



"And by opposing, end them."

NOW that the season has, to a certain extent, begun, old manners and customs, relative to the carrying out or enjoyment of all species of gaiety, come into prominence. And though they may, as a rule, be noticeable for good taste, one is occasionally struck by the want of it.

Balls and dances will soon, in all probability, be multiplying to a considerable degree. In Montreal we always have a fair share of such entertainments. And before we lose ourselves in the excitement of the moment, it would be as well to look into one or two customs that have become existing facts in this city, and may, or may not, be prevalent in other places. No doubt, many will disagree as to the need of their suppression; but, is a vote often carried by acclamation in connection with any formulated opinion?

PEOPLE entertain, undeniably, for the pleasure of their friends. Occasionally, it must be confessed, they do so for reasons other than that. Large entertainments have been known to set the givers upon a more solid social basis than they hitherto could boast. Widely scattered invitation cards have a way of imitating, in no small way, the judicious casting of bread upon water. For the scatterer is apt to have his or her engagement book filled up after comparatively few days. But this is neither here nor there. While we are enjoying hospitality, we ought to be sufficiently well-bred to recollect that it is hospitality, and that, under such circumstances, our behaviour should be regulated a little differently than under some other circumstances.

It seems to be almost an impossibility here to give a dance and leave out programmes. One hears the guests vigorously protesting that their absence is an improvement, and a moment later one sees the various girls, worried and harassed, trying to remember whether the 18th was given to A, or if B took the 14th or the 1st extra; while one discerns A, B, C and D with any procurable stump of pencil scribbling frantically on their cuffs, old envelopes or anything they can find. Meantime, the hostess, who withheld dance cards, not as a matter of ceremony, but merely to institute a change, wonders vaguely if she is really responsible for this uncomfortable state of things. So we keep up the custom of programmes, and what do we have as a result?

THE giver of the dance, perhaps ignorant of our usual proceedings, unwittingly places the cards in the dressing-room, as the most convenient place, which it doubtless is. In consequence, at the hour appointed, or, if they are wise, a little before, for we are apt to arrive unconscionably early, the host and hostess take up their positions in the ball or reception room. Cabs come and go, cloaked and ulstered figures disappear through the hall. At last, the buzz of many voices begins. Visibly, those waiting to receive prepare for pleasant greetings. The buzz increases to a subdued roar; the roar increases in volume. No one appears. Presently, a small percentage of guests, apparently not possessed with the shyness of the rest, are shaken by the hand, and somewhat dejectedly stand about, uncertain as to action. And from hall and stairway come the laughter and chatter: "Sixteenth? No." "Sorry I've engaged." "May I have supper?" "Why, you said the second waltz." "How few two-steps!" "Well you can have an extra-extra." Then with programmes filled, or with expressions that denote unsatisfactory arrangements, the

balance of invited ones throng in, and go through that most objectionable custom of bidding a polite "How d'ye do" to the promoter of their evening's pleasure.

Is this exaggerated? I think not. It is a most common spectacle; though one must not deduce from this that everyone is so wanting in the knowledge of the fitness of things. And worldly wisdom is rapidly discovering that opportunity is responsible for many sins. Consequently, inside the ball-room are the cards dispensed, and good manners are inculcated by compulsion, not left to instinct.

WHIO among us, on being invited out to dinner or supper, would demand various edibles that were not upon the menu, or comment openly at the scarcity of courses, any more than we would ask for an older vintage from our host's cellar, or criticize the wine offered to us? Possessed of a wine-card, and prepared to pay for our critical tastes, we do so, but not otherwise. How is it, then, when a special programme of dances has been arranged by the host and hostess, in conjunction with the orchestra, that we have the atrociously bad taste to insist by our clamor for a repetition of each number that pleases us, to ask unhesitatingly for the interspersing of extras, and, after staying to the bitter end of a lengthy programme, unblushingly demand several dances more? Of course, it must demonstrate our appreciation of the amusement provided. But are we entitled to ask for what has not been offered? And, talking of that, instances are not unknown of men so utterly incorrigible as to ask the orchestra to change a waltz to a two-step, or lancers to a waltz, as the case might be! Can it be good form to demonstrate an insatiable appetite for extra dances, when it is the essence of vulgarity to display an illimitable greed for the flesh-pots?

It would seem but a small matter to recollect we are in no way compensating for the kindness of heart and generosity that occasions our pleasure, except by our presence. And though some imagine that to be sufficient recompense, they are not justified in this conception. It is not to be expected that these remarks, fated, perchance, to be set down as "a deluge of words upon a desert of ideas," will work the reform that is so necessary. But it is most earnestly to be hoped, whether Montreal is singular or not in these particular characteristics, that before another winter is past instinct will prompt a reversion of action that advice is slow to effect. By our ways are we known, and it is well that others' knowledge of us should be to our magnification, not disparagement.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM McLENNAN are among the Montrealers wintering abroad. It is understood that they will spend the coming winter in the Island of Sicily, where it is hoped the mild climate will do much for Mr. McLennan's health.

Miss Alice Blackwell is making a stay of some weeks in New York, where she is visiting Mrs. Scott.

ON Thursday afternoon, last week, Mrs. Durnford, Clarendon avenue, gave a very pleasant tea for Miss Penner, of Kingston, who is visiting her.

Invitations are out for a large dance to be given at the Montreal Hunt on Wednesday, November 15th, by Mrs. Forget, Sherbrooke street.

Last week, Mrs. Geo. A. Drummond entertained a number of young people at dinner to meet Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Drummond.

LAST week, Mrs. James Bell, Dorchester street, gave a very pleasant tea. Among the guests were Lady Van Horne, the Misses Van Horne, Mrs. Bond, the Misses Bond, Mrs. F. Stephens, the Misses Stephens, Mrs. G. W. Stephens, Miss Stephens, Miss Robertson, Miss Eadie, Mrs. May, Mrs. A. D. MacTier, Miss G. Stearns, Miss Howard, Mrs. H. MacCulloch and many others.

Mrs. W. M. Ramsay, Peel street, has returned from Hamil-