

HUMAN HAPPINESS.

Some Practical Hints in the Gentle Art of Making Yourself Agreeable.

In a street car one is courteous—as in Scotland one is— with difficulty. If a woman and you would add to the enjoyment of the situation, hail a car and have it stop while you are a good distance off. Having done this walk leisurely toward it. Put one foot on the step and ask the conductor what car it is. He will enjoy telling you, while the passengers will be hugely entertained, especially if they happen to be in a hurry.

If the car is full pause at the door and after looking over those therein critically select one you would sit by and then make for him. Stand before the person next to the one you would honor and just glare. He will move in time. Just keep it up!

If you carry a bag be careful to put it on the floor so that all going in or out may step on it. People—that is, really nice people are fond of tripping in street cars.

When convenient it is best to have a lot of packages. They make a woman look pathetic and interesting, and she can always be sure to attract attention by dropping them. It is well to sit across the aisle from your friend. Then talk across. It will entertain people. If some of them should stare at you, take no notice of them, as they are probably ill bred folk whom you would not care to know.

If you have a wet umbrella be sure to lean it against the person next to you. Begin to raise it at the door as you go out so as to shove the people on the platform. They are generally men and need to be poked up once in a while to keep them in order. Do all this and you need never fear that courtesy on a street car will be easier than joking in Scotland.

This is an age for saying "thank you," and, far from concealing from the left hand the good which the right may be doing, we publish abroad our charities on all hands. No woman can afford to take things for granted. Deny it as much as we may, every human creature craves notice. We all like attentions, and yet it is astonishing when it is shown them. For the most part we take them as if they were our due.

Some people seem possessed of the idea that gratitude is only called for where the courtesy is of magnitude. They forget that the most subtle thought is often shown in the smallest attention. We all know that the greatest pleasures come from the little things and not from the larger. Yet a man shows a woman some little attention, and it goes unnoticed. He treats a girl with courtesy and it is received as her right. Hospitality is extended, and remains unacknowledged. Letters of congratulation are written, and go unanswered.

It is in these small things that we show our lack of the true spirit of gratitude. We take them for granted, forgetting that nothing is ours by right. Some wiseacre has said that in each house, to each of our friends, we are unconsciously different in some particular. One person holds us in awe, and we unconsciously instill that feeling. Another considers us a buffoon, and lo! we are exceedingly funny. Perhaps this is the idea which induces so many girls to disclaim all knowledge of household accomplishments; they fear they will be looked upon as cooks or dressmakers.

When one considers how largely the happiness and well being of a family depends upon knowing how to properly use the needle and how to prepare food, it would seem that a girl of good sense would far rather boast of such homely accomplishments than of knowing how to strum on the piano or to dab a few pieces of china with badly mixed paints.

There seems to be an idea that men prefer women who are either musicians or artists, and as all girls wish to marry well they set to work to learn music or art, regardless of lack of talent. If it be true that the way to a man's heart is through his eyes or his ears, perhaps—yes, a great big perhaps—there might be wisdom in such a course.

There are surprises and surprises. But even the right sort, in the most surprising manner, prove the wrong sort, as rule. A surprise, even the most agreeable in character, must be more or less of a shock, simply because it is a surprise.

Popping the Question.

Much has been written of the queer ways in which men have put the momentous question that is to gain or lose them a wife, but for practical common sense it would be hard to beat the proposal made by a certain learned German professor, who, after remaining a bachelor until long past middle age, fell head over ears in love with a pretty, fair-haired, blue-eyed maiden many years his junior.

Gretchen was always so surrounded by a tribe of small brothers and sisters, and so busily engaged in household duties, that there was but little leisure for romance in her life, and no time at all for love-making. The poor professor, in spite of his learning, was terribly shy in feminine society, so that it seemed as though he would never find an opportunity to declare his passion; but one day, by a lucky chance, he came upon pretty Gretchen sitting alone, for a wonder, and diligently darning a much-mended stocking, with a large basket of the family hosiery beside her.

The usual greetings were exchanged—her parents' health dutifully inquired after, the weather discussed, and so on—then there was a pause. Suddenly a brilliant thought struck the hero professor; he leaned forward and laying his big hand on the little fist doubled up inside the stocking, said tenderly: "You darn very beautifully, Fraulein; would you like to darn my stockings only?"

And the Fraulein, we are told, wisely answered "Yes."

A LOST ART.

That of Poisoning as it Existed in the Middle Ages.

The art of poisoning, if we are to believe an eminent authority, must be reckoned among the lost arts, says the Church Gazette. It is not because we are less coarse than our ancestors, and carry our refinement even into our crimes; we are less unscrupulous or cruel than our forefathers were. Though the toxicology of the ancients was necessarily incomplete, there is every reason to believe that antiquity was acquainted with the use of arsenic, opium, henbane and prussic acid. The oldest poison in use was probably an importation of serpent venom. Theophrastus speaks of a poison made from aconite, with rapid or slow effects, in accordance with the operator's wishes. During the empire the removal of inconvenient people by means of poison had become so common that the emperors had a number of men in their service whose duty it was to taste all dishes put upon the imperial table, and that no dinner was partaken of without one of the court physicians being present.

One of the most notorious poisoners of the day was Locusta, the murderess of Claudius and Britannicus. About the year 331 B. C., large numbers of women belonging to the higher classes of Roman society were indicted for poisoning their husbands (a modern instance of the epidemic occurred of late years in Hungary. One hundred and seventy were convicted and condemned. The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were the halcyon days of poisoning. There is no doubt that La Sparr, and the, if possible, still more wretched hag La Toffania, were as bad as you make them. The latter is said to have caused the death of over 600 persons. She used a preparation of arsenic which she sold under the name of "Aqua Toffena." It was a slow poison, the victim growing daily weaker and gradually dying from physical exhaustion. In France the most notorious female poisoners were Mme de Brinvilliers, who was taught the secret of the "succession powder" by Sainte Croix, which she successfully administered to her father and brothers, and the still more notorious Lavoisin and Lavigoreux, who, being ostensibly midwives, carried their poisons to high and low—married couples anxious to hasten the dissolution of the irksome tie, or needy heirs wishful to accelerate the departure of rich relatives. A veritable mania for poisoning appears to have set in toward the middle of the seventeenth century.

In England poisoning was declared, by an act passed in the reign of Henry VIII., to be high treason, and those guilty of it were to be boiled alive. The most notorious case (the poisoning of James I. by Buckingham is only a surmise) of poisoning was that of Sir Thomas Overbury in the year 1613. He had incurred the displeasure of Lord Rochester and his wife and they had both vowed to be revenged on him. So after they had got him committed to the Tower, they set themselves to poison his food by mixing arsenic and cantharides with it. For many months, though suffering intensely, he appeared to have lingered on. At last a stronger dose than usual put an end to his miserable existence. The guilty couple, to the King's everlasting disgrace, were released after five years' imprisonment.

A Curious Accident on a Trolley Car. An inspector in the Brooklyn Water Department is now at his home in Brooklyn suffering from an electric shock, which paralyzed him from the waist down, which he received in a trolley car. He boarded the car while it was raining hard. He wore no rubbers, but had on very thick shoes, the heels of which were secured by rows of heavy nails. He stepped from the platform upon the iron plate which forms the threshold of the car, the door of the car sliding back and forth in a groove in this plating. He at once experienced a sharp shock, and the conductor pulled the helpless man away from the plate and carried him to a seat. The other passengers were then sent out of the car; the car was run to the power house, and after a considerable time had elapsed the man was sent home in a carriage.

It is difficult to account for such a severe shock. The pressure carried by the trolley wires is about 550 volts, and the shocks which are ordinarily obtained do not do any harm. It is probable that the injured man must have received the current through the iron nails in the heels of his shoes. It is also possible that the car heaters were improperly wired, and that a loose wire may have touched the framework of the heaters and been thereby conducted to the iron plate which covered the threshold of the door, through the medium of the iron supports of the heaters.

A Reluctant Dog. There is a dog in New London, Conn., which is an unusually intelligent animal. In spiritual things, anyway. Some nights since the mistress of the house attempted to send him from the room, but he who never before failed to obey, refused to move. The family then had their usual evening prayers, after which Master Nero arose and left the room with no urging. After that he was urged to leave before prayers a number of times, and he always refused. After prayers he is ready to go.

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A Monster Canoe. While digging along the shores of Cedar Swamp Creek, near Petersburg, N. J., a few days ago Penn Baner uncovered a large Indian canoe. The canoe was nearly sixteen feet long, over five feet wide, and the red cedar from which it had been cut must have been a monster tree.

HERE AND THERE.

The two tunnels most needed in Europe now are for the Caucasus and the Pyrenees.

The federal census shows a preponderance of males equal to 1.2 per cent of the total population.

Grizzly cubs born in captivity are almost impossible to raise. Of 23 born at Cincinnati only one lived.

So ancient is the city of Damascus in Syria, that there is no record of its origin in any written histories.

Of 26,165 persons treated since 1886 at the Pasteur institute, in Paris, after being bitten by mad dogs, only 165 have died.

To secure additional holidays the students at 18 Italian universities have resolved to come out on strike during the present month.

The report is current in Germany that there is a great scarcity of plows in England, because most of them have been beaten into swords.

A Dublin paper, in a biography of Robespierre, says: "This extraordinary man left no children behind him except one brother, who was killed at the same time."

Jan Kubelik, the young violinist, brought with his four violins, three made by the most celebrated makers of the world and one made by his father when he was a boy, because he could not afford to purchase him one.

Miss Marie Corelli, lecturing at Edinburgh on "Imagination," read an extract from a book on the Egyptian pyramids, published in 1672, which described the use of wireless telegraphy by one Saurid, a high priest of Memphis.

Sigvald Aabjornsen, a Chicago sculptor, has completed his model for the confederate soldier's monument at Charlotte, N. C., and in a few days the model will be cast in bronze at the American bronze works, in Chicago. The statue is a heroic figure seven feet high.

The Roman Catholic Cathedral in London, now in course of erection, is 360 feet long and 156 feet wide. Apart from the site it has already cost \$750,000. The material used is red brick with Portland stone courses, an dit Oriental decorative features suggest a mosque rather than a cathedral.

Latest statistics show that the horse still has a big future despite horseless vehicles and flying machines. In Central Siberia there are 85 horses to every 100 of population. In the United States the proportion is 22 to the 100, and in France 7 to the 100. The Siberian proportion is only exceeded by the Argentine Republic, where the rate is 112 horses to every 100 inhabitants.

Prof. Jones, a Missouri school teacher, has just issued his thirtieth annual challenge to all the world to spell against him. The conditions are that ordinary English words shall be used; the contest to last four hours, the words to be pronounced by a competent person, and written by the contestants. The one missing the fewest words is to get a Webster's unabridged dictionary. Prof. Jones challenge has been accepted twice in the 30 years, and he has won both times.

In the staunchest of all staunch and straight-laced Presbyterian towns, Edinburgh, Scotland, they are now running trolley cars on Sunday. Seats on the New York Stock Exchange keeps increasing in value. A member who bought his seat in 1881 for \$400 sold it the other day for \$30,000.

The origin of Kermit Roosevelt's name is solved by the announcement that Mrs. Roosevelt's father was Charles Carow, of New York, successor to the shipping firm of Kermit & Carow.

There has been a report published in several Oriental papers, saying that the Emperor of China did not enter the Imperial City with the court, out of a horse on which he was supposed that a dummy was placed on the back to have ridden. The report goes on to say that no signs of life were observed and that not a fold of the garment was seen to move.

SHORT THOUGHTS.

Master of human destinies am I. Fame, love and fortune, on my foot-steps wait.

Cities and fields I walk. I penetrate Deserts and seas remote. And passing by Hovel and mart and palace, soon or late

I knock unbidden once at every gate, If sleeping wake; if feasting rise before

I turn away; it is the hour of fate. And those who follow me reach every state

Mortals deserve; and conquer every foe Save death; but those who doubt or hesitate

Condemned to failure penny and woe; Seek me in vain and uselessly implore, I answer not, and I return no more.

—J. J. Ingalls.

Shakespeare! whoever thou mayst prove to be, God save the Bacon that men find in thee! If that philosopher, though bright and wise, Those lofty labors did in truth, devise, Then 't must follow, as the night the day,

That "Hamlet," "Lear," "Macbeth," and each great play That certifies nobility of mind Was written by the "meanest of mankind."

(An "Impromptu" by the late Dr. Thomas William Parsons in the Century Magazine.)

Whae'er ye be that woman love, To this be never blind, Nae ferlie 'tis tho' fickle she prove, A woman, has 't by kind. O, woman, lovely wogman fair! An angel form's 'a'n to thy share, 'Twad o'er meikle to gien thee mair— I mean an angel mind.

—Robert Burns.

THE WEE LITTLES AT CHRISTIANIA.



FIND THE OMNIBUS DRIVER.

THE WEE LITTLES AT HAMMERFEST.



FIND THE AERONAUT.

THE WEE LITTLES MEET NORWEGIAN PEASANTS.



FIND ONE OF THE PEASANTS.

THE WEE LITTLES AT HOEG.



FIND A MOUNTAIN OLIMBER.

NEW YORK CENTRAL

THE FOUR-TRACK THROUGH

Trains arrive from the East... EAST BY MAIN ROAD... EAST BY AUBURN ROAD... WEST BY MAIN ROAD...

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