

EDITOR'S TABLE.

EDITORIAL CHIT-CHAT.

POINTS OF ETIQUETTE.—We are often asked questions, by correspondents, in relation to points of etiquette. In all such cases, good sense is a capital guide, for etiquette is merely good sense applied to the common intercourse of life. Of course, in small details, customs often vary. It is, for example, civil to greet a friend, whom you have not met for some time, with more than ordinary emphasis. In this country, men do it by shaking hands; but in some parts of Europe it is done by kissing. It is etiquette, in the United States, for soup to be served before fish; but in Germany, soup is frequently served in the middle of a dinner. It is not against etiquette, here, for a young, unmarried woman to accept an invitation from a gentleman to drive out alone with him; but in France it would be regarded as exceedingly improper. A Turk eats with his fingers, yet a high-caste Turk is a thorough gentleman. Here only boorish people eat with their fingers.

Real politeness is a matter of the heart principally. It is the applying, to the daily intercourse of life, the Bible maxim, "Do unto others as you would be done unto." If you see a person slip on the ice, the natural impulse is to laugh; but as nobody likes to be laughed at, kind-hearted people do not do it, nor well-bred ones either, whether kind-hearted or not. A shy, awkward lad, or a plain-looking girl, are often the butt of their companions; but they never are of persons who are amiable, or who are even polite. In your general demeanor to others, you can never go far wrong, if you ask yourself what would I wish to have done to me in similar circumstances. There are many persons who are intensely selfish, and yet are well-bred. In such cases, they affect a good feeling they really do not entertain, and pretend to be pleased with people whom they secretly dislike. They spare the self-love of others in doing this, and to that extent deserve credit. We know men who never meet a lady in the street, without taking off their hats, and remaining uncovered all the time they talk to her; and yet some of these men, conventionally polite as they are, are not good-hearted in the least.

So much for general rules. The details of etiquette are only to be learned by observation, for, as we have said, they vary in different places. Generally, every locality, even the smallest village, has a little circle that is popularly called "the best society;" and it is this circle which gives social laws to the neighborhood. Generally, also, though not always, this circle is the most educated, often the richest, in the vicinity; its members are in the habit of occasionally visiting large cities, and sometimes they have even traveled abroad; hence they know more or less of the social habits of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Paris and London; and it is, therefore, a not unwise conclusion to adopt them for guides. It is safer, at least, to accept such persons as standards, than to follow the lead of others having fewer advantages. If you wish to know what the usages at Newport or Saratoga are, ask somebody who has been there, and not a person who never heard of either.

Many customs, however, which are appropriate in one place, are not so in another. It is in adopting, or not adopting such usages, that people show good sense. Cultivated persons do not import such customs; mere purse-proud pretenders do. In Paris, ladies wear long trains to evening and carriage dresses, but they never walk in such dresses; and hence nobody ever sees, on the Boulevards, the absurdity of a costly moire antique sweeping up the mud from the pavement. It is equally ridiculous, in a walk

in the country, to wear the thin shoes that would be worn in a ball-room. Women of real culture, or even with a fine natural sagacity, never introduce usages that would be out of place. This faculty is a very important one for a leader of fashion. Without it, a lady, who sets up such pretensions, is very apt to get laughed at, whether she aspires to lay down the mode in a great city, or in a country village.

EVENING HEAD-DRESSES, for the present, partake much of the character of those worn by the Etruscan, Greek, and Roman ladies of old. The Renaissance style also finds favor; it is formed with two plaits, which commence very close to the forehead and rejoin the hair at the back, which is a mass of ringlets. In the center of the forehead, between the two plaits, a cameo, set in pearls, is fastened; strings of pearls are also rolled round the plaits. The hair, during the day, is not worn so low at the back as last year; without being drawn to the top of the head, the neck is left visible. The hair is either arranged at the back, in a coil of plaits, or else with two loops, and small ringlets in the center; it is turned back in front very close to the temples. Nets are by no means abandoned, but they are smaller than formerly, and are always trimmed at the back, underneath the hair, with a bow and *very long* ends.

Stars, which are so fashionable upon bonnets, are now used for the center of the bows, which are placed upon the side of the crown, and likewise they are added upon the *lorside* of tulle or *crepe* which crowns the forehead. Stars, in fact, are in such high favor, that they are now embroidered in either crystal, gold, or steel beads upon the ends of strings, which are always rounded and edged with bead fringes to correspond. Bonnet strings are also trimmed at the edges with both feather and chenille fringes. Tulle strings, for full dress bonnets, are almost invariably embroidered with beads, and trimmed with either white or colored feather fringes. Sarsenet strings are also edged all round with fringes; these add to their effect, and prove very becoming.

COLORED STOCKINGS are still worn with morning toilets—mauve, when the color of dress and petticoat permit, being the favorite hue. Velvet boots, trimmed with either sable or chinchilla, are still worn for driving. The white satin shoes, embroidered with white bugles, are the novelties of the season for evening wear. For fancy balls, in Paris, the most eccentric stockings have been prepared; for example, the Princess Metternich, who was to appear as a garden girl, ordered white silk stockings, embroidered in colors to represent all the implements used by a gardener; while another lady, disguised as a waiting woman, completed her costume with stockings worked over with scissors, needles, and bobbins.

DEEP LINEN CUFFS, with butterflies on them, were lately quite the rage. We have just seen some sets with feathers simulated, those in the gayest colors being the prettiest. These feathers are placed one on each side of the sleeve, by the row of buttons, where it seems to lie carelessly, and is nearly as long as the cuff. Each corner of the collar, in front, has a feather of the same color, but much smaller. Some of the feathers are shaded in brown, and in some red, etc., is introduced.

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