

## THE FLOWER OF COURTESY 121

It has been said that courtesy is a flower that does not bloom in Canada. I think these complaints are largely unfounded. Here rush and hurry is more general than in England, and busy officials are sometimes forced to stay a flow of irrelevant questions by impatient replies. It must be admitted, however, that 'Yes, sir' and 'No, sir' are not forthcoming with the readiness they roll off the tongues of servants in England.

While I was at dinner at a small country hotel the other day an Englishman, evidently an Oxford don, came in and sat down at the same table with me. He had some soup, after which the waitress came up and rattled off: 'Roast beef, roast pork, boiled corn-beef, and cabbage!'

The don said he would have roast beef underdone.

'What's that?'

The don repeated in slow and impressive tones:

'I'll have some roast beef underdone—what you call rare.'