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Court Etiquette in Olden Times

ROYAL personages as well as those members of noble families who have the privilege of attending on them would find the cares connected with their high position considerably increased if the extravagant formalities which attached to Court life two or three centuries ago were still in vogue.

Precedence ruled in all things at the Court of Louis XIV., at Versailles. Even the king's morning toilette was made in the presence of the courtiers, who were continually arriving. As the king put on his outer garments, these were handed to him by the nobleman of the highest rank in attendance.

The story is told that, as the king was pulling on his waistcoat one morning, it was handed to him by a count; but before the count had passed the garment to the king, a duke came in.

This made it necessary for the count to hand the waistcoat at once to the duke, as it would have been against etiquette for a person of lower rank to pass the garment. And as it must be handed with bare hands, the king had to wait while the duke removed his gloves.

When this operation was performed, and the duke was about to advance with the waistcoat, the door opened and a royal prince of a younger branch of the family entered. The duke, of course, at once presented the waistcoat to the new comer, as he was of higher rank.

But the prince was also gloved; and when he had performed that somewhat tedious operation of un-gloving, there arrived on the scene another prince, who happened to be of the elder branch.

So the unfortunate king had to wait once more; and as the room was cold, it is recorded that he took a violent chill.

At King Louis' dinner, when the cook brought in the meat for the royal plate, he was attended by armed soldiers and preceded by a herald, shouting "Gentlemen, the king's viands!" Whereupon the company all uncovered, and the sentinels saluted the roast chicken or the royal mutton cutlets.

When the king was about to drink, a chamberlain announced the fact at the top of his voice, and two functionaries, whose duty it was to taste the wine or water in order to prove that it had not been poisoned, stepped forward, poured out a little, and drank it off. Then the king drank.

The great mass of royal formalities and points of etiquette disappeared with the 17th century, but the rules of precedence are still very strictly observed in royal courts.

Cynical Sayings.

There are few men in the world successful enough to have secrets, and no women.

Of all vices to which the modern woman is addicted the most vulgar is her love of gambling.

There is no hatred like the hatred of a woman for a man with whom she once fancied she was in love.

The artistic temperament covers a multitude of sins.

It is easy to recognize the sort of women who haven't been kissed.

Divorce is the consolation prize in the lottery of marriage.

Everything comes to him who waits—even the girl who sends word that she will be right down—providing he waits long enough.

The best way to stop a woman's mouth is to kiss it.

One art worth studying in life is that of taking nobody too seriously.

Desire for something—or some one—is the motive power of the world.

All life is a matter of bossing; you've either got to boss or be bossed.

A man may be lord of creation, but a woman is queen of the earth.

Woman's one good deed—to look beautiful at man's expense.

A girl is either a man-eater or a total abstainer.

About the only thing the modern girl can't do to a man is to make him happy.

Spirit of Christ in the War.

An English paper tells us of a touching incident that occurred in the war zone not far from Perronne. A village, occupied by the Germans, fell into the hands of a British regiment on the retirement of the former.

The Germans had reverently laid some forty or fifty of their dead comrades to rest in a plot of ground, marking the graves with wooden crosses.

When the English arrived the spot had become overgrown with weeds and briars, and in a short time the little cemetery would have disappeared. But the "Tommyes" set to work, cleared the place of weeds, marked out the graves with bricks from the ruined houses, and when all was done, erected a wooden cross six feet high, with the inscription, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Thus even amidst the horrors of war does the spirit of Christ find a place.

To Keep the War Going.

Two English workmen were discussing the war.

"It'll be an awful long job, Sam," said one.

"It will," replied the other.

"You see, these Germans is takin' thousands and thousands of Russian prisoners, and the Russian is takin' thousands and thousands of German prisoners. If it keeps on, all the Russians will be in Germany and all the Germans in Russia. And then they'll start all over again, fightin' to get back their 'ussies."

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