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Signs that Tell

"When this pen flows too freely," run the instructions given with a fountain-pen, "it is a sign that it is nearly empty, and should be filled." A wit has remarked that this also applies to fluent speech. Gossip, slander, idle chatter, all testify to the emptiness of the mind, and are a damaging sign."

Biting on Germs

Someone told a certain young woman, says the Orleans Progress-Examiner, that the family physician had said that there were thousands of germs in ice cream. "And all the time," ran her comment, "I thought they were just strawberry seeds."—Youth's Companion.

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Woman and the Home

The Value of Good Manners

Martha J. Nichols, B.L.

"If you could give your children but one of the two—manners or money—which would you give?" asked a mother when chatting with a friend.

"Manners, my dear, manners, of course. How could I endure to see my son or my daughter constantly blundering around, treading on other's toes, being disliked, coming to limitations because of rudeness and awkwardness, even if they had a mint of money?"

"Well, I suppose you are right, yet I am constantly hearing that 'fine manners' are the stock of trade of those who are insincere and want to carry selfish schemes through."

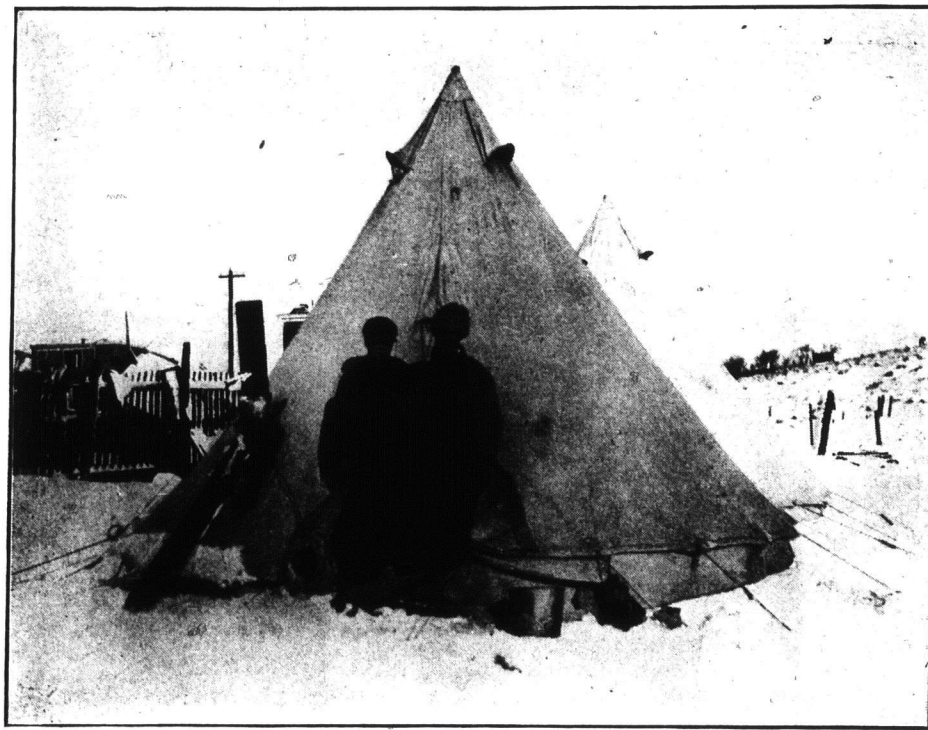
"That is sometimes true, we all know—a phase of hypocrisy—but it makes no difference in the high worth of really good manners, the kind that can rightly be called the 'minor moralities' because of being in line with the Golden Rule. I am sure that if 'manners' don't make the man, they do make a man—and a woman—too, of far more value in the world than they could otherwise be. Oh, I wish I could just make every boy and girl know the real worth of good manners and a good manner."

Courtesy, a pleasing way, gentleness, as an asset in life, can hardly be

first causes, he would find that a large percentage of them have their beginnings in lack of home politeness. The party of the first part is heedless as to personal habits at the table, in the living-room, in other rooms; is selfishly forgetful, is rude, or peevish, or inconsiderate; is unnecessarily severe in speech; and the party of the second part is annoyed, hurt, discouraged, "says things," begins to play at tit for tat. All-round courtesy would be as oil on troubled waters.

A bright, pretty girl who might be an ornament to society is "snubbed," slighted, left out in the cold and grieves over it, all because she will not wake up to the fact that she must be considerate, pleasant, sweet in her intercourse with others. Well-behaved people who may like her in some ways and could befriend her socially must be sure that she will not make bad breaks before they are willing to introduce her to other well-behaved people. A good many young men are just a little sour, or defiant about social life simply because they ignore the laws of simple good behavior. They let themselves be "impossible" socially and thereby lose many advantages.

A merchant employing many clerks once said that if young people could or would only realize the value of ordinary politeness they would be surprised at



Halifax Disaster—Refugees in tent.

overestimated. The diamond in the rough and the diamond set in gold as a jewel are not farther apart in beauty and worth than are the unmannerly person and the person he might be if only he had the polish that some one has called the "regalia of civilization."

We classify some people as "nice." They may not be wealthy, fashionable, brilliant, highly educated or highly connected, yet they are popular, welcome everywhere, doors of privilege open before them, questions as to whether they may move in really "best society" never trouble them.

Why are these things true? A careful study of the "nice" person's ways would reveal the fact that the charm has its roots both in what they do and what they leave undone. They offer little kindnesses in simple ways, they appeal to the best in others in such a way as to please. They leave out disagreeables so gracefully that others forget what might be. They make situations pleasant for others. They leave out snarls and angry tones, accents of contempt; they say what they think best in a tactfully pleasant way. They refrain from asking questions or making comments that can annoy others; they conduct themselves with regard to others' physical comforts and little personal rights without seeming to do so. They have good table manners, good parlor manners, good church manners, good railway manners and so on and on. It's impossible to tell all that they do or refrain from doing.

If one could go about the world sifting family troubles of all kinds down to

their own successes. Another man controlling large business interests was talking with an old-time friend and relating some of his trials. At last he exclaimed: "Ten thousand a year to the live young man who can come into my outer office and be sincerely polite to all who enter before he knows whether or not they are customers or beggars." The great railroad companies are more and more requiring their employees to be patient, polite, kind, simply because the managers have learned that courtesy is a valuable asset in dealing with the public.

No mother will find it easy to bring up a child so that he will be habitually polite, gracious, pleasing. A good deal of teaching and drilling is needed to help the child to know just the outward forms that are best. But this is not all. Heart culture is necessary to real grace of manner, and heart culture is by no means an instantaneous process.

Nevertheless, to give patient, thoughtful, purposeful help so that the child grows into pleasing ways is to give him power in the world; it is to clear his path of many pitfalls; it is to provide for him pleasure and joys and successes that money can not buy.

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