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Friday, April 11, 1919.

Politeness.

There are those who never acquire the real art of polite conversation. In one's own home, when entertaining close friends, all of whom know one another, politics or religion or personal matters, may be discussed with safety but things are different in a mixed party. It is the height of rudeness for a guest in such a company to discuss personal matters, diseases, religion, politics, because he does not know whose feelings may be wounded or who may be affected thereby. Besides, conversation is supposed to be general, not confined to personal dissertations by one or two persons. They may enjoy themselves but the chances are that the rest of the company will be bored and to be bored is to spoil an evening.

A devotee or reformer is an insufferable bore to a social session, unless the whole company are devoted to that particular fad or reform and the session is called for that particular propaganda. For an evangelist to attempt to convert his fellow guests is not only bad form, it is gross rudeness. To poke fun at a fellow-guest's imperfections, whether physical or mental, is also gross rudeness and scandal mongering is tabooed in decent society.

"Interesting conversation" may be rare but it can be cultivated. As a writer said recently: "A course of solid reading is an excellent tonic for wits. One cannot be a fool and a shining social light at the same time. When we cannot hide ignorance we are furious or covered with confusion. A little acquaintance with the dictionary would help many a badly educated girl to be more graceful in her conversation and neater in her letter-writing."

Inspiring.

Let us keep ever before our eyes the splendid expression of the Bishop of Rochester and the priests of the Diocese of Rochester as contained in the following telegram sent by Bishop Hickey to President Wilson on March 4th:

Mr. Woodrow Wilson, President of United States, Washington, D. C.:
Independent of any organization, general or particular, and speaking as American citizens, representing in our birthplace or ancestry twelve nationalities—moved by regard for a country loved by us all, I ask in my name and in the name of the clergy and laity of this diocese, your interest and influence in securing self-determination for Ireland.
(Signed) THOMAS F. HICKEY,
Bishop of Rochester.

Let us not forget the submarine horrors or the Lusitania sinkings too soon. It is fine to be merciful but even mercy should not always be subordinated to justice.

One Reason.

It may be that the so-called "progressive Americans" are somewhat to blame for the way certain foreigners cling to their own language and wish to flock by themselves. Perhaps, if we mended our own ways these foreigners might be Americanized more quickly.

At a recent meeting of the women's section of Governor Smith's reconstruction commission the question of Americanization of a certain foreign colony was under discussion. The chairman of the committee, Mrs. W. W. Steele, said:

"I was once attending a certain meeting when someone asked an Italian woman why the young girls of the district were not being taught English, and she answered, 'Because we Italian mothers do not want our daughters to hear what American girls talk about and grow up bold and immodest in dress.'" And said Mrs. Steele, "it was a terrible arraignment of our American-bred young womanhood."

Quite in harmony with this spirit of womanly modesty of a race so devoted to the "Madonna," is Italy's opposition to divorce. Says a dispatch: "A movement to introduce divorce in Italy was defeated by the chamber of deputies, Rome, last Saturday. The question came up during discussion of a measure concerning the legal status of women. An amendment was proposed providing for the introduction of divorce in Italian legislation, but it was rejected by a large majority."

After a while, perhaps, some faddists will come to know that even Italians are "on to their propaganda for birth control and its inevitable corollary, race suicide."

Another Side.

Many Americans—some of Irish extraction—have come to think of Sir Edward Carson, the leading opponent of Home Rule for Ireland, as considerable of a statesman, even if misguided. But in a recent book by St. John G. Irvine, an Irish Protestant, entitled "Sir Edward Carson and the Irish Movement" an entirely different picture is painted of Mr. Carson. Here is one pungent paragraph:

"Sir Edward Carson is a stage Irishman, the final comic Irishman, leaping on to the political platform, twirling his blackthorn stick, and shouting at the top of a thick, brogue voice (carefully preserved and cultivated for the benefit of English audiences)—'Is there e'er a man in all the town dare tread on the tail of my coat, bejabers?' Carson is not even an Ulsterman, for he was born in Galway, and his associations are mainly, as far as Ireland is concerned, with Dublin. He has never lived in Ulster, and he has no kinsmen there! He was solicitor-general for Ireland, and solicitor-general for England. His name cannot be associated with any measure for the amelioration of Irish or British life. He has never attempted nor ever thought of improvements for Dublin or Belfast, such as Mr. Chamberlain has achieved for Birmingham. He has never said or done anything in the whole of his political career to denote that he possesses any constructive faculty whatever. His success has been as a lawyer, and even that has been won before juries rather than before judges; and the beginnings of his legal success are associated in the minds of the overwhelming majority of his countrymen, with the process commonly known as 'fouling one's own nest!' If one compares Sir Edward Carson's life with that, say, of Sir Horace Plunkett, one sees immediately that it is an empty life."

With Carson portrayed as a typical stage Irishman and with the Peace Conference revealing Lloyd George as a cunning Welsh

politician, disillusionizing is coming to us fast.

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Easter is without doubt the greatest "dress-up" day in the entire year for both men and women. Men have discovered that this "sprucing up" for any unusual occasion is a good thing. It keeps them out of the rut. It makes everything more worth while.

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