

been canvassed among them, and set quietly down to be another of the incomprehensible ways of the foreigners."

The national salutation of welcome and farewell in Iceland is a kiss. In "Letters from High Latitudes," the Earl of Dufferin mentions the following incident: "Turning round to Fitz, I whispered that I always understood that it was the proper thing in Iceland for travellers departing on a journey to kiss the ladies who had been good enough to entertain them, little imagining that he would take me at my word. Guess then my horror when I suddenly saw him, with an intrepidity I envied but dared not imitate, first embrace the mamma by way of prelude, and then proceed in the most natural manner possible to make the same tender advances to the daughter. I confess I remained dumb with consternation; the room swam around before me. I expected the next minute we should be packed, neck and crop, into the street, and that the young lady would have gone off in hysterics. It turned out, however, that such was the very last thing she was thinking of doing. With a simple frankness that became her more than all the boarding-school graces in the world, her eyes dancing with mischief and good humor, she met him half way, pouting out two as rosy lips as ever might be the good fortune of one of us creatures to receive. From that moment I determined to conform to the custom of the inhabitants."

It has been often stated that the Laplanders touch noses when they meet. This, however, appears to be a misconception. At all events, Mr. Vincent, who has been already quoted, states that the women embrace and that the men shake hands in the ordinary way.

The cab-men of London have a method peculiarly their own for saluting their fel-

lows and acquaintances. Frequently no word is spoken but the whip-stock is elevated in a most precise and dexterous manner—so dexterously, indeed, do they do this that they can be successfully imitated only after considerable practice.

It is not necessary to dwell upon such ordinary salutations as "Good morning," or, "How do you do?" Their chief merit lies, perhaps, in their brevity. Nor is more than a mere mention required for those we use on special occasions, such as "Merry Christmas," and "Happy New Year." Suffice it to say that we regard them both as expressive and appropriate. During the first century of the Christian era there was another special salutation. We are told that when Christians met on Easter, they greeted one another with the words, "The Lord is risen indeed." Apparently the custom soon passed away, but while it was in vogue it was quite as appropriate as our salutations at Christmas or the New Year.

There is one form of salutation which savors of rudeness and vulgarity. A quotation from Cowper will be sufficient to explain and to dispose of it without further comment.

"The man who hails you Tom or Jack,
And proves by thumps upon your back
How he esteems your merit,
Is such a friend, that one had need
Be very much his friend indeed
To pardon or to bear it."

There is another form of greeting which savors of sanctimoniousness. In "Lectures to My Students," the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon says that he was once at Rome, and there he saw two monks meet. One said in a grave, sad tone, "Brother, we must die," and the other responded in the same sepulchral voice, "Yes, brother, we must die." Now while it may be necessary to be reminded often of the nearness and certainty of death,