

The Family Circle

A CURE FOR GOSSIP

If you are tempted to reveal
 A tale some one to you has told
 About another, make it pass,
 Before you speak, three gates of gold.
 Three narrow gates; first, 'Is it true?'
 Then, 'Is it needful?' In your mind
 Give truthful answer. And the next
 Is last and narrowest, 'Is it kind?'
 And if to reach your lips at last
 It passes through these gateways three,
 Then you may tell the tale, nor fear
 What the result of speech may be.

HOW SHE ATTRACTED ATTENTION

This little incident—it is a true story—occurred some time ago:—

The owner of a large retail store gave a holiday to all his employees. Cashiers, foremen, salesmen, and women, cash boys and porters, all were invited to spend the day on the grounds of the country seat owned by their employer. Tents were erected, a bountiful dinner and supper were provided, a band was stationed in the grove, and special trains were chartered to carry the guests to the country and home again.

Nothing else was talked of for weeks before the happy day. The salesgirls, most of whom were young, anxiously planned their dresses, and bought cheap and pretty muslins, which they made up in the evening, that they might look fresh and gay. Even the cash boys brought new ties and hats for the great occasion.

But Jane Elroy felt she could not indulge in any pretty bit of finery. She was the only child of a widowed mother who was paralysed. Jane was quick and industrious, but she had been but a few months in the store, and her wages barely kept her and her mother from want.

'What shall you wear?' said the girl who stood next her behind the counter. 'I bought such a lovely blue lawn.'

'I have nothing but this,' said Jane, glancing down at her rusty black merino.

'But that is a winter dress! You'll melt! There'll be boating and croquet. You must have a summer gown or else don't go.'

Girls of fifteen like pretty gowns. Jane said nothing for a few minutes.

'I shall wear this one,' she said, firmly. 'And I think I will go. Mother wishes it.'

'But you can't play croquet in that!'
 'It is always fun to see other people have fun,' said Jane, bravely.

The day came bright and hot, and Jane went in her heavy, well-brushed dress. She gave up all idea of 'fun' for herself, and set to work to help the others to find it. On the cars she busied herself in finding seats for the little girls and helping the servants with the baskets of provisions. On the ground she started games for the children, ran to lay the table, and brought water for the older women, was ready to pin up torn ruffles, or to applaud 'a good ball'; she laughed, and was friendly all the time. She was surrounded by a cheerful, merry group wherever she went.

On the way home to town the employer, who was a shrewd business man, beckoned to his superintendent.

'There is one girl here whose friendly, polite manner is very remarkable. She will be valuable to me as a saleswoman. Give her a good position. That young, sunshiny girl in black,' and he pointed her out.

The next day Jane was promoted, and since that time her success has been steady.

The good nature and kindness of heart which enabled her to 'find fun in seeing others have fun,' were the best capital for her in her business. She had the courage, too, to disregard poverty and to make the best of life, a courage which rarely fails to meet its reward.

HOW TO SUCCEED

Most successful men have won success by hard work and strict honesty. You can do the same. Here are a dozen rules for getting on in the world:—

1. Be honest. Dishonesty seldom makes one rich, and when it does, riches are a curse. There is no such thing as dishonest success.

2. Work. The world is not going to pay for nothing. Ninety per cent. of what men call genius is only talent for hard work.

3. Enter into that business you like best and for which nature seems to have fitted you, provided it is honorable.

4. Be independent. Do not lean on others to do your thinking or to conquer difficulties.

5. Be conscientious in the discharge of every duty. Do your work thoroughly. No person can rise who slights his work.

6. Don't try to begin at the top. Begin at the bottom and you will have a chance to rise, and will be surer of reaching the top some time.

7. Trust to nothing but God and hard work. Inscribe on your banner, 'Luck is a fool: pluck is a hero.'

8. Be punctual. Keep your appointment. Be there a minute before time, even if you have to lose dinner to do it.

9. Be polite. Every smile, every gentle bow is money in your pocket.

10. Be generous. Meanness makes enemies and breeds distrust.

11. Spend less than you earn. Do not run into debt. Watch the little leaks, and you can live on your salary.

12. Make all the money you can honestly; do all the good you can with it while you live; be your own executor.

A SLY HINT

Many young ladies have found it necessary to improve—that is, of course to alter—the spelling of the names with which they were originally blessed. Mabel becomes Mabelle, Jessie becomes Jessica, Mary becomes Marie, and so forth.

A brother lately received a letter from his sister at a fashionable boarding school. It was signed 'Jessica.' He answered:—

'Dear Sister Jessica,—Your welcome letter received. Mamma and Papa are well. Aunt Maryica and Uncle Georgica started for Glasgowica yesterday. I have bought a new horse. You ought to see it; it is a beauty. It's name is Maudica. Your affectionate brother, Sammica.'

The sister's next letter was signed 'Jessie.'

SOME JAPANESE PROVERBS

It is more difficult to keep a fortune than to make one.

Good wine brings out the truth.
 The wise man shapes himself according to circumstances, as water takes the shape of the vessel into which it is poured.

Before you can sympathise with others we must have suffered ourselves.

It is easier to find 1000 recruits than one general.
 The life of an old man is like a lighted candle in a draught.

The capital and the fireside have each their own attractions.

After having tasted bitterness one becomes a man.
 The error of a minute, the sorrow of a lifetime.
 Do not be slaves to your children; they will have their happiness later.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MANNER

Graciousness is rather an old-fashioned virtue. At least it must be confessed that our modern girls, with their frank, brusque ways, often lack this quality. It is nevertheless closely linked with those indefinable gifts, charm and tact. Indeed, a large element in the charm which makes for social success is manner. In greeting a stranger, for example, words may be ever so commonplace if the tone and manner be only winning and gracious, while the most brilliant remarks may make an unfavorable impression if uttered in a chilling, indifferent way. 'In conversation the how is more important than the what,' some one brightly says. Certainly the genial social favorite is one who is not afraid to show friendliness she really feels, and is unselfish enough to draw out the best there is in others by an inviting and welcoming manner.

ODDS AND ENDS

Mamma: 'I hope you said "Thank you" nicely?'
 Boy: 'Oh, yes, mamma. I said it five times.' Mamma: 'You need only have said it once, dear.' Boy: 'But I had five pieces of cake, mamma!'

A four-year-old child was watching the cook shelling peas. She was noticed to be deeply interested in the process. Finally she looked up and said naively: 'Oh, do let me unbutton some of them!'