

sent Mrs. Jones," is, of course, still used, but many persons dispense with it whenever it is possible to do so.

A lady who wished to make two of her friends acquainted with each other, might say, "Mr. A., you know Mr. G., do you not?" or, "Mr. A., I want you to know Mr. G.;" but she would not take one up to the other, if she could avoid doing so.

Gentlemen always shake hands when they are introduced to each other; ladies shake hands or not, according to the circumstances of the case. It is always the lady's privilege to give or to withhold her hand; but most ladies would take a gentleman's hand, where he had extended it through inadvertence, rather than cause him the mortification of perceiving that he had made a mistake. Where two people were introduced who had already a certain interest in each other, they would be very apt to shake hands; thus, a young lady would shake hands if a friend of her brother's were presented to her. Young ladies, however, do not shake hands with gentlemen so often as married ladies do. At a ball, the lady would make a courtesy and the gentleman a bow, when the latter was presented to the former.

A gentleman should never be formally introduced to a lady unless her permission has been asked beforehand. At a ball, however, a wise hostess will first of all ask the gentleman whether he would not like to be presented to the lady in question, since the young men of our day are not always as gallant as they might be, and knowing that a ball-room introduction implies an invitation to dance or to promenade, on their part, they sometimes refuse to be introduced to a strange young lady. A gentleman who knows a young lady quite well, may ask leave to present a friend to her; but he should not do so within hearing of the latter, since a refusal would be mortifying to him. A lady should never refuse such a request unless she have some very strong reason. A husband may always introduce his wife, or a wife her husband, and a mother may introduce her children, without asking permission.

The custom of introducing a new-comer to a roomful of people is rapidly going out of fashion—as it deserves to do. While the intention of the host in such a case is entirely kindly, the result is embarrassing to the victim, who is thus made a target for the eyes of all beholders. A hostess of tact will present one or two people in a quiet way to the new-comer, and take occasion to present others later in the evening.

Informal introductions do not always entail a subsequent acquaintance between the parties. Thus, where two people have merely been introduced to each other in order to avoid awkwardness, and have only exchanged bows, it would not be necessary for them to recognize each other afterward. As has been said above, however, introductions of this sort are not made now as often as formerly.

If a gentleman should meet two ladies in the street, one of whom he did not know, and if he should ask permission to accompany them, it would not be necessary for the lady whom he already knew, to introduce him to her friend. She would probably do so, however, if she had reason to suppose that the introduction would be agreeable to both parties, or if she saw that the situation was becoming an awkward one.

In a word, if one were called upon to give a *résumé* of the present theory of introducing people, it would be something like this. "Do not introduce thoughtlessly or indiscriminately, but introduce people whenever it is necessary to avoid awkwardness or embarrassment, or whenever, in the opinion of the hostess, the laws of hospitality, and the enjoyment of the guests, require that presentations should be made."

FLORENCE HOWE HALL.

That Girl Baby.

"ISN'T my baby pretty?" said little Mrs. Jennifer as she raised the lace cover that shaded the baby's face from the light, and turned to her aunt, who had just come in for a visit, for some sign of acquiescence.

Mrs. Grayson was middle-aged, and a widow with three children. She had married a handsome, vain, unprincipled young man, a half-way adventurer, who speedily ran through nearly all of the snug little fortune left her by her father, and then, when she refused to give up a small settlement which was all that remained unencumbered, began a series of persecutions and annoyances that taxed her endurance to the utmost. Warned by her own experience, she had strongly objected to the marriage of her niece with George Jennifer, as she saw in his disposition many of the same elements that had made her own life miserable. Therefore when the baby came she was scarcely in a mood for congratulations.

After a moment she answered: "Yes, Maggie, she is a beautiful child; but you can scarcely expect me to be enthusiastic over the birth of any baby while it is merely a chattel, the absolute property of its father, be he good or bad."

"O auntie! you don't imagine that George will ever do anything to separate baby from me? Why he wouldn't do it for the world!" exclaimed Mrs. Jennifer, as she caught her child in her arms and pressed it to her heart.

"Um—m—no, perhaps not; but that isn't the point. The law as it now stands permits him to do it. See here;" and Mrs. Grayson took from her pocket a slip of paper marked, "Laws of 1871, Chap. 32, Page 39," and read: "'Every father, whether of full age or a minor, of a child likely to be born, or of any living child, under the age of twenty-one years and unmarried, may, by his deed or last will, duly executed, * * * dispose of the custody and tuition of such child during its minority, or for any less time, to any person or persons in possession or remainder.'"

"Of course you will say that such a law cannot effect *you*, that George would never take any such course with *your* baby; but I tell you that it is not your baby, in fact, any more than was the child of the slave mother in the cotton-fields of thirty years ago her baby. That child belonged to her owner and master; and in the same sense your child belongs to your master and her owner, for the law recognizes him as such. It is useless to say that good men do not enforce these laws. It is not from good men that we need to be protected. There are plenty of bad men who will take advantage of all circumstances and laws that allow them absolute control. The law that punishes murder or highway robbery does not apply to good men, but is designed to protect us from bad ones."

"But why don't they change these laws, auntie?" asked Mrs. Jennifer.

"I don't know, my dear. I suppose because men like to feel that they have the control of things. Such laws are a stain upon every good man's name. I do not, however, believe that the people of the country generally realize that such a law exists. It is a perpetual menace to every mother, and puts a premium upon perjury. More than one woman has declared that her husband was not the father of her child, rather than have it torn from her arms."

"But this is not the law in all of the States, is it?"

"I believe it is, in all except New Jersey and Kansas."

"Are there other laws of this description in force?" asked Mrs. Jennifer.

"O yes, many that are most unjust and cruel; for instance, some years ago I was visiting a young married friend in one of the larger cities of Missouri. One day she was taken

alarmingly ill, and her physician feared she could not recover. She sent in haste for her guardian, who was a lawyer. She had a large amount of valuable personal property, and desired to make a will so that her husband could have it, as she had no friends to whom she cared to leave more than a few keepsakes. Her guardian assured her that in case she died without a will her husband would be sole owner and heir to all of her property, therefore the formality was quite unnecessary. "But," she said, "I made my will while I was single and have never changed it. I have intended to do so, but you know how one neglects things of that sort."

"That does not signify in the least," he replied; "your will was made null and void by your marriage."

"And was any will she might have made before her marriage of no effect afterward?" asked Mrs. Jennifer.

"None whatever. Indeed, in some of the States, a woman cannot dispose of inherited personal property by will, or in any other way, without her husband's consent. In other States, if a wife dies without a will, her husband, by virtue of his relation, is entitled to administer upon her estate, unless mentally incapable."

"But can he by his will dispose of her property?"

"In some of the States he can do so. He cannot make a will that will deprive her of her dower right to one-third of his estate or in their joint estate. He can, however, leave her a certain amount in lieu of dower right, but he must so state it in his will."

"But suppose he has no property and she is wealthy; what then?"

"In some of the States he assumes sole and absolute control of their joint personal estate, and can use it at his pleasure, squander it, or give or will away all except one-third of personal or real estate; and from the laws governing this there is practically no appeal. To this, however, there are some honorable exceptions: for example, in Pennsylvania a woman may retain entire control of all property owned by her at the time of her marriage, or subsequently acquired either by earnings or bequest. Such property is not liable for her husband's debts, provided she can prove her individual ownership. Her husband may give her what he chooses during their married life, and it is, if she so declare, equally exempt from all claims except those of creditors at the time, who must not be defrauded, even in this way."

"But can he control her earnings? Suppose he is idle and worthless and she must support the family; is she obliged to hand over her wages to him?"

"If she goes before a court and states such facts, and declares her intention of holding her earnings separately, he cannot interfere with her. She may then make bequests or dispose of her earnings or property any way she pleases, and he cannot interfere with her in so doing. Indeed, any woman may go before a court and announce her intention to hold her earnings independent of her husband's control, after which he has no voice in her use of them. She may make any contract necessary to improve or preserve her separate property, but, under ordinary circumstances, she cannot transfer it without her husband's consent."

"Can the husband sell real estate without consent of the wife?" asked Mrs. Jennifer.

"A sale of real estate could not be sustained in any State unless the wife acknowledged her signature to the deed to be of her own free will, and without compulsion. She must make a statement to this effect, out of her husband's presence. Such statement in his presence would be subject to the charge of intimidation, and if it could be proved might make the transaction of no effect. Her consent given in his absence is taken as evidence of good faith on her part."

"What is the disposition of property in case of the death of husband or wife?"

"If a woman dies without a will or children, the husband takes all of her real estate for life, and all of her personal estate. If there are children, he shares the personal estate equally with them, and takes the real estate for life. If the husband dies leaving a widow and no children, she takes one-half of the real estate for life, and one-half of the personal property absolutely. If there are children, the widow takes one-third of the real estate for life, and one-third of the personal property absolutely. You will see the justice of this law that allows a husband all of the deceased wife's property for life, but allows the widow only one-half of her late husband's estate under like conditions. A wife is entitled, in addition to the division already noted, to an additional \$300 in property or money from her husband's estate."

"Her will must have the signature of two witnesses, neither of them her husband. In case he objects to the will, he can only take such action against it as she could take against his under like circumstances. If the custody of the children is a subject of dispute between parents, the court decides the matter, being governed by what seems most beneficial to the child. When I consider all of these things, and how unjust some of the laws are to women, I can scarcely feel to rejoice when any member of my family presents a girl baby to the world."

"But all men are not bad, auntie. There are many who would not see a woman wronged under any circumstances."

"I am well aware, my dear, that this is so; but will you tell me why such unjust laws should stand on the statute books? They are bitterly unjust."

"Very true; but I am certain that there are quite as many laws that favor women as there are laws that are unjust to them. I am confident that investigation will show you that this is a fact."

The ringing of the dinner-bell cut the discussion short, and Mrs. Jennifer, with a thoughtful expression on her face, laid the baby in the cradle and went downstairs.

S. S. N.

Practical Hints for Travelers.

THE veteran traveler enveloped in good nature and an ample wrap and snugly bestowed in a comfortable corner of whatever conveyance may chance to be necessary to accomplish the journey, gets no small amount of amusement out of the discomforts and bad management of the many who go up by the same highway.

The questions and worries and fault-findings of scores of tourists betoken either extremely bad tempers or a total ignorance of the courtesies and proprieties of traveling. How often do we see men and women who profess to journey for pleasure and recreation, making themselves miserable and destroying the comfort of everyone in their immediate vicinity by fault-finding and impatience with the conveyances or their managers, or indulging in disparaging remarks about scenery that they are utterly unable either to comprehend or appreciate. To such people, Niagara is "a water power;" the ocean, "a place to sail ships on;" and they would doubtless be found speculating on the possibility of building a narrow-gauge railroad for the purpose of getting ice from Mont Blanc for city consumption.

"A silent tongue and a full purse" are the magic powers which every successful traveler must press into his service. These, with a reasonably good idea of the fitness of things, will save untold annoyance and chagrin. Among the most important responsibilities of a prospective journey is to