

Chatting

with M. H. E.

I STILL HAVE—some highlights to tell you about from Mme. Celnart's Book of Politeness—of a hundred years ago. As I mentioned last week, many of her bits of advice still apply today, because human nature doesn't seem to change much. She has one chapter entitled "Of the talent of listening to others" in which she advises "If the narrator wanders into long digressions have patience to let him extricate himself alone from the labyrinth of his story. If the meretricious story-teller is your equal or friend, you may say to him, in order to induce him to finish his narration, AND FINALLY—"

AND HERE is her way of handling a ticklish situation which still confronts people in 1957. This comes under the heading "Of an obliging deportment".... "One species of borrowing which is of daily occurrence, and happens very often to the loss of the owners, is the borrowing of books. Persons are so wanting in delicacy on this subject, that those who have a passion for books, and who are very obliging in other respects, are forced to refuse making these troublesome loans. The case, however, is a very perplexing one. We cannot say, 'I am not willing to lend you this work'; but if the borrower is a suspicious person, we can say we have occasion to use it, that we regret it very much, but that we will lend it to him in a few days. However, we do not lend it at all." "Well-bred persons do not make a bare request for a book; they wait until it is offered, and then accept the offer hesitatingly; they find out the length of time they can keep it, and return it punctually at the appointed day."

Mme. Celnart devotes quite a lengthy chapter to the proper way to conduct oneself when in a store, and also advises the salespeople on their behaviour with the different types of customers with whom they must deal. She says "If the purchaser be difficult to suit, capricious, ridiculous, or even disdainful, the shopkeeper ought not to appear to perceive it; he may, however, in such cases show a little coldness of manner."

"PROPRIETY of deportment" is a section of Mme. Celnart's book which finds little echo in modern customs. It's hard to envisage a time "When tripping over the pavement, (as the saying is), a lady should gracefully raise her dress a little above her



FOR CANADA:

John Diefenbaker, National Progressive Conservative leader, has been acclaimed across Canada as this country's next Prime Minister. He believes the people should be allowed to govern themselves; that present government extravagance must be stopped; that taxes must be lowered, and that Canada's natural resources should be developed for the benefit of all Canadians.



FOR HALTON:

Alexander "Sandy" Best, Halton Progressive Conservative candidate, is a businessman, scientist and teacher who will best serve the interests of everyone in this County. A son of Dr. Charles Best, co-discoverer of insulin, he has a deep sense of public service. He says Halton people are paying too much in taxes as a result of rising municipal costs. He reminds you that a Conservative government will keep taxes down by increasing Federal grants to the provinces and municipalities.

Pick ONLY the BEST Men for the Job!

CANADIANS ARE AROUSED AS NEVER BEFORE. THEY ARE SICK AND TIRED OF PAYING HIGHER AND HIGHER TAXES TO THE PRESENT EXTRAVAGANT LIBERAL GOVERNMENT. THEY ASK THIS GOVERNMENT BY WHAT RIGHT IT OVERTAXED THEM 536 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE VERY SURE ABOUT WHO REPRESENTS THEM IN PARLIAMENT. THEY DEMAND CAPABLE AND PUBLIC SPIRITED MEN WHO WILL RESTORE COMMON SENSE GOVERNMENT. THIS IS WHY HALTON PEOPLE BY THE THOUSANDS WILL VOTE FOR ALEXANDER "SANDY" BEST ON JUNE 10th. HIS PLATFORM IS THE PLATFORM OF THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY. SOME OF THE MAIN POINTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

• YOU and Your Income:

Sandy Best says: "Canadians were over taxed 536 million dollars in the 1956-57 fiscal year. This means that your money and mine is being used to build up big Liberal Government surpluses which are not benefitting anyone. The Progressive Conservative Party, which I represent in Halton, takes the stand that the people's money is their own and taxation should produce only enough revenue to operate the government efficiently."

• YOU and Your Family:

"I am opposed to anything that creates unnecessary financial burdens for families. The Progressive Conservative Party believes that the family is the cornerstone of national progress. Because the present Liberal Government refuses to give adequate financial aid to the provinces and municipalities you are obliged to pay ever-increasing local taxes. The Progressive Conservative Party says the government practice of collecting huge surpluses should be eliminated. Instead, more money should be given to municipalities as a means of keeping local taxes from going any higher, and to aid new schools, hospitals and growth services. In addition, our older citizens need a fairer deal. The six dollars a month or 20c a day increase in the recent budget was disgracefully small."

• YOU and Your Job Security:

Sandy Best believes the Progressive Conservatives' Canada First policy will bring more benefits to more Canadians. We now lose a hundred million dollars a month by selling raw materials to the U.S., then buying them back at higher prices as manufactured products. Sandy says more natural resources should be processed in Canada, thereby creating more jobs and higher wages and salaries.

• YOU and the Farm Question:

Agriculture remains one of the mainstays of our economy. Yet the farmer is losing money because the Liberal Government has sacrificed our Commonwealth markets and still allows the U.S. to dump surplus farm products in Canada at ridiculously low prices. Sandy Best says everyone benefits when the farmer prospers and to that end a Progressive Conservative Government would develop world trade, give Canadian farmers tariff protection.

• YOU and the Tight-Money Policy:

By drastically restricting credit to individuals and business the Liberal Government prevents Canadians from making necessary expenditures. Yet the same government does not restrict its own extravagant spending of the people's money. Sandy Best says a Progressive Conservative Government will put a quick end to the tight-money policy, thereby saving small businesses from going bankrupt, and allowing people to invest their money in such essentials as homes.

• YOU and Your Parliament:

We need a return to responsible parliamentary government. After 22 years in office the Liberals have become too arrogant, and the rights of your elected representatives are ignored. Through closure, evasion and the constant cutting of Commonwealth ties, your Parliament has been seriously weakened.

You CAN'T do BETTER than Vote for BEST

For Further Information, please call Conservative Headquarters at:
OAKVILLE: Victor 4-3249 — BURLINGTON: Nelson 4-9329 — MILTON: TR. 8-6570 — GEORGETOWN TR. 7-2238 — 7-2239

SEE AND HEAR JOHN DIEFENBAKER AT BURLINGTON ARENA — 6.30 p.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 7th

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ankle. With the right hand she should hold together the folds of her gown and draw them towards the right side. To raise the dress on both sides, and with both hands is vulgar. This ungraceful practice can be tolerated only for a moment, when the mud is very deep.

And then, if it should happen to rain, "If you have no umbrella, and find yourself overtaken by a sudden shower, and any person provided with one is going in the same direction, you may request them to shelter you; they should receive your request with much politeness, inform themselves of the place where you wish to stop and offer to conduct you there, unless it is too much out of the way."

WHEN DINING, Mme. Celnart opines, "It is ridiculous to make a display of your napkin; to attach it with pins upon your bosom or to pass it through your buttonhole; to use a fork in eating soup; to ask for meat instead of beef; for poultry instead of saying chicken, or turkey; to turn up your cuffs while carving; to take bread, even when it is within your reach, instead of calling upon the servant; to cut with a knife your bread, which should be broken by hand; and to pour your coffee into the saucer to cool."

"Custom allows ladies at the end of an entertainment to dip their fingers into a glass of water, and to wipe them with their napkins; it allows them also to rinse the mouth, using their plate for this purpose; but in my opinion, custom sanctions it in vain."

IF YOU WERE host at a dancing party of a hundred years ago (as even now) it was your duty to see that all the ladies danced. The host was admonished "take notice particularly of those who seem to serve as drapery to the walls of the ballroom (or wall-flowers, as the familiar expression is) and should see that they are invited to dance."

But, hark you, Mme. Celnart says: "The waltz is a dance of quite too loose a character, and unmarried ladies should refrain from it altogether, both in public and private. Very young married ladies, however, may be allowed to waltz in private halls, if it is

very seldom, and with persons of their acquaintance."

THEM, IF, in spite of the strict rules and inevitable chaperones, a young man got to the point of proposing marriage, Mme. Celnart warns: "he avoids all misplaced familiarity; he calls her Miss until returning from church, on the day of the marriage."

THE CUSTOM of wearing mourning when a family suffers a bereavement is fully discussed. This custom is practically non-existent today. A century ago the full mourning was divided into three periods. For the first six weeks, only woollen garments were worn; in the six weeks following, silk was also worn; and the last months it was accepted to mingle white with the black.

Mme. CELNART INSTRUCTS minutely upon the proper behaviour for different kinds of visits. One custom which we have dropped is the New Year's visits. She says that "At the return of each new year, custom and duty require us to present ourselves to our relations first, afterwards to our patrons, our friends, and those who have done any kindness for us". Calling cards were a must in those days, to the point that visits could be made without leaving one's home. You sent your card by a domestic, or by means of an agency established for the purpose. Frowning deeply, however, Mme. Celnart reprimands "This practice is the most impertinent and vulgar thing which can be imagined. Do not then permit it."

IN HER CHAPTER on "The manner of receiving visitors," she advises that "Young mothers of families who wish to have with them their children (troublesome guests, in a drawing-room, as everyone knows) may remain in the dining-room and have strangers conducted into an adjacent apartment."

THE LADIES of a hundred years ago had a high ideal to live up to. Mme. Celnart says "It is not in good tone for a lady to speak too quick or too loud. When seated, she ought neither to cross her legs, nor take a vulgar attitude. She should occupy her chair

entirely, and appear neither too restless or too immovable. It is altogether out of place for her to throw her drapery around her in sitting down, or to spread out her dress for display as upstarts do in order to avoid the least rumple."

"But what is especially insupportable in this sex is, an inquiet, bold and imperious air; for it is unnatural, and not allowable in any case. If a lady has cares, let her conceal them from the world, or not go into it. Whatever be her merit, let her not forget that she may be a man in the superiority of her mind and decision of character, but that externally she ought to be a woman! She ought to present herself as a being made to please, to love, and to seek a support; a being inferior to man, but near to angels. An affectionate, complying, and almost timid aspect, a tender solicitude for those who are about her, should be shown in her whole person. Her face should breathe hope, gentleness and satisfaction; dejection, anxiety, and ill-humour should be constantly banished."

Concluding her book, Mme. Celnart reminds us that "Politeness is the desire of pleasing those with whom we are obliged to live," a truism that applies to any century.

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