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## MABEL'S CHITCHAT

We're Going Some In Stationery Styles This Autumn.

SCARLET PAPER, YELLOW INK.

A Silence Luncheon Actually Enjoyed by Twelve Women—Heaps of Fun Until Unexpected Guest Arrived and Complicated Matters a Trifle.

Dear Elsa—Talk about freak fashions in clothes, why, they're saneness itself compared to the latest atrocities in stationery! To bear out this statement, I wish you could behold a letter I've just received from Paris, written by a tremendously smart girl who is always to be depended upon for being in the swim—that is, in the fashion "know."

I realize, dear, that it has not been so very many years since we were taught no "real lady" ever used anything eccentric in writing materials. Nowadays things are different, perhaps not so much here as across the water.

You should see the very latest in French stationery. My letter from "dear Pares" would make you shudder with horror. It is penned with orange ink on purple paper, and the envelope is lined with orange. Orange ink and purple paper—think of it!

My fair correspondent tells me that some people affect white ink on pale blue paper. Imagine how difficult it must be to read an epistle constructed by such means. Scarlet paper and yellow ink is another stationery monstrosity. In each and every case, of course, the envelope lining and the sealing wax match the ink.

I do wish, Elsa dear, you could have been one of a luncheon party I gave last week to Natalie S., who is to be married to one of Dick's best friends in a few days. It was a "silence party," and I invited twelve of the young married set to meet the bride to be, and I asked each of the twelve to bring with them two of their best recipes; also a great fund of silence and a small supply of pennies.

When my guests arrived I told them to do all their talking before luncheon, because it was planned to eat the meal in complete silence and whoever broke the rule would be fined a penny.

I didn't go to any great bother about decorating the table—simply used a smooth white cloth with as much of it visible as possible. When the girls were seated I let escape a mechanical mouse which I had concealed under one hand. There was a chorus of shrieks and laughter as the mouse glided across the table, and a box was passed for the pennies.

As soon as order was restored it looked as though luncheon was going to be served to only half the guests, for the maid passed empty plates to some of them, and to others were served artificial fruit, eggs and the like.

Under the table I had fastened a loud gong that I rang violently, ostensibly to summon the maid, but really

to startle the girls into breaking the silence. For fifteen minutes everything was done to surprise a laugh or exclamation, and then the ban was lifted, and a nice little meal was given to the jolly bunch.

The place cards, which also served as favors, were printed mottoes praising silence and had the guests' names written on the margins. The fines were used to buy a cookbook for the honored guest and also a leather covered book, into which were pasted the recipes brought by the guests.

We had heaps of fun, and the only thing that marred the serenity of the occasion—that is, for me—was the unexpected presence of a "brought." A "brought" is a friend of a friend who comes in at the appointed luncheon, dinner or whatever the festivity may be, at the last minute.

Mary B. played this nice little surprise on me at the party last week. She came in smiling, dragging a reluctant girl with her, and held out her hand to me, saying rather foolishly:

"My dear Mabel, I am sure you are delighted to have me bring my friend Miss X. to luncheon. She dropped in suddenly from Chicago just as I was starting this afternoon."

What could I do but greet them with the smile of a Cheshire cat and tell Miss Chicago how charmed I was to have her join the little party, all the while making a mental calculation as to how on earth I was to shift the table and accommodate the odd number? Only the highest intellects can rise above the mist that surrounds a "brought," and my personality, I admit, was not strong enough to overcome a prejudice against that girl's existence just then.

In justice to "broughts" I will say that, as a rule, they are only too willing to avail themselves of Solomon's admonition:

"Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbor's house lest he weary of thee and so hate thee."

Speaking of invitations reminds me of something I read recently in this connection about George Bernard Shaw, who, you know, dislikes to be a guest at promiscuous feasts.

Lady Randolph Churchill, not being aware of this peculiarity, asked him to dinner. By way of reply G. B. S. sent the following telegram:

Certainly not. Why should I be asked to break the habit of a lifetime now?

The witty hostess rose to the occasion by sending this wire:

Know nothing about your habits. Hope they are not as bad as your manners.

My manners in discussing my guests are as bad as the great Englishman's, but you, dear, will pardon your old chum,

MABEL.

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### Her Only Thought.

The late Duke of Sutherland, who was the largest landowner in Europe, had at Dunrobin castle a small private railway line and often amused himself by driving the engine.

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He was driving his little train one afternoon when he ran down an old woman. She was not seriously hurt—the amateur engineer never went very fast—and after ten or fifteen minutes she came to.

Her first words were these: "Is the duke very angry?"

### Answered.

"Do you dance on your toes, Miss Quickwit?"

"Never, Mr. Clumsey. Other people do that for me."

And he didn't know just what she meant until he tried to get another dance with her.

### Financial Rabies.

"Your husband, my dear woman, has financial rabies."

"But, doctor, he has never, so far as I know, been bitten by a dog. I don't understand you."

"He's money mad."—Detroit Free Press.

### She Speaks Out.

"You aren't earning very much."

"But, my darling, two can live as cheaply as one."

"I don't yearn to live cheaply, young man."—St. Louis Republic.

### Belated Remarks.

Bix—Doesn't your wife say anything when you go out evenings? Dix—Not much; she reserves the bulk of her remarks for me when I get home.—Boston Transcript.

### Paw Knows Everything.

Willie—Paw, why do they say that all the world is a stage? Paw—Because those who can't get in the spotlight act as critics, my son.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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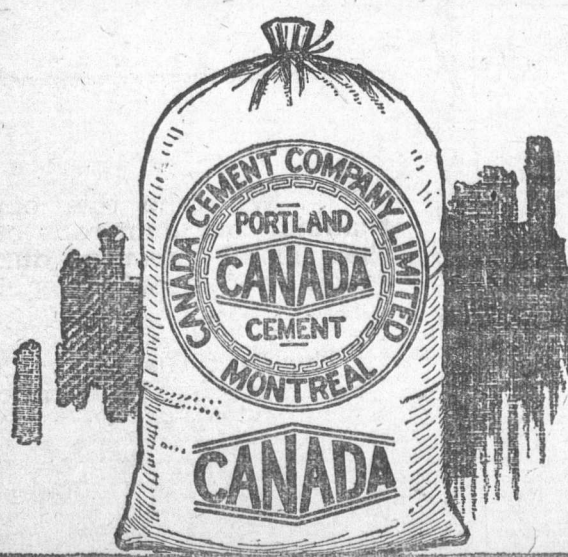
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