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The Nut-Shell.

"MULTUM IN PARVO."

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THE NUT-SHELL

A Monthly Journal of General Information for the Masses.

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This miniature journal is printed from the smallest type ever manufactured, being cast and imported from Europe expressly for this publication. It is a marvel of mechanical skill, and a fair index of the rapid advancement of the typographical art. This, and future numbers, should be carefully preserved as they will prove not only a curiosity, but will furnish for reference a large amount of valuable information not to be obtained elsewhere.

"NUT-SHELL" GOSSIP.

I HAVE heard so much about myself during the past few weeks while being carried around in everybody's pocket, that in presenting myself once more to the critical public I am constrained to talk a little about myself, although natural modesty forbid me saying some things which I have heard. When I made the statement last month that I was the smallest production from movable type ever issued from the press in this or any other country I was laughed at by not a few of the "smart ones," and told that I was old enough to grow a beard. The principal argument against my claim to originality seemed to be that the Toronto *Mail* and some other metropolitan papers had been produced from type just as small. I was aroused on hearing such remarks at the gullibility of the public, and although my voice was too weak to enter any protest at the time I take his opportunity of removing the cobwebs from the eyes of my critics, and trust that it will save me the annoyance of being grossly maligned hereafter. Several prominent journalists throughout Canada and the United States have issued *fac similie* productions of their respective journals, not from type, however, but through the process of photography, the original paper having been reduced to miniature by this process and transferred to stone by the lithographer for printing. Therefore as not a single line of type has been used in *similar* publications I cannot permit myself to be classed in the same category, and hope this will be an end to the matter.

I have already gained the reputation for having a very *pretty face*, and phylognomists say they can read it like an open book. The girls—my special favorites—say the very sweetest things about me, and always carry me near the upper left-hand corner of their left side. They handle me very carefully and always show me to their beau-ideal, that is, of course when the gas is not turned too low.

I have felt considerably amused on many occasions when some class of society who are "not as young as they used to be" make the attempt to read me. They would don their eye-glasses, seek sunlight at me, hold me close, then at arm's length, and at last apparently strike the proper focus, and affirm in the graves possible way that they could read every word as "plain as could be," while at the same time I know they couldn't tell whether I was the production of the industrious bee or merely that the warm days of August or the handiwork of the Printer's devil.

This month I present you with an entirely new programme and will endeavor to keep you interested in me. I want to make as many friends as possible, and should you not happen to meet me on the street, you know where I am to be found. Call around and see me and do your shopping at the same time. *Au revoir.*

THE NUT-SHELL.

SOMETHING ABOUT LONDON.

Every four minutes marks a birth in the next two hours after you read this thirty babies have been born and twenty deaths will have taken place. Think of it! The evening paper that records the births and deaths of the preceding four-and-twenty hours must give 200 separate items. Verily, its joys and sorrows are a multitude.

London has 7,000 miles of streets, and if you walked them at the rate of twenty miles a day you would have to walk almost a year, and more than a year by nearly fifty days if you should rest on Sundays. And if you were a thirsty sort of a traveller and couldn't pass a public house you'd be alarmed, the 7,000 miles have five-and-seventy miles of public houses, so you need not think of thirst.

In a year London folks swallow down 500,000 cows, 2,000,000 sheep, 200,000 calves, 200,000 swine, 8,000,000 head of fowls, 500,000,000 pounds of fish, 500,000,000 oysters, 200,000,000 lobsters—is that enough for you? If not, there are some million tons of canned provisions, no end of fruit and vegetables, and 50,000,000 bushels of wheat. But you may wash all the food down you might feel glad to know. It takes 200,000,000 quarts of beer. Not more than this, they drink 10,000,000 quarts of rum and 50,000,000 quarts of wine, the wine, the rum, the beer, 220,000,000 quarts.

WHAT A LEMON WILL DO

Lemonade made from the juice of the lemon is one of the best and safest drinks for any person, whether in health or not. It is suitable for all stomach disease, excellent in sickness, in cases of jaundice, gravel, liver complaint, inflammation of the bowels and fever. It is a specific against worms and skin complaints. The pippin crushed may be used with sugar and water and taken as a drink. Lemon juice is the best antiscorbutic remedy known. It not only cures the disease, but prevents it. Sailors make daily use of it for this purpose. We advise every one to rub their gums with lemon juice to keep them in a healthy condition. The hands and nails are also kept clean, white, soft and supple by the daily use of lemon instead of soap. It also prevents chilblains. Lemon is used in intermittent fevers, mixed with strong, hot, black coffee, without sugar. Scurvy, it is said, may be cured by rubbing the part affected with a cut lemon. It is valuable also to cure warts. It will remove dandruff by rubbing the roots of the hair with it. It will alleviate and finally cure, coughs and colds, and heal diseased lungs if taken hot on going to bed at night. Its uses are manifold, and the more we employ it internally the better we shall find ourselves. A doctor in Rome is trying it experimentally in malarial fevers with great success, and thinks it will supersede quinine.

DEPORTMENT IN SOCIAL INTERCOURSE.

BOTH our comfort and our success in life depend largely on our personal deportment towards those with whom we come in contact. And in social matters, even the smallest points are worthy of the closest attention on the part of the most gifted. It has been truly said that "trifles make up the sum of human life." If the fate of empires sometimes hinges on the slightest circumstance, much more the welfare of a single human being. Learning and intellect are of priceless value. But even the scholar and the genius cannot afford to ignore the minor courtesies of social intercourse. And, while true politeness is the native expression of a warm and generous heart, and the basis of all genuine culture, there are many social customs and usages which are purely conventional, and can only be acquired from books, and from actual intercourse with people of intelligence, refinement and thorough cultivation.

Our space here will permit an exhaustive discussion of social etiquette. But we hope to present, in a very concise and convenient form, the most essential rules of good breeding, as recognized by the best authorities, and in the highest circles. These will be given under distinct headings, for convenient reference on all occasions.

Etiquette of Introductions.

Before introducing strangers, it is well to ascertain whether the acquaintance is mutually desired, or not. In ordinary cases, a gentleman should not be presented to a lady until the latter has given distinct permission. Illegal introductions are embarrassing. Where there is difference of rank, or position, the person of lower status should be introduced to him who holds the higher place. A lady should never be introduced to a gentleman. Courtesy gives the precedence to ladies in all cases. The younger person should be introduced to the elder.

No parade of words is necessary to an introduction. It is enough to say, "Mr Thompson, permit me to introduce Mr Brown." Then, turn to the other friend, say, "Mr Brown, Mr. Thompson." The two gentlemen will then shake hands and exchange some courteous remark, or merely bow.

The same form will be observed in presenting a gentleman to a lady, but your bow to the lady should be more pronounced and deferential. It will be sufficient for the lady to bow.

When the person introduced is famous for some achievement or discovery, it is proper to couple his claim to special recognition with the name which it ennobles.

Introductions do not oblige the persons introduced to continue the acquaintance. When you are introduced to a lady at the house of a friend, it will be at her option subsequently to recognize you or not, as she may prefer.

The democratic usages of the United States entitle you to call on the President, or on the Governor of your own State, at any public reception, merely handing your card to the usher of ceremonies. But a private interview with either should be sought through some Senator or representative of your acquaintance, who will arrange the matter for you.

More ceremony is required at all foreign courts. Should you visit Windsor Castle when Queen Victoria is there, and desire and interview, it would be necessary to see the Canadian Minister and obtain credentials of the gentleman. Then, when these are submitted to Her Majesty, a special time will be designated for your presentation. And this is done with much form and ceremony.

Etiquette of Salutations

All countries have distinctive forms of salutation. In some parts of the world, noses are gravely rubbed together. In this country the prevalent salutations are bowing, raising the hat, graceful motions of the hands, shaking hands, words appropriate to the occasion, and kissing. The last, however, is sacredly reserved for near and dear friends.

Gentlemen introduced to each other will extend and grasp right hands for a moment. To present a passive hand, or one or two fingers, is an insolent assumption of superiority. Continuing to hold and shake the hand, as though a lease of it had been taken, is rather embarrassing.

A gentleman, introduced to a young lady should not extend his hand unless the lady takes the initiative.

Do not grasp hands as though to wrench your muscular power. A brief, firm grasp will suffice.

Should a lady bow to a gentleman on the street, he should raise his hat, bow slightly and pass on.

Ladies should not ordinarily stop in the street to speak to gentlemen friends. But when a lady thinks it necessary to do so, the gentleman accosted must pause.

Ladies, in their own houses, are expected to extend the right hand to every guest they receive.

When shaking hands with a lady, a gentleman is not permitted to press her hand.

You may not remember a person who bows to you on the street, or he may have blundered in thinking he knew you. But politeness requires you to return his salute.

In meeting friends in public places, salute them with quiet courtesy, and not in a loud, boisterous tone.

Etiquette of Dress.

The golden rule in dress is to avoid extremes, while you conform, on the whole, to the prevailing fashions. Do not affect fashions that are radically unbecoming to you, and avoid all eccentricities of dress. Do not choose garments that would render you conspicuous. Let it be your aim to dress in accordance with your means and your social position. Ladies who are not rich, but whose tastes are cultivated, can always appear well dressed, at a moderate expense, by proper care in the choice and arrangement of materials. The style and fit of a garment is more important than the cost of the fabric.

Home dresses, and those for the church or the promenade, should be quiet and modest, while those for the opera, for dinner parties, or other public occasions, may be richer and more elaborate. It is only with these more costly dresses that expensive ornaments should be worn. The ostentatious exhibition of jewelry is in wretched taste.

Neat and tasteful coverings for the head, feet and hands are specially important, and indicate a cultivated taste. When going from home, immaculate linen is indispensible.

A gentleman may wear a shrewdlare cost, but his linen must not be soiled nor his garments untidy.

Etiquette of Calls.

What are termed morning calls are made between noon and 5 p.m. *Evening* calls are made between 7 and 9 p.m. Informal calls may be prolonged until 10 p.m. With intimate friends the visit may be extended beyond that hour, but care should be taken not to make it tiresome to your entertainers.

In calling on any person in a hotel or boarding-house, it is customary to