

GOOD FORM

What Gifts To Accept.

Among the many questions where the usages of social life we call etiquette are called upon to define lines either strictly or only with slight restrictions the one concerning the acceptance of expensive gifts from men friends to girls and women friends is often discussed.

It has come about in some way that to accept things that are very costly shows lack of personal pride. A woman who does is apt to find herself placed under obligations. This is something no delicate minded woman is willing to do. She does not like the idea that a man has been given cause to think himself entitled to more consideration on account of handsome gifts made to her. So she very properly returns any such that may strike her sense of propriety as of too great value, as far as price is concerned, for her to use in any way.

But unfortunately there are many girls and maturer women who gladly declare they will "take anything" they can get from men friends and acquaintances. The argument is very feminine: "He will spend that money on somebody. Why not on me?" is the way they put it. But when pay day comes and such women find that it is presumed they feel obliged or are under obligations to the giver they repudiate and still, strange to say, they keep the gifts, no matter what they are.

This is a very serious breach in the laws of social usage. Etiquette strictly demands, first, that such gifts should not be received at all, and if for some reason it appears better to accept than to "make a fuss about it" they should be returned as soon as possible, with the most friendly assurance that a simpler expression of good will will be far more acceptable and still more appreciated.

A man is justified in presenting a hostess who has been delightfully hospitable with something very handsome for her house, never for her personal wearing. But the accepted and correct gifts from men who know to their women friends are flowers, books, music or bonbons. These may be in fancy jeweled holders, but even that is not in perfect taste.

Good Manners At Home.

Take your good manners home with you. You cannot afford to be negligent or rude to the people with whom you live every day. Unfailing courtesy in the family circle is the best possible investment to secure peace and harmony.

Etiquette differs in its outward manifestations in different countries and among people of different walks of life. In Europe the stranger makes the first call. In England and this country the resident makes the first call. In Europe the man lifts his hat to the woman before she bows to him. In this country and in England the woman bows first. The habit of using the knife as we use the fork is not utterly unknown among foreigners, while with us it is considered bad form. But it was not always so regarded here. You still see in out of the way places the old fashioned knife with the curiously enlarged and rounded end, so made to facilitate the eating of peas.

Some continental do not consider it out of the way to use toothpicks at the table. Even a diamond trimmed med toothpick would hardly make the custom acceptable in this country. But then some of our customs and manners probably shock foreigners quite as much.

But, though it has many differing rules and forms, the underlying motive of etiquette is pretty much the same everywhere. Its effort is to embellish, dignify and make attractive human social intercourse, also to simplify it, to make it easy without removing those restrictions which make the difference between civilization and savagery. Therefore do not put too much weight on the small signs of etiquette, but never let go the large ideal of it.

Use Of Cards.

If a double card is used with Mr. and Mrs. engraved on it when calling on a married woman leave just one. In making a first call on a married couple, however, the wife leaves her own card and two of her husband's, keeping the combination card for use in subsequent calls. An engagement announcement should be acknowledged. Send a card with or without a polite acknowledgment and greeting in a few words, such as "Congratulations and good wishes." In making an evening call a man waits until the maid tells him he will be received, when he removes his hat, coat and gloves in the hall before being ushered into the reception room.

For A Simple Wedding.

If the bride wears a street costume she should also wear a hat and coat to complete it. Some fashionable and smart brides dress this way for their weddings, especially if either the bride or bridegroom has been married before or if neither is in the first

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youth. As to colors, light gray or tan is preferable to darker colors for a wedding suit. No attendant is customary at such a wedding, which is supposed to be a quiet, simple affair.

TO RAISE SHIPS.

Canadian Commission Approves of Capt. Midford's Scheme.

A method for the raising of sunk ships of any tonnage, however badly injured, from any depth at which a diver can work, has been considered recently by a commission of maritime authorities of the Canadian Naval Service Department, has been approved by this commission and has been recommended for consideration to the British Admiralty. This method is the result of long and careful study and practical experience, both as a mariner and as an engineer, on the part of Capt. A. G. Midford of Toronto, who is now in Ottawa conferring further with the authorities. The details of the method have already been forwarded to the Admiralty.

The proposal, which is of great interest and value on account of the sinking of the Lusitania and other British ships since the war commenced, embodies neither empiricism nor guesswork, but is said to be based upon the established methods and the practice of modern civil engineering and natural laws. By this method, it is claimed, a ship of any tonnage, however badly injured, may be raised from any depth at which a diver can work, economically and speedily, and in such a manner that it can be repaired and returned to the service for which it was designed in a time of the time which it would take to build a new vessel.

Capt. Midford's methods further embody a proposal by which a certain degree of unsinkability in ships can be attained. He claims that a review of recent maritime disasters shows that there is a period of greater or less duration between the collision, whether it be by a torpedo, or with an iceberg, during which the vessel remains afloat. This is caused by the air entrapped in various inverted cavities throughout the vessel. Capt. Midford contends that he has a practical and feasible plan to secure a continuance of these conditions, and thus enable the vessel to remain afloat long enough, in spite of her injuries, to secure assistance and afford a chance to rescue passengers and crew at least. A practical device for producing such a condition of "unsinkability," he claims, need occupy none of the space required for commercial purposes, could be arranged so as to be instantaneously available, and at a comparatively small expense could be applied to any vessel afloat.

"The torpedoing and sinking of the Lusitania," said Capt. Midford in an interview given at the capital, "recalls the temporary interest created on the occasions of the various other disasters, such as those of the Titanic and the Empress of Ireland, in life-saving and unsinkability as applied to ships. Commissioners were appointed at the time and investigators set to work, presumably with the object of looking over all plans proposed to them, and of selecting the most suitable, but the fact that the Lusitania foundered in eighteen minutes proves that nothing practical has been accomplished, and particularly that no efficient scheme for safety at sea has been insisted upon as a measure of public safety. Lord Morley was fully alive to the necessity of investigating all plans brought to the commission's attention, and of trying those which gave promise of effecting the result required. Regarding certain plans submitted at that time he remarked: 'They are well worth considering.' That they were not looked into and nothing effective adopted is shown by the disasters such as that of the Lusitania, the Audacious and other vessels of smaller size which have gone down suddenly of late."

Steam Trawling.

The line fishermen of Annapolis, Digby and Yarmouth counties in Nova Scotia have recently been voicing their grievance against trawling as a method of fishing. The steam trawler represents the economy and efficiency of modern industry, but it has aroused inquiry regarding its effect upon the productivity of fishing grounds. Line fishermen demand the prohibition of trawling. They claim that it is destructive to the fish ova, and to feeding grounds, and that it means the capture and waste of many immature and unmarketable fish. Thorough investigation alone will decide whether these charges are true or whether they are advanced merely to enable the line fisherman to avoid the competition which he cannot meet. The productivity of the North Sea banks, apparently undiminished by years of trawling, is a point in favor of the trawlers. On the other hand, the United States Bureau of Fisheries has become convinced that the conservation of the Atlantic fisheries depends upon the absolute prohibition of trawling, except for the taking of shell fish. A recent report to Congress proposes co-operative action for this purpose by France, Newfoundland, Canada and the United States.—Conservation.

Sixty Thousand at the Front. It is estimated that there are now 60,000 Canadian soldiers across the water, 40,000 of whom are on the firing line, not allowing for casualties. The second division is said to have been landed. It is stated that there is a total of 110,000 men at present under arms. This leaves 50,000 still in Canada. These include the third infantry contingent, and about thirteen regiments of Mounted Rifles, most of whom have volunteered to go as infantry. Whether it is intended to place a third full division in the field or not has not been announced, the impression being, however, that it will be a sufficient task to provide reinforcements for and keep up to strength two full divisions on the firing line, together with the Princess Patricia's and the Strathcona Horse and Royal Canadian Dragoons.

Four Centenarians. Four of the inmates of the Toronto House of Providence are over one hundred years of age. Fifty-two are over eighty years old.



Says Old 7 the Baffler

"I'm the original Mystery Man — all others are imitations. I'm a living dare to every man, woman and child in Canada! I'm a challenge to your ability at discovering.

"I'm the 7th point of superiority in Sterling Gum. And nobody knows me but the Sterling people themselves.

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