

For THE CANADIAN QUEEN.

## A NEW YEAR'S WELCOME.

By MARIE M. PURSEL.

WITH swiftly flying footsteps  
 The glad New Years appears,  
 We greet him with gay laughter,  
 And for the Old—drop tears.  
 Thus mingling joy and sorrow,  
 Our cup full to the brim  
 We will drink to the Old Year going out  
 And the New Year coming in.

To the Old with his weight of folly,  
 To the New with its hopes and fears,  
 To the Past for its vanished pleasure,  
 To the Present for joy appears.  
 Drink deep to the New with gladness,  
 To the Old with parting pain,  
 But once more fill up the sparkling cup  
 To the coming Monarch's reign.

One parting glass to the Old Year,  
 Drink slowly and whisper low.  
 With lowered head and heavy tread,  
 He slowly prepares to go.  
 He scarcely can find the doorway,  
 His vision is growing dim,  
 And dull on his ear  
 Falls the welcoming cheer,  
 To his rival coming in.

All hail to the glorious New Year,  
 With his handsome boyish face,  
 To his ringing laugh  
 Let us gayly quaff,  
 While the Old yields up his place,  
 Fill high to the guest most welcome,  
 With never a sigh nor tear  
 To the foaming brink,  
 Let the glasses clink  
 To the health of the sweet New Year.

## ETIQUETTE FOR GUESTS.

If there are certain rules of etiquette to be observed by the hostess, there are forms equally applicable to the guest.

In the first place, nothing is ruder than to omit paying your respects to the hostess immediately on entering the room. She may, perhaps, not be in sight at the time, but she should be sought and the proper greeting given. "I have not seen Mrs. Blank," said a gentleman, at a ball. "Not seen Mrs. Blank?" replied the lady to whom this was addressed; "why, you have been in her house half an hour. You should have spoken to her when you first entered." "I did not see her," was the reply. The speaker evidently did not realize that he had been guilty of a breach of etiquette. It is to be hoped that the stories are not true of persons ignoring entirely the host and hostess whose entertainments they have attended, considering it condescension enough to be present, without speaking to their entertainers. If guests are not personally acquainted with the host and hostess, who, for some reason, have invited them to their entertainment, they must either introduce themselves, or request some acquaintance present to introduce them.

After entering a room and speaking to the host and hostess, do not sink into the chair nearest at hand, and strive to get out of sight, but stand awhile and converse with the person near you; or, if a gentleman, request an introduction to some lady. On no account be a mere looker-on, "a grim, silent spectator at the feast." There is nothing more discouraging to a hostess than a room full of "dummies." We go into society as actors, not as spectators, and we owe it to society to make ourselves agreeable. There are people who, on entering a room, seem to bring sunshine in with them. Pleasant and affable, their

aim is to make themselves agreeable; and they always add their share to the pleasures of the occasion.

It is against the rules of polite etiquette to show, by word or look, that you do not think all of the guests on a social equality with yourself. To refuse an introduction or to draw around one's self the mantle of icy reserve, is, to say the least of it, in very bad taste; moreover, it is insulting to the hostess. Acquaintances thus made need not become visiting friends. Without being rude, a person can easily repel all attempts at intimacy with a casual acquaintance not deemed desirable.

It is very bad "form" for a guest to discuss any subject that may be disagreeable to the host and hostess and the other guests. Argumentative conversation is not the proper style for social occasions. At such times we must leave our prejudices and preferences at home, and accommodate ourselves to surrounding circumstances.

It is not etiquette to ask for anything that you do not see on the table. A lady at a dinner party asked the waiter for walnut catsup for her fish. There was none in the house, but the waiter hesitated about saying so. Her consternation was great when she saw him pulling open closet doors and side-board drawers, as if to find the desired article. At length he whispered in her ear that there was no walnut catsup in the house, but he could despatch a servant to buy it. She protested, and the matter was dropped, but she never again asked for anything that was not on the table. Neither is it etiquette to discuss the food, even if in a complimentary manner.

On leaving an entertainment, while taking leave of the hostess it is not customary to thank her for the invitation, but it is usual to express pleasure at having passed a pleasant time. Unless there is a general departure, the guest who is leaving does not approach the hostess to say farewell, as that may be construed into a hint to the rest of the company that it is time for them to depart also.

## A COBWEB PARTY.

To present this entertainment successfully requires some little expenditure of time on the part of the hostess, but she may easily find willing aids at this season of leisure. Let her first request a dozen or more of her friends to prepare some simple, inexpensive article of fancy work, or a small gift which may be purchased in a small country store, and let this be wrapped up carefully in a paper parcel or box. The only other requisite of the game is a supply of rather strong cord in long pieces, several balls of cord or twine may doubtless be found at the village store. Tie one of the prize packages firmly to one end of the cord, and, having secured a room which need not be opened until the entertainment begins, conceal the parcel in some easily found nook, perhaps behind a picture or under the table, or underneath the chair seat, taking care to fasten it well in its place of hiding. Now, as your ball of cord slowly unrolls, wind it about chair legs, door knobs, to the chandelier, the tops of picture frames, to curtain cornices and lambrequins, anywhere at all, but let it extend to all parts of the room, and when the line is of good length fasten the end to the door knob, for convenience, until the others are arranged. If you have several colors of cord, so much the better. Treat each package, whether full or empty, in the same way. A half-dozen ladies will arrange the cords together, and when you have prepared as many cords as you have invited guests, twining and intertwining them in every possible or impossible way, the room will look like a labyrinth of strong cobwebs. Very great care must be taken to