

upon me all the tattle of careless or spiteful people. If you would be happy when among good men open your ears; when among bad, shut them. And as the throat has a muscular arrangement by which it takes care of the air-passage of its own accord, so the ear should be trained to an automatic dullness of hearing. It is not worth while to hear what your servants say when they are angry; what your children say after they have slammed the door; what a beggar says whom you have rejected from your door; what your neighbours say about your children; what your rivals say about your business or dress.

This art of not hearing, though not taught in the schools, is by means unknown or unpractised in society. I have noticed that a well-bred woman never hears an impertinent or a vulgar remark. A kind discreet deafness saves one from many insults, from much blame, from a little apparent connivance in dishonorable conversation.

There are two doors inside my ears—a right hand door leading to the heart, and a left hand door with a broad and steep passage leading out to the open air. This last door receives all ugliness, profanity, vulgarism, mischief-making, which suddenly find themselves outside of me.

Judicious teachers and indulgent parents save young urchins a world of trouble by a convenient deafness. Brokers and bankers often are extremely hard of hearing when unsafe borrowers are importunate. I never hear a man who runs after me in the street, bawling my name at the top of his voice; nor those who talk evil of those who are absent; nor those who give me unasked advice about my own affairs; nor those who talk largely about things of which they are ignorant.

If there are sounds of kindness, of mirth, of love, open fly my ears; but temper, or harshness, or hatred, or vulgarity, or flattery shuts them. If you keep your garden gate shut, your flowers and fruit will be safe. If you keep your door closed no thief will run off with your silver; and if you keep your ears shut your heart will lose neither flowers nor its treasures.

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## ESQUIMAUX ARCHITECTURE.

As the days lengthen, the villages are emptied of their inhabitants who move seaward on the ice to the seal-hunt. Then comes into use a marvelous system of architecture, unknown among the rest of the American nations. The fine pure snow has by that time acquired under the action of strong winds and hard frosts, sufficient coherency to form an admirable light building-material, with which the Esquimaux master-mason erects most comfortable dome-shaped houses. A circle is first traced on the smooth surface of the snow, and the slabs for raising the walls are cut from within, so as to clear a space down to the ice, which is to form the floor of the dwelling, and whose extent and thickness was previously ascertained by probing. The slabs requisitely complete the dome, after the interior of the circle is exhausted, are taken from some neighboring spot. Each slab is neatly fitted to its place by running a flensing knife along the joint, when it instantly fuses to the wall, the cold atmosphere forming a most excellent cement.