

what the usages of good society require. Young men not superior in other qualifications have outstripped him in the race because they had in mind and practised at all times those little kindly courtesies which custom demands.

A country in which the highest political and social positions are open to all should be, of all countries, one in which social culture is universal. In homes of refinement, children acquire it unconsciously. Unfortunately, in many homes the proprieties of life are often violated, and politeness is deemed a luxury to be reserved for strangers and formal occasions. Among the members of such households there is a lack of cheery greetings, of apologies for little errors, and thanks for little favors, of delicacy in matters which affect the sensibilities, and of gentleness in word and deed. Even children most fortunate in their home surroundings may acquire coarseness of manner from their contact with the ill-mannered during the susceptible period of school life.

In the school the manners of children are moulded, or at least influenced, in a large degree. The teacher should be a pattern of deportment. Example is the most effective teacher. Even the servants of the really refined are apt to exhibit a better deportment than citizens of influence whose ideas of propriety have been acquired only in a theoretical way.

By "school etiquette" is not meant a mere system of forms to be observed in the schoolroom. The spirit of etiquette is not to be limited to any room or place. True politeness springs from the heart. If the spirit of kindness and courtesy reigns in the individual, it will need only a few thoughtful suggestions here and there to guide specifically the outward conduct in the school, in church, in the parlor or office, or on the street.

Formerly it was deemed necessary

for public libraries to have conspicuously posted placards requesting gentlemen to remove their hats on entering. This is now generally discontinued, as an unneeded precaution, though we may still frequently see on the street-cars a printed request to passengers to keep their feet off the seats. Sometimes teachers post in their halls printed rules of propriety to be observed. Generally it will be found better to inculcate politeness in another way.

The expression of the countenance is an index to the spirit of the individual. "On entering a school," says Gow, "and examining the faces of the pupils, we are unconsciously drawn to some and repelled by others. Whence comes this difference? Looking around, we discover here a face wearing a pleasant but not an affected smile, while there sits one that cultivates a habitual frown, whose mouth and brows are rough, with a coarse expression of unloveliness. Here is one that bears a bright, intelligent countenance; he is a student, a thinker. There is one whose face never lights up with emotion. He does not care to learn. Here is one that wears a silly simper, that is ready to laugh at the slightest occasion, indicating a vacant, trifling character. Here is one who is full of affectation, whose mouth is moving in pretense of study, but whose eye is watching to see whether he is observed. Here is one who affects coarseness, who is abrupt and rude, whose manner indicates respect neither for himself nor for others. And there is a coward, who takes advantage of his teacher. Injustice may be done sometimes in thus forming an estimate of character from appearances. Yet as a rule we may distinguish intelligence, gentleness, and kindness from ignorance, coarseness, and brutality, by an inspection of the countenance. Habits of mind are stamped upon the face.