets of those whose hospitality she enjoys. To kiss their children or feed their pets might secretly annoy them, yet they might be too gracious, or, at least, too polite, to make objections to it; and to draw up a blind might be against the ordinary rule of the house, when the sun shines on the carpet and curtains; or the extra amount of light might distress the hostess. To ring the bell and give an order to a servant would be a great liberty; and to invite neighbours to call and see you, or make plans with them, without consulting the mistress of the house, and asking her consent, is a gross act of impertinence. She must be asked to do you the favour of giving orders to servants, and invitations to friends, direct; and it is only in your own private room that the bell is at your service, and you may request the at-

tendant to oblige you by doing what you require.

Should you be the only guest, and your hosts consist of a husband and wife, never forget that they may wish to be sometimes alone together. Retire to your room, or into the garden; or at least, do not follow them, unless expressly invited, should they adjourn to a second sitting-room. Very amiable, and otherwise well-bred, people show a sad lack of tact in following a married couple, or looking annoyed and "huffy" on account of an occasional absence from the general sitting-room. It is neither discourteous nor unkind on their part, as business cannot be wholly set aside, such as matters connected with the household, or it may be, with your especial entertainment. Besides, this natural desire to be free from restraint in their personal intercourse forms an amply sufficient excuse for leaving you to yourself, from time to time, should your visit exceed a few days. But even were there no husband in the case, your hostess would be indiscreet and thoughtless of your comfort if she failed to relieve you of her presence at some period of the day.

I will now suppose that you retire to bed before your entertainers, a practice they will certainly appreciate for the reasons before-named, and I follow you in thought to the hour of your rising the next morning. Be careful to ascertain the breakfast hour, and on no account leave your room, unless to take a stroll in the garden, before the hour named for family prayers or breakfast. Wait for the sounding of the gong or bell, and then do not make any delay. It is an unpardonable fault to be late for prayers or meals, or any expedition on foot or by carriage.

I remember an awkward experience of my own, very many years ago, when visiting at the house of some elderly people who kept unusually late hours. My sister and I were tired of remaining in our room, and, hungry for breakfast, sallied out to see whether by any mischance we had failed to hear the bell. All appeared ominously quiet. No sound of feet nor of breakfast-trays in the hall, and we stopped short at the drawing-room, a large double room of irregular form. To our discomfiture we saw a housemaid in the further part of the second room, still busy with her duster, who looked unpleasantly at us, as if we were unwelcome intruders. But this rebuff was nothing to what followed as a punishment for our indiscretion. On turning round to beat a somewhat ignominious retreat, whom did we see but our hostess, without any kind of head-dress, no false hair, and no teeth, so far as we could see, draped in a very ancient, shady-looking dressing-gown, and scarcely recognisable, hiding behind the door to avoid the notice of her youthful guests. Of course the maid had looked shocked, and of course the old lady felt annoyed, and showed it by emerging from her hiding-place and leaving the room without appearing to recognise our presence. But she never alluded to the circumstance, and the momentary displeasure left no shadow on her countenance when she afterwards bade us "good morning" in the breakfast-room, as if that meeting had been the first that day. The worthy old lady—long since gone to her rest—had come down, regardless of her own comfort, to give some directions, probably connected with that of her guests, and this exposure was the reward of her painstaking. But we had learnt a new lesson, and I give you the benefit of our humbling experience. Shy and sensitive, we were keenly alive to our indiscretion, and felt not a little uncomfortable when we next met our indulgent hostess.

I will now suppose you to be at breakfast, and in receipt of letters. Ask to be excused for opening them; mention from whom you have heard, read aloud any item of news that

might possibly interest your entertainers; and if you be at liberty to hand a letter to your hostess, so much the better.

Occupy yourself comparatively little in private letter-writing while in a friend's house, and take opportunities for correspondence when alone. Otherwise, read aloud portions of what you have said, or make known at least to whom you are writing; for a voluminous and mysterious private correspondence should not be carried on between you and your unknown friends. It tends to create a sentiment of curiosity and of distrust. Your hosts wonder what you can be telling with reference to them and the ordering of *their house*.

During your visit plans may be formed for your amusement. Be scrupulous of taking an undue advantage of your hostess's kindness when you accompany her to any exhibition. Pay for yourself if you can (unless you be a little girl in her "teens"), but if she overrule you so doing, at least never express a wish to see extras of any kind, thereby adding to the expenses, nor to remain to see the last of a performance, when the question is put to the vote. Your hostess will probably be glad to return home early, as there may be domestic affairs to attend to; or she may be tired, having had more than usual to do.

Try to make yourself agreeable, not merely to those whose hospitality you enjoy, but specially for their sakes, to your fellow guests. This will relieve the former of trouble and anxiety, and you owe it to them. To what purpose was your education, if you cannot thus turn it to account for the pleasure or the profit of others? Search your memory for subjects, or stories, or episodes in your own experience that may give half an hour's entertainment and start an agreeable theme for conversation. If you have any accomplishment, let no nervousness nor *mauvais honte* on your part deprive them of a little gratification. Do your best, however small that may be. No one will criticise harshly any effort to oblige them that is made unostentatiously, and with that becoming modesty which adds an attractive grace to all you do.

Remember that you should take it for granted that all those invited to meet you are suitable acquaintances. If you cannot feel this much confidence in the discretion of those whose hospitality you have accepted, their house is no place for you. Custom, no doubt, does not at the present time accord the same degree of liberty in the matter of making acquaintances as it once did in this country; but then society was at a low ebb in morals, and the upper and lower classes were distinguished from each other by their costumes.

At about the middle and latter end of the seventeenth century (and even later still, I believe), fashionable people used to walk much in Spring Gardens, the Mulberry Gardens, the Mall, St. James's Park, and afterwards in Hyde Park. They went out in the forenoon, returned to dinner at two o'clock; many slept in the afternoon and went out to promenade these gardens and parks till late at night, some till past midnight. In the course of these walks, persons fashionably dressed in the distinctive costume of their class might accost each other without being considered intrusive. But in these days, being so far less guarded, reliable introductions are essential, or the guarantee of meeting in a friend's house, and so shielded from making undesirable acquaintances under their responsibility.

Lastly, I must touch upon the vexed question of fees to servants, which is both painful to the entertainer and perplexing to the guest. In some of the great houses their acceptance is absolutely prohibited, and a notice to that effect is placed in all the guest-rooms. To persons of small means they prove a heavy tax; but especially vexatious because of the invidious comparisons known to be made between them and their wealthy fellow-guests; whereas their trifling gratuities might bear a larger proportion to their means than the gold lavished by others.

When fee-giving is permitted, a lady must give something to the housemaid and parlourmaid, and to no one else within the house, unless under special circumstances. If she employ the lady's maid she will have to pay her, but not otherwise; and should she have

heavy trunks to be carried up and down stairs, she would naturally give a trifle for helping to break the porter's back. But heavy luggage is most objectionable. Far better have two small trunks, easily carried, than one monster, that will over-strain the porter, and risk the breaking of lamps and knocking the paint off your hosts' walls.

Dean Swift endeavoured to bring this custom into ridicule by the plan he adopted of wrapping up farthings in pieces of white paper, and, on presenting each of the men in attendance at the door with one of them, he hurriedly entered his carriage. It is said that, on one occasion, having opened the papers, one of the men ran after him, crying out that he "had made a mistake." Putting his head out of the window, he shouted aloud, "Oh, not at all! Keep it, my good fellow; I never give less, I never give less!"

To remedy this infringement of the principles of hospitality, and this outrage on a host's feelings, let the mistress in hiring servants inform them of the general amount of company entertained; state clearly that all gratuities are absolutely prohibited, and that the wages expected to cover all work rendered are "so much." It will then be optional with the servants to accept or to decline the terms, and the mistress of the house will be spared the painful feeling that her guests are compelled to pay her domestics; more especially so when the young, or comparatively necessitous, may have been primarily invited to relieve the pressure of expense in the humble *ménage* at home. I should be sorry to think that self-gratification in the enjoyment of our friends' society, or mere returns of hospitality received, were alone considered; but that the spirit of the Divine Master may be sometimes exemplified, and invitations given to those who can render no equivalent in the attractions of their society, or accomplishments, those who may be old or "slow" (excuse the term), and may be placed in the category of such as "cannot recompense thee." See St. Luke xiv. 13, 14; and St. Matthew x. 42; and xxv. 40.

S. F. A. CAULFIELD.

## THE FOLLIES OF TRESSIDA.

### CHAPTER II.



WEEKS passed, and found all well with the two young couples. Susan, in her neatly kept home at Southdale, presented daily to observant eyes an image of contentment, while David Peet showed

himself appreciative of his good fortune by unshaken sobriety. Early in the morning he was to be heard at work, until even those who had predicted

the worst of him were glad to hope for the best. Tressy, bright as health and gay apparel could make her, came often to see her friends, making light of the four-mile walk, and being always accompanied home by her attentive husband. In those days the mother's anxious eyes could not detect much amiss with her favourite daughter, excepting a growing extravagance in dress. She gently remonstrated after a while, but Tressy laughed.

"Luke earns good wages, mother" (he was foreman to a firm of builders in Barstowe). "You would have him give me a new dress sometimes?"

"Aye, but you have a new one on now, and a fortnight ago you came in another. If Luke do earn good wages, there's a time of sickness to be thought of. Young folk do well who begin by laying by."

"There's time enough for that," said her daughter, lightly; but she did make a promise to take heed of the warning, being aware that her husband had greatly diminished his savings in the furnishing of the cottage he had taken for her on the outskirts of Barstowe, as Tressy had willed the furniture should be of a style much superior to that generally seen in like dwellings.

One morning Susan Peet went into Barstowe to make some purchases. Having finished her business she called at her sister's cottage. It was yet early in the forenoon, for Susan wished to be home betimes in order that her husband's dinner might not be less comfortable than usual. There was no Tressy in sight as she went up the garden path; after tapping in vain at the street door, she went round to the side of the house, where was the kitchen window, looking out on a gay pasture

which Luke in his leisure time made "to blossom like the rose." Then Mrs. Peet saw a sight which roused indignation in her housewifely breast. At the table by the window sat Tressy, the breakfast crockery unwashed; around her the hearth unswept, making a fitting tomb for the ashes of the expiring fire; while the fair Tressy herself, quite in keeping with the general untidiness, was too absorbed in a book she was reading to be aware of her sister's arrival. Not until Susan raised the door latch and entered did she look up, and then her glance was startled and vacant, as if a person recalled to earth from transient contemplation of regions far away.

"La, Susan, how you startled me!" she said, rising to kiss her visitor.

"I tapped at the street door, and at the window, too, but I couldn't make you hear," said Susan. "What book is that you're reading? Not Miss Warren's 'Housewife,' I'll be bound."

"Miss Warren's 'Housewife,' indeed! I believe you go to sleep with that book under your pillow, Susan. No, this is called 'On the Way to a Coronet.' Such a book! You must go through with it when you've once begun; you feel like screaming till you get to the end of it."