

Saying "A Few Words."

HOW TO MAKE A GOOD SPEECH

To be able to "say a few words" whenever called upon, gracefully, tactfully and successfully, should be the aim of every man or woman in these days of meetings and social functions. However humble the home, there are sure to be birthdays, christenings and weddings some time or other, and somebody has to "say something." And only too often these "few words" are as damping to the festive proceedings as they are painful to the speaker.

Now, all this uncomfortableness can easily be avoided by paying attention to a few simple rules and a little practice.

First, study deportment. When called on, get up at once; stand firm and upright, facing the audience. Look at, and speak to, those far away. If the man in the last row hears you, all those in between will not put your hands in your pockets, and don'tidget, but hold up your head, look straight at your audience.

Next comes eloquence. Speak to be heard, speak slowly but always distinctly. Do not shout, but speak in a little higher pitch than when conversing. Breathe deeply on rising and before each sentence, and do not drop your voice at the end of a sentence.

Use action, of arm, hand or head, so long as it is natural. If you know beforehand that you have to speak, whether to propose a vote of thanks, or to reply for the ladies at a wedding, think over the subject before the meeting or during the meal. Jot down a few ideas on a piece of paper, and, above all, think of something nice to end up with.

Genius in the Cradle.

FAMOUS MEN WHO WERE BRAINY AS BABIES.

The arrival in this country of a boy who is master of twelve languages as well as a good musician and scientist, though he is only fourteen, provides the latest case of precocity of talent. Some people have the idea that such talent always peters out early because it started early, but history does not fully endorse that theory.

Macaulay was an historian-at-eight. Tennyson a poet quite as early. Byron wrote passionate verses at ten, and Bacon was a philosopher at the same age. Mozart made his debut as composer and musician at six. In fact, at five he composed a piece so difficult that his father, who was a musical professor, found difficulty in playing it. Our own Elgar was a composer at twelve.

A six-year-old Preacher. At the age of three Dante was composing sonnets; Veret was a painter at four; and Milais about the same age. Visconti was a preacher at six, while Tasso talked at six months and could speak Latin at the age of seven. Mirabeau preached at three, and published a book at ten.

Pascal composed his treatises on comic sections at fifteen, and at thirteen Ampere was an acknowledged scientist and great mathematician. Wesley could play the organ when six and in his eighth year composed a military march. Verdi too was a composer at the age of nine. Douglas Jerrold achieved success at the stage with a farce when he was only fourteen and William Henry Ireland emulated Chatterton, "the marvellous boy who perished in his prime," by forging "new plays" by Shakespeare, at the age of seventeen, so skillfully that they deceived even the critics.

Robert Burns wrote some of his best poems while he was a ploughboy, and Ruskin had written "Modern Painters" at twenty-four.

Seaweed Factory Scottish Industry.

The great masses of seaweed washed up around the coast of the Orkneys may shortly become an important commercial asset.

Plans have been made to establish on the west coast an industry for extracting from it a chemical substance which, when mixed with coal dust, is stated to produce brick fuel of excellent quality.

Collecting depots will be formed along the coast, and it is proposed to erect near Stromness a factory costing £40,000.

The Harbor Commissioners of Stromness are stated to be prepared to deepen the access to their pier so that large steamers will be able to load and discharge cargoes.

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July 16, 20

"Him" and "Himer."

Persons from America.

There is a Mississippi legislator who has introduced a bill for the introduction of three beautiful words into what we may call the English language. These words are "him," "her," and "himer." The legislator has occasioned to the women in the legislature the fact that in the pronouns referring to the gender it has been customary to use the masculine term. If a notice is issued prohibiting a person from crossing the legislature "unless he has a license," it is quite true that the word "he" may be a woman. Some of the clunky ideas of "he or she," always looks a little punctilious. The Mississippi legislature called the drafting official to prepare a bill legalizing "hesh" for "he" or "himer" for "him or her." So we have for "his or "hesh." "himer." "himer" added to the vocabulary. The students of English will be puzzled at once. Not with introducing the new word, but with the legislature warns all and that "himer" and "himer" pronounced with the accent on the syllables. This, of course, is a little directed to giving satisfaction to men and to women.

Fury in Mississippi.

For the vain hopes of legislators there is fury in Mississippi. The rebellion has broken out and the rebellious persons count the words should be she, he, and himer, on the ground that small civility has always put in that order—with the exception of one instance in the Garden. Further, it is contended that speakers are notably careful of the matter of accents, and the proper sequence. It is argued that "himer" and "himer" does not matter vitally the accents of the syllables. A politician, with the object of getting on the troubled waters, and as a sort of compromise of bes, hem, hers, to be used in the common gender ground that "no one could tell they were masculine or feminine."

Barred.

It is a hard lot for the peace-loving and the fury which has fallen on the head of this well-meaning legislator has decided him to give up altogether. It will be interesting to hear one of his speeches. He will speak of himself by the third person, and in reply other persons he is barred the use of "him" or "her," or the elegant inventions which caused all the trouble.

All the tumult people are rather deliberately in Mississippi is not at all easy to hide. When a pronoun is pronounced, a pronoun of one's side in a fierce in-fighting and brothers are care-taking any pronoun which indicate a common gender. The legislature, having introduced and adorned the dictionary. The newspapers re-echo the struggle, more in sorrow than in anger, as if the legislature have continued in session unaware pronouns had gathered a death for the journey. The pronoun both syllables of "himer" having its own influence on conversation, and it is more the case that it is not so what a person says that matters how he or she or hesh says it. Lee, in John O'London's

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Issued of Revived Peerages.

This paper has just been issued with a return of peerages called of abeyance from 1500 to 1921. The return is admitted, but no action taken by the Crown. It provides glimpses of the undying of history, of attainments, of reversals, and of lines that disappeared and could no longer be traced.

Longest period of abeyance in the peerage was 547 years, in the case of the barony of Strabolgi, terminated in 1916 in favor of the petit-nephew, C. M. Kenworthy. The longest term of abeyance was 37 years, in the case of the Barony of Berners, which, however, had been in abeyance on a previous occasion.

Earliest peerage mentioned in the peerage is the Barony of Despencer, created probably in 1295. It was in abeyance 1461, and was called out of abeyance in 1804.

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