

betraying their cherished secret, that another egg has been born into the world.

With regard to others, not so entirely infatuated as those I have just described, I fear my efforts would produce no other results than to afflict society with a host of impertinents. Upon the introduction of long-bodied coats, these disciples of mine would deem it necessary to appear in the streets with their waists in close proximity to their shoulders. They would patiently endure the inconvenience of wearing their hats in company, because others had laid theirs aside. Instead of simply omitting the usual formulæ in their epistolary correspondence, they would insert in their place some piece of silly impertinence. Observing their master taste of wine, they would incontinently inbibe to intoxication.

Such characters, too, are generally not content with harmless folly; they must act in such a manner, that their manifest imbecility, and the patience of their victims, alone protect them from personal chastisement. I may surely wipe my boots on some other place than a lady's dress, or even the carpet, without forfeiting my character for independence. I allow an individual to make what silent grimaces he pleases; for though his actions offend me, I am under no necessity to stare at him, and can at once avoid all discomfort by looking in another direction; but if he persist in making all sorts of unnecessary and unpleasant noises, I may justly complain of his conduct, for I cannot conveniently stop my ears. He is a nuisance, and one that ought to be abated. If, however, I have approached him unnecessarily, and without special invitation, I have brought my calamities upon my own head, and must sustain or escape them as best I may.

I may also state further, lest, *volens volens*, I attract followers who will cite my example as authority for any rudeness they may commit, that though I claim entire exemption from the laws of Fashion, yet if I freely and voluntarily obtrude myself upon the notice of any individual, I am censurable if I offend him by any unnecessary negligence in my attire; neither have I reason to complain of being excluded from circles in which the rules of etiquette are avowedly strict, if I refuse to submit to their dictation.

When I attend a place of worship, I feel bound to conduct myself with propriety, as the term is understood in that particular locality. If kneeling be the usual posture of adoration, I kneel—if standing, I stand, however unnecessary or absurd I may esteem the ceremony; unless, indeed, my religious convictions render my withdrawal a breach of duty, and compel me to a particular observance; I then claim to follow my convictions, so long as I do not transgress the bounds of common decency.

Perhaps some enthusiastic votary of freedom will experience a wrathful contempt for my system of ethics, as here laid down; describing it as commencing with a promising prelude, but terminating in a strain not far removed from absolute submission to the conventionalisms of modern society. But I would have the irate