

ON THE ART OF HOSPITALITY

PRINCIPLES ARE EASILY LEARNED, APPLICATION OF THEM DIFFICULT.

Cultivation of This Art Must Not Be Left to Chance—it is Not Ours to Choose, Whether We Shall Exercise It or Not.

By Lina Orman Cooper.

The art of hospitality does not come by nature; its principles are easily learned, but application of them is difficult. Hospitality means a liberal hand, a willing heart, usefulness, thoughtfulness, refined courtesy, and a careful attention to detail.

Cultivation of this art must not be left to chance. It is not ours to choose whether we shall exercise it or not. It is a distinctive duty, and one not to be shirked.

There are two dangers to be avoided in hospitality—the Scylla of carelessness and the Charybdis of over-profession. The latter is a modern maelstrom. In fact, up-to-date entertaining is hardly to be called hospitality.

Another time a hostess of repute was "at home." Country clergy chartered cars, "aborigines" decked themselves in their best, to pay respect to the great house.

What we need, is to welcome anyone to our daily feast, without burdening them with a too lavish display of unaccustomed dainties.

Do you plead that this art is an expensive one? Pause and consider. If, by reason of pressing friends to go home with us, in the kingly fashion of old, butter flies a little faster,

One word of caution. Great hostesses may be so organized that they entertain without effort; but most folk have to think of ways and means. If you have only a small staff of servants, my sisters, see to it that you do not expend so much strength on preparation that you have none left to "stand a welcome" to your guests when they arrive.

Some may be surprised at my raising hospitality to the position of Art with the prefix Fine. But, as its successful pursuit depends on the heart even more than on the liberal hand, it can truly vindicate its dignified attitude.

Against inconsiderateness come many warnings from the past. Samuel Pepys and a Greater than the old Secretary to the Admiralty have left on record protests against carelessness in entertaining.

Even while the "miserable sight of Paule's Church with all the roof fallen" is desolating his soul, he can comment on the way "a shoulder of mutton from the cooks" is served by one Mrs. Turner "without a napkin, or anything, in a sad manner."

Ugly and sad meals! A naked bed! Do we ever serve and offer such to our friends? Life is strenuous, and fussy, and short.

Are we tempted to think such little things "no matter"? Hundreds of years before Mr. Pepys a Greater than he left on record similar carelessness in an entertainment-given in His honor.

Is Simon's spirit of niggardly carelessness still ours? Christ is the unseen guest at every meal. Can He say, sorrowfully, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these My brethren, ye did it unto Me"?

When Justin Martyr was seeking the true amongst false philosophies, an aged stranger of Alexandria expressed surprise at his being content to take Plato as model, instead of going to the more anciently honorable writers of the Mosaic dispensation.

fear of wild Ishmaelites brooding over him, boiled broth for a stray visitor (Judges vi. 19). Manoah and his wife made ready a kid for the Man whose name was secret (Judges viii. 15). The widow of Zarephath gave first to the man of God out of her little store (1 Kings xvii. 13-15).

We have all heard of the bishop who suggested "teaspoons" as a suitable presentation on his elevation to the bench. But it is not only bishops, with princely incomes, who are enjoined to be hospitable. Feeble lay-women can share in the privilege of "distributing to the necessity of saints" (Romans xii. 13).

Most of us have read of the entertainment in an inn outside Vanity Fair for Christiana and her fellow-travellers, where crumbled milk and fruit for the children testified to the loving forethought and unselfish liberality of Gaius their host.

Selfishness lies at the root of all inhospitality. We are either so comfortable in our home circle that we dislike intrusion, or so uncomfortable that we dislike publicity.

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"That best portion of a good man's life, His little, nameless, unremembered acts Of kindness and of love."

And, beloved, we do faithfully whatever we do for the brethren and strangers, if we bring them forward on their journey after a godly sort, by giving harbour and good company.

A cup of cold water given cheerfully will not lose its reward. But, when possible, bring forth milk instead of water, not forgetting the "lordly dish."

Ruskin has well and truly said that "The woman's duty as a member of the commonwealth is to assist in the ordering, the comforting, and in the beautiful adornment of the state."

Newspapers And War.

It has always been supposed that Napoleon III. went to war with Germany with the serene belief that he would win, and his minister, Ollivier, has endured nearly forty years of reproach for proclaiming that the war was undertaken "with a light heart."

INTEGRITY OF PUBLIC LIFE.

Fresh Discouragement to Good Citizenship—Character Will Tell.

The indubitable evidence of municipal corruption and blackmail in Montreal, ending in the unseating of aldermen, and in fresh disclosures under a committee of enquiry, added to the charges of party corruption in more than one parliamentary circle, has brought fresh discouragement to good citizenship.

It all comes down to the single, simple question of character. There is nothing else in the problem of free government, large or small. Apply the test of character as rigorously to public men and public affairs as we apply it to private men and private affairs, and popular government, city, provincial, and national, ceases to be a failure and a disgrace, and becomes a success, a blessing, and an honor to us as a people.

Good government in every community, large or small, depends finally upon individual effort. The indifferent and negligent citizen is not a modern production. Demosthenes, speaking to the Athenians of their duty as citizens, said more than two thousand years ago: "If you get rid, all of you, of the spirit of evasion; if each man will show himself ready to act whenever duty calls him, he can possibly render service to the state; if you are willing to depend upon no one but yourselves, and will give up, each of you, hoping that he can remain idle while his neighbor does everything for him, then you will come to your own; if God will, you will recover once again the position which your intolerance has thrown away."

Not Much in it When the Nations are Busy Increasing Armaments. At a meeting of some of the friends of Peace, held in Toronto, with Rev. Chas. S. Eby, D.D., presiding, this address was framed for the press.

At a meeting of some of the friends of Peace, held in Toronto, with Rev. Chas. S. Eby, D.D., presiding, this address was framed for the press:—It is difficult to think of any calamity more destructive of all that is best in the material or moral benefits of civilization than the horrors of war.

The teaching of the schools should there not be far more emphasis placed on the triumphs of peace, and far more glory attached to the names of those men who, by the work of their genius, or by their noble self-sacrifice, have enriched and ennobled our civilization, than is given to those who have triumphed in the desolation of war?

Fighting The White Plague.

The ninth annual convention of the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other forms of tuberculosis is to be held in Hamilton, May 19th and 20th. Dr. White, of Pittsburgh sanatorium, will deliver an address on the duty of municipalities in reference to tuberculosis.

WHAT INTERESTS ALL-CLASSES.

A Lot of Notes of General Information for Busy Readers.

A man named Robert, turned out of his house on the outskirts of Paris in October, has camped out with his family under a bridge, and has placed the municipality in a quandary.

In one of the excavated cemeteries in Egypt the bodies of many pet dogs have been found. One of the animals had ivory bracelets round its legs, while several had collars of twisted leather, one with a leather lead attached. The teeth of many of the dogs were in a noticeably bad condition, the result of idleness and unhealthy luxury.

New York is to have another "skyscraper," with towers which have forty-six and forty-seven storeys respectively. The building will have a tower of forty-two storeys with a main building of thirty-four storeys, and it will be over 900 feet high.

A poultice in the Rue Montmartre, Paris, is selling a speciality of game of all kinds, including a dromedary and two kangaroos. He expects to see camel cutlets and kangaroo steaks as items on the bill of fare of every restaurant in Paris.

In Abyssinia it is the law that the murderer be turned over to the relatives of the dead person, and they, if they please, may put him to death in the same manner in which the murdered person was killed.

Three hundred Berlin streets are planted with 14,000 trees, which are said to represent a value of nearly \$200,000. About 1,000 gardeners and assistants are employed to take care of them.

A bridal wreath in England is usually composed of orange blossoms. Germany uses myrtle, Italy white roses, Spain red roses, Greece vine-leaves, and Bohemia rosemary.

A pigeon used by a Manchester firm of mill-owners to carry messages from one mill to another has saved the firm \$1,145 in telegrams within ten years.

This public notice was recently placarded at Christane, Tasmania: "I, Sarah Fitzpatrick in fourteen days, will be married again.—Sarah Fitzpatrick"

The same force which moves one ton on a smooth high-road will move eight tons on a railway or thirty-two tons on a canal.

In Persia there are no distilleries, breweries, or public-houses, and native wine is the only intoxicating beverage used.

Germany's colonies are five times as big as herself, those of France eighteen times, and Britain's ninety-seven times.

MAKING RELIGION MORE PRACTICAL.

The Emmanuel Idea is Simplicity Itself, Says Its Advocates.

In the development of great religious movements achievement has usually preceded definition, classification, and terminology. Luther crossed swords with Eck before he could foresee the Protestant Reformation.

The Emmanuel movement has reversed an age-long process. Not three years old, it is already clearly defined in the public mind.

It has already found its proper place somewhere in that hazy middle ground which religion and medicine are inevitably forced to share between them. It is adequately furnished with a psychological terminology as scientific as either religion or medicine.

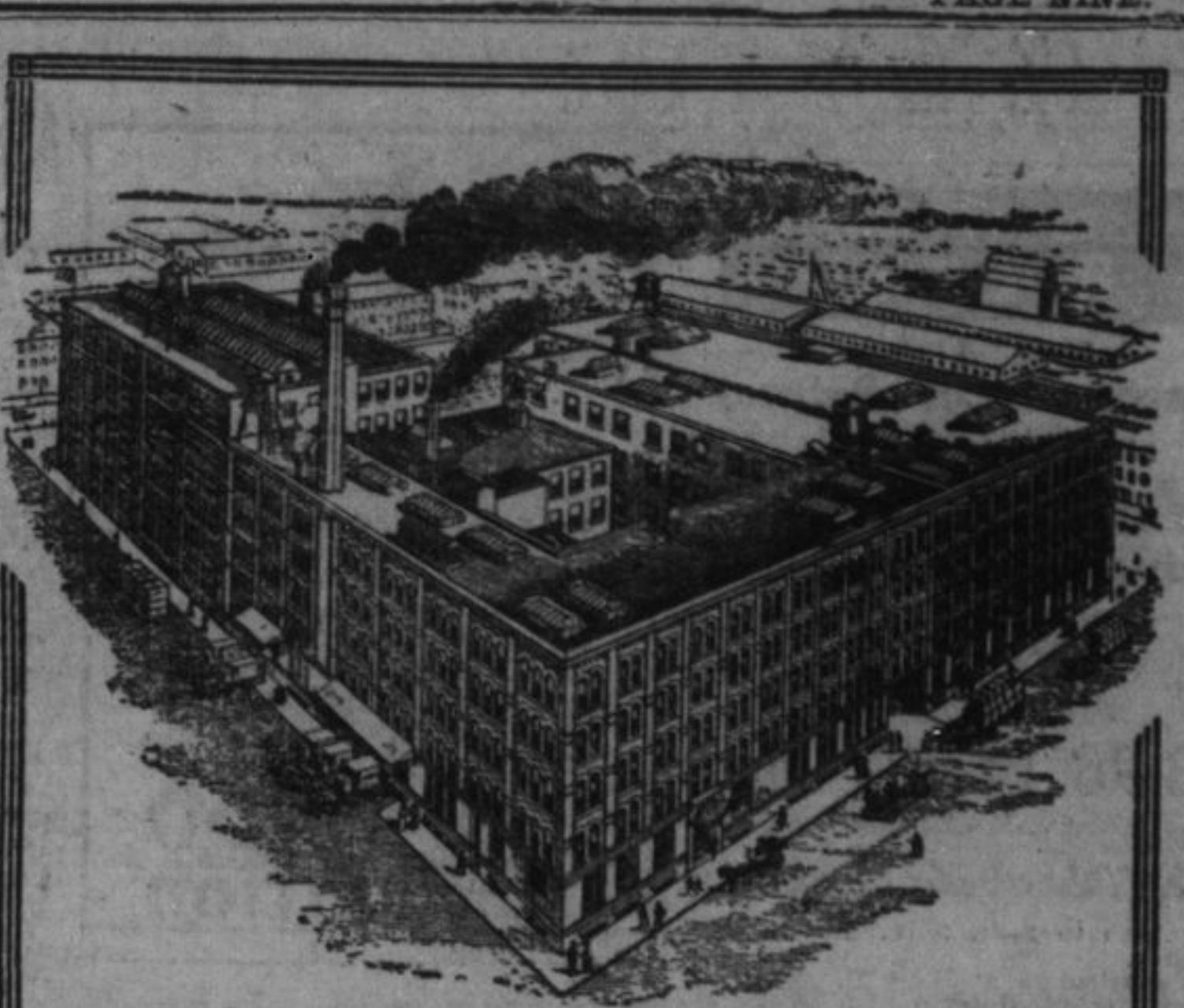
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Advertisement for BEAVER FLOUR, featuring a beaver logo and text: "ONE FLOUR FOR ALL BAKING". Lists products like Bread Flour, Biscuit Flour, Cake Flour, and Pastry Flour.

Advertisement for Brighten Up, featuring a painter character and text: "Not only does it take longer to put poor paint on your building than good paint, but you have to do it oftener. Divide the cost of painting your building into three parts and two of them go to the painter."