

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIAL PAGE

Edited jointly by Pierrot and Pierrette, chaperoned
by Madame Etiquette

These Explain Their Origin

Stealing One's Thunder

I discover any one exploiting my ideas or passing off as his own certain original remarks of mine, I say, "He is stealing my thunder." This expression was first used by John Dennis, an English dramatist, and the inventor of a piece of mechanism for producing stage thunder. He desired to have the manager of a London theatre put on one of his plays in which this thunder was to be used. The manager, however, declined to accept the play, but subsequently, in a representation of Macbeth, he used Dennis' thunder; whereupon the disappointed playwright exclaimed, "He refuses to take my play, but he steals my thunder."

Pin Money

When pins were first invented, they were so expensive that only the wealthy ladies could afford them, and it became customary, when a woman was married, to give her a certain sum of money with which to buy pins. This was known as her "pin money." The expression has survived to this day, although it now applies to a woman's spending money in general, as pins are no longer a luxury requiring a special appropriation.

Honeymoon

This expression, to designate the first few weeks of marriage, had its origin among the northern nations of Europe. To a great many persons nowadays the term "Honeymoon" signifies simply the wedding journey, and hence we hear the expression "On their honeymoon." This is departing from the actual meaning of the word "Honeymoon," which is made up of two words—"honey" and "moon" and means literally a moon or a month of sweetness.

Among the Norsemen of ancient Europe, it was the practice for a newly married couple to drink a specially prepared beverage or wine made from honey. This was their drink for thirty days after marriage, and consequently the first month of married life was called the honey-month, or honey-moon.

Mustaches

The custom of wearing mustaches originated in the time that the Christians were driving the Moors from Spain.

During that period many of the Moors became converts to Christianity, but in the frequent encounters that took place between the adherents of the two religions, it was often impossible to distinguish the Christian Moors from the Mohammedan Moors, and as a result many of these Moorish Christians, in the heat of battle, suffered at the hands of their Spanish brethren.

In order to avoid such dangerous mistakes, it was decided that all Christians should shave their beards, and wear the hair on their faces in such a way as to form, as nearly as possible, the figure of a cross. This was accomplished by allowing the hair to grow on the lip and the middle of the chin under the lower lip.

From this incident has come the custom of wearing the hair on the upper lip to the exclusion of the rest of the whiskers.

How Old Are You?

Here is a way to find any one's age: Ask the girl whose age you are to tell to take the number of the month in which she was born and multiply it by two. January is counted as number one, February is counted as number two, and so on through the year. To this product she must add five and multiply by fifty. To this last number she must add her present age and from the sum subtract the number of days there are in a year, or 365. All the work up to this point must be done by the girl without letting any one see her figures; but now you ask her to tell you what numbers she has found, and to that number you add 115. The result obtained by this last operation contains the information wanted. The two figures on the right will be the age sought, while the number to the left will give the month in which she was born. This trick never fails.

To Tell Fortunes by Means of Dominoes

Lay the dominoes face down on the table, and shuffle well. Then draw out one and place it face up; shuffle again, draw out another, and place it by the first, shuffle again, and draw out a third. Then say it is not well to draw more at this trial, nor for a week. Now look up the meanings of the three you have drawn and see what they predict.

Double-Six—a large sum of money.
Six-Five—a ball, or theatre party.
Six-Four—trouble over law-suits, which may be avoided.
Six-Three—a pleasant drive.
Six-Two—a new dress, or hat.
Six-One—some one needs your help.
Six-Blank—an enemy is slandering you.
Double-Five—a fortunate change of residence.

Five-Four—unexpected success in business.
Five-Three—a very wealthy visitor.
Five-Two—a pleasant excursion on the water.
Five-One—a love intrigue.
Five-Blank—a funeral, but not of a relative.
Double-Four—a journey and a dinner.
Four-Three—a false alarm of burglars at home.

Four-Two—danger from dishonest, unscrupulous persons.

Four-One—a dunning letter.
Four-Blank—a letter from an angry friend.
Double-Three—an unexpected wedding.
Three-Two—unlucky in games of chance.
Three-One—a wonderful discovery.
Three-Blank—sorrow and disgrace.
Double-Two—a jealous husband or wife.
Two-One—a valuable find.
Two-Blank—loss of money or valuable article.
Double-One—loss of a friend.
One-Blank—unexpected attentions.
Double-Blank—bad luck; trouble from an unexpected source.

If Your Birthday is This Month

Persons born between May 20th and June 21st, when the sun is in Gemini, are affectionate, generous and courteous, careless in money matters, and good in the arts and sciences. Pride of family, but not of wealth, distinguishes them. Their temperaments are nervous and unsettled, their opinions changeable, and their decisions timidly expressed. They can get beautiful results in their work without being able to explain how they do it. They are inclined to be suspicious and complaining, but given a responsibility or a duty to perform, they will straightway rise to the occasion. They are easily influenced by a handsome exterior, and often wreck their happiness in this way. They should strive for quiet, both of the body and spirit.

Persons born between June 21st and July 22nd, when the sun is in Cancer, are characterized by a sympathetic, persistent, and strong-willed nature; yet so sensitive that when their feelings are hurt, they lose interest in their work and possibly give it up entirely. Such persons are apt to have contradictory temperaments, being strong one minute and weak the next; capricious, changing their occupations and friends frequently; at one moment full of tact and at another, blunt to brutality. They love money and are very careful of it, but are apt to be lazy, fond of fine clothes, showing excellent taste; selfish and jealous, at the same time lovers of home, and have fine intellects and much executive ability.

Unselfishness

In conversation no man requires to practise unselfishness more than the silent man; for, as every one is able to contribute and should contribute something, so the man who thrusts himself into society to enjoy the talk of others, and will take no trouble to help, to suggest, or to encourage, is really serious offender. I have known a person of good position, and not the least wanting in brains, who would insist in sitting at dinner between the two most agreeable people in the room, in order that he might eat and listen, while under no circumstances would he make the smallest effort to entertain in return. These silent people not only take all they can get in society for nothing, but they take it without the smallest gratitude, and have the audacity afterward to censure those who have laboured for their amusement.

Games You Can Play

Indoors and Out Hanging

This game is played by two persons only. One thinks of a short word and writes on a paper a series of dashes, one for each letter in the word. Then, at the side of the paper, he draws a rude representation of a gallows. Thus prepared, he announces, for instance:

"I have a word of four letters. Can you tell me what one of them is?"

2nd Player—"Is it A?"
1st Player—"No." (He then draws the figure of a head suspended from the gallows.)

2nd Player—"Is it I?"

1st Player—"No." (Gives to the head, eyes, nose and a mouth.)

2nd Player—"Is it O?"

1st Player—"Yes." (Places an O under the second dash representing the word.) "Can you tell me another letter?"

2nd Player—"Is it M?"

1st Player—"No." (Draws a neck to the head.)

2nd Player—"Is it L?"

1st Player—"Yes." (Puts an L under the first dash.)

2nd Player—"Seeing the L and O together, 'Is the word 'love'?"

1st Player—"Yes, it is."

If the second player misses eight guesses, however, without discovering the word, he is

"hung," for, at the fourth failure a torso is added to the figure on the gallows; at the fifth, arms; the sixth, hands; the seventh, legs; and at the eighth, feet.

Instead of words, sentences or proverbs are sometimes guessed, the dashes representing the words to which the guesses are also confined.

Blowing Out the Candle

This is a very funny blind game. A candle is lighted and placed in position about the height of a person's head. A player is then placed a few feet from it, facing it, and, after being blindfolded and turned round three times, is told to take so many paces (however many it may be) and blow the candle out. The fun comes with the misdirected efforts of the blindfolded player.

Crooked Answers

Seat all the players in a circle. Then tell each in turn to whisper a question to his right-hand neighbour, giving a correct answer to his own question to the player at his left. In this way, every one receives an absurd combination which is repeated aloud, after all questions and answers have been given.

For example, A says to his right-hand neighbour, "Who taught you to sing so well?" and turning to the left, whispers as a reply "The leader of the frog orchestra." B, who heard the latter, has received from another source the question, "What is your favourite dish?" so when he repeats aloud what he has heard, he says: "I was asked 'what is your favourite dish?' and received for an answer, 'the leader of the frog orchestra,'" while the player at A's right says: "I was asked 'who taught you to sing so well' and received for an answer, 'six bottles of hop bitters.'"

You Can Amaze Your Friends With This Trick

Borrow a half-dollar from one of the company, wrap it up in a handkerchief, and request some one to hold it over a glass of water on the table. Hey, presto! The coin is dropped into the glass and heard to jingle. When the handkerchief is removed the half-dollar has disappeared, having been apparently dissolved in the water. Placing your hand under the table you produce the coin, which you declare has passed through the glass and tabletop. This exceedingly effective trick is accomplished by means of a glass disc of the same diameter as a half-dollar. The *modus operandi* is as follows: Borrow a half-dollar and while holding it in your hand, throw a handkerchief over it. Under cover of the handkerchief exchange the coin for the glass disc which you have concealed in your palm. Now get some one to hold the disc by its edges through the handkerchief, directly over the glass of water. Pronounce your magical phrase, and command your volunteer assistant to drop the half-dollar (disc) into the glass. The disc will be precipitated into the glass with a jingle that exactly simulates the falling of a genuine coin, and will adhere to the bottom of the glass, where it will not be seen. You may even pour out the water, but the disc, thanks to the power of suction, will remain in the same position, firmly attached to the drinking glass, which, of course, must have a flat bottom. After sufficient palaver, the genuine half-dollar may be reproduced from under the table or from the pocket of the volunteer assistant.

Riddles for the Other Person

What is the difference between an old penny and a new dime? Nine cents.

When will there be but twenty-five letters in the alphabet? When U and I are one.

Why is it impossible for a swell who lisps to believe in the existence of young ladies? Because he calls every miss a mith (myth).

What was Joan d'Arc made of? Maid of Orleans.

What is that which, by losing an eye, has nothing left but a nose? Noise.

Which nation produces the most marriages? Fascination.

What is the key-note of good manners? B natural.

Why do women make good post-office clerks? Because they know how to manage the mails (males).

If a tough beefsteak could speak, what English poet would it mention? Chaucer (chaw, sir).

What four letters of the alphabet would frighten a thief? O I C U (Oh! I see you).

How can a man make his money go a long way? By contributing to foreign missions.

Why is the letter S like thunder? It makes our cream, sour cream.

What is the best way to keep a man's love? Not to return it.

Why is Berlin the most dissipated city in Europe? Because it is always on the spree.

What is a good thing to part with? A comb.

Exploding Soap-Bubbles

This is a novelty, and will be found to produce a very good effect. The bubbles are blown in the usual way with an ordinary clay pipe, the only preparation necessary being that the bowl of the pipe must be filled with cotton-wool soaked in gasoline. Bubbles blown with a pipe thus prepared will be found to explode in a flame when approached with a light.

When We Showered Clara

A novel shower is an especially hard kind of party to plan. At a shower we want something original—something surprising both to the "showerers" and the "showeree." Recently I went to just such a party. The bride-to-be was lured away from the house and not brought back until eight-thirty. When the twenty girls arrived, each was asked to place her gift in an open trunk. Streamers of white crepe paper, two inches in width and cut in varied lengths, were attached to the top of the wide doorway—ten on the dining-room side and ten on the living-room side. The shortest, of course, were those farthest from the centre, and each was considerably longer than the one before.

The girls arranged themselves as for a Virginia Reel—ten in the dining-room and ten in the living-room, five couples standing opposite each other in each room. Then each girl took a streamer and held it high, making a regular canopy over the aisle down which Clara, the bride-to-be, must walk directly she came in the front door. The aisle led to a framed picture of her betrothed and a placard bearing the name of the town in which he lived. Each girl was provided with rose-leaf confetti with which she showered the guest of honour as she passed.

Small tables were then brought forth, each one accommodating four. Each guest was provided with a magazine, paste, scissors, and a booklet, and requested to make the "Life of the Bride" in pictures. The pages of the booklets were entitled "Her First Picture," "Her First Love," "Where They Met," and similar subjects. Then Clara was blindfolded, dressed in her hat, coat, and motor veil and taken to the centre of the large doorway. At her feet was placed the trunk, closed and strapped up, and upon all sides were band-boxes, bags, and suit cases. Each guest was then given a card and pencil and asked to give a suitable title to the pictures presented when Clara was unblindfolded. Some very clever titles were suggested and a prize given for the best. Clara was then permitted to sit upon the floor and empty the trunk. Afterward the guests returned to their places at the small tables, which had, in the meantime, been spread with toothsome dainties.

These Stories Will Bring a Good Laugh

"Ethel!" exclaimed a reproving mother to her small daughter. "How dare you speak to your father like that? Did you ever hear me speak in such a manner to him?"

"No," said Ethel, "but you choosed him, and I didn't."

A young husband who had not found married life exactly a path of roses, and who sincerely wished to prove to his wife the depth of his affection, went home one evening and said cheerily: "Well, Tilda, you can't guess what I have done to-day?"

"Made a fool of yourself, as usual," replied Tilda, ungraciously.

"That is as you look at it, dear one."

"Oh, John Henry," said the wife, "if you've done anything more than usually idiotic, out with it, and have done with it. What under creation have you been up to now?"

"Tilda, dearest, I have insured my life."

"Well," said the irate little woman, "I always knew you were mean! Insured your life, indeed! Ah! Always looking out for yourself first!"

At a social tea at which Lloyd George was present, the hostess, who had put the cream of her acquaintance on parade and quite expected and looked for effusive admiration from the great man, said to him as he was about to leave: "What do you think of afternoon tea?"

He replied in these four strikingly graphic words:

"It is giggle!—gabble—gobble—git!"

When Imagination Failed

A stout, elderly woman stopped a clerk in a book department and demanded a book suitable for a bridal couple and costing not more than twenty-five cents.

The clerk selected Henry Van Dyke's "The Pathway to Peace" and suggested that it would be the proper book for the bridal couple.

The customer took one look at the title, threw up her hands and exclaimed, "Oh, heavens, NO!"

A Fact

Willis: "What makes a man always give lady a diamond ring?"

Gillis: "The lady."