

He Giveth the Good Hunch to the Hostess.

By Arthur Copp.

"These things therefore, I say unto you, are precious unto men, because of their scaredness," said the wise man, as he fished for the olive:

"The woman who preferreth Kipling;

"The souse who knoweth when to go home;

"The hostess who is onto her job, and entertaineth painlessly.

"Observe the latter, oh ye of dollars, and ye of sense; for her system winneth with ease and attracteth the live ones.

"The wise hostess riseth in the morning and examines the ice chest;

"And discovereth thereby in time whether there are plenty of cold ones, or that the cheese reposest therein sufficient for those who fear not internal difficulties.

"She spreadeth herself, and prepareth gooey things of attractiveness, and fodder that calleth the second time.

"She olleth the latch, and looketh that the kitchen maid hath spilled no honey in the Morris chair, knowing such attachments last not, nor improveth the spring garments, but causeth maledictions to multiply upon her household.

"She arrayeth herself becomingly betimes, forgetting not that powder improveth the shiny nose, but hath no attractions when forgotten of the chamois which hath dabbed it hugely at first.

"She seeth to it that her light shineth brightly, and that the corkscrew reposest within grabbing distance, wherewith some amateur Moses may tap the White Rock which tasteth pleasant with the corn extract.

"Perhaps her heart be heavy, but she smileth brightly notwithstanding, and forgetteth her own sorrow in the desire she hath to give comfort unto others.

"Tell unto me, oh ye men who scorn women as inferior, canst thou do that? Gods and women can. Canst thou?

"Cometh then the lonely and barren of friends, and she meeteth them at the threshold, and giveth merry greeting unto them;

"Nor offereth she her hand chin high with limpness, giving the shake like unto a fish, or as a piece of liver which hath fallen by the wayside,

"But putteth muscle therein.

"Her eyes, they shine with the welcome that her heart holdeth. Blessed be she. For she bringeth sunshine where there was blackness, and maketh the lonely one to consider unto himself that he is not yet like the red, red lobster, but still hath a few chips left.

"He stayeth late and she growleth not.

"He smoketh of her lord's supply, nor doth she kick then, but presseth more upon him, lest he burn of his own poor ones.

"He talketh inanely, cussing himself the while, but her conversation sparkleth, and anon he appeareth more at ease and maketh a real joke.

"He exploreth, and findeth the foamy kind on lee; and forthwith he blesseth her thoughtfulness, and conveyeth the news to others, who unite in paeans and hunt the opener.

"The moon waneth, and anon the guest maketh proclamation he hath a hunch to go hence, and ariseth.

"Doth the wise hostess then make the quick grab for his outer garments?

"Nay, Rollo. She maketh unto him the sorrowful talk, which deceiveth him not, but letteth him down easy, and bewalleth unto him that he departeth.

"And presently she lighteth his rootsteps unto the outer gate, him and others with him, and her guests go their way acclaiming her.

"Believing they have made friends, and brought not too much lamentation unto the neighbors because of their wassall.

"True, oh thou hostess of good intent, this attracteth the dead ones as well. But what availeth it a hostess when she maketh the noise in the society column if Mrs. Catt findeth not the names of the real OK gents among those present;

"For dead ones taketh the ditch with ease, but live ones come only where life proclaimeth itself by these methods.

"And this is the way of the wise woman.

"A man, he is of selfishness, and vanity, and thinketh he is the real candy;

"And imagineth sometimes he hath Teddy Roosevelt and other real actors skinned until they scream, because a smile hath been cast upon him;

"But he hath not. But because he regardeth womankind as all the peaches, and holdeth her high before him, therefore they forgive him much because of this homage which belongeth unto them;

"And set before him good things, and bedeck themselves;

"So that, if he hath aught of wisdom, he again boweth before them, and loveth them with good words and better deeds, for they cause him to say the things which woman loveth to hear.

"Verily, and he cometh not to bat when his name soundeth, quickly his plate looketh like a January bank account, and he eateth not again at that fireside."

BRIDGE.

This is a popular pastime and much of the attention of our best minds in high society is concentrated upon guessing whether or not a given card is in the hand of a person on his right or on his left. In order to be an accomplished bridge player one must possess the following attributes:

1. A dress suit. (This does not apply to ladies.)
2. A roll of clean bills with a rubber band encircling them.

3. A cigarette.

4. A stoical, bland and unimpassioned nature.

5. A piece of paper and a pencil.

6. A partner, usually of the opposite sex.

You may, with delicacy, criticize nearly every play your partner makes. She doubtless deserves it; but, as a rule, this criticism should not extend beyond her prowess as a player. Try to remember that a gentleman is one who never unintentionally insults anybody.

Bridge should never be played seriously. One should carry on an animated conversation during the course of play. It is customary, too, to hold the cards in one hand, and a hot buttered muffin in the other. Get up from the table rather frequently and telephone, receive visitors, give orders to the servants and pour tea. The questions, "Who led?" "What are trumps?" "Is that my trick?" etc., etc., are always permissible and lend some spirit to what otherwise might prove a dull game.

In playing bridge with two ladies, a man should be careful to play "highest man and highest woman." In this way he will be playing against a man, and his chance of being recompensed for his winnings will be less remote. Never play with three ladies.

When you are dummy and your partner has finished playing the hand, you should invariably glare at her (or him) and make one of the following remarks:

1. You played it the only way to lose the odd!
2. Why, in heaven's name, didn't you get out the trumps?
3. You must lose a pot of money at this game, don't you?
4. It's lucky I'm not playing ten-cen points.
5. Why not take your finesse the other way?
6. The eight of clubs was good, you know!
7. Yes, if you had played your ace of diamonds, we would have saved it.
8. It's a pity you didn't open the hearts.—Metropolitan Magazine.

To escape criticism: Do nothing, say nothing, be nothing.—Phillistine.



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