

to bring her all the bad news you hear, especially if it relates to herself. All the disparaging things you hear said of her, you will, of course, take to her directly; which will cause her always to hail your coming with joy, while it proves, beyond a doubt, that you have been well-bred and are a high-toned gentleman.

RULE THE THIRTIETH.

If you suspect a lady to possess a considerable amount of strong good sense, and if you know her to have had some experience in the world, you may believe that you can easily win her confidence and respect, by *assuming* an extraordinary amount of piety, virtue, and respectability; which she well knows to be an old trick of nearly all young scapegraces, who have nothing but *pretension* in the great claims they make to morality. Therefore be easily shocked,—be in constant alarm lest you should compromise yourself,—put on pious airs; and the lady will give you credit for obeying the sublime injunction of the poet, who says:

"Assume a virtue—if you have it not."

RULE THE THIRTY-FIRST.

Always have some joke ready which is intended to be a hit at woman. For instance, if you see a lady eating a piece of tongue, you can remark that you are surprised to see her doing that, as you thought the ladies had already *tongue* enough. Some such original joke as this will impress a lady greatly in your favor, by convincing her that you are one of those commonplace, insipid creatures, whose intellect is down to the low level of woman's, and that you will not, therefore, be likely ever to startle and annoy her by propositions or conversations beyond the reach of her comprehension.