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COURTESSETTES.

It seems to me that if I were called upon to address the students of a college for young ladies, I might make a suggestive and profitable talk on the subject of *courtesettes*. Perhaps the much-discussed new woman is coming—perhaps she is already here; but whether the woman of the living present be new or old, she must still have in her charge a large part of the courtesies of life, and especially the small courtesies, which may be called the *courtesettes*. That all women feel courteous is proved by the fact that they never violate the larger courtesies, even in their conduct toward one another; but it is observable that they frequently neglect the smaller ones—probably because no college maintains a professorship of courtesy, and the *courtesettes* have not been sufficiently defined. One of the fundamental principles that should be thoroughly fixed in the mind of every woman, because it determines many *courtesettes*, is this: That when she goes abroad from her home she must either escort herself or be escorted. This seems like a very simple proposition, and yet I know scores of women who do not comprehend it. They never have said to themselves, and it has never been said to them, that, if they accept a gentleman as an escort, they must let him do the escorting—that, to put it in military form, they must obey his orders. Almost any gentleman who reads this paragraph will recognize this expectation: You escort a lady to the railway station for the purpose of taking care of her baggage and putting her on board the train. You enter a car, followed by her, and indicate a seat for her to occupy. Instead of taking it at once, she looks forward, sees another empty seat which she imagines to be better (though the thirty-two seats are all exactly alike), and tells you she would rather have that one. So, good-naturedly, you proceed; but before you can reach the coveted seat it is occupied by people coming in at the other end of the car. Then the lady turns back to take the one you had selected for her, and is just in time to see strangers dropping into that also. Then she stands still and looks at you with a sad face which says, "Is this the way you escort a lady entrusted to your care?" The trouble in this and many similar cases arises from the fact that her mother never has taught her the law of escort, and the supposed emancipation and independence of woman is a little wild in its first workings. Her mother should have told her that when her escort selects a seat she should take it at once, unquestioningly, no matter if she considers it the very worst in the whole train. If the escort is her husband, the remedy is readily found in a subsequent curtain lecture; if not, she need never accept his services again. Whoever he is, she has no right to accept them and then put him to confusion in public. The same offense is often committed in a lecture-hall, where it is even more annoying to it consists in the lady's stopping to speak with acquaintances, while her escort goes ahead down the aisle in good faith, supposing that she is following, arrives at a good seat near the front, turns about, and finds her *non est*. When she accepted his escort, the implied contract was that he was to lead and she was

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