

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES.

FROM A HIGH OFFICIAL'S DIARY.

We really must give a ball now to our fellow-citizens—and esses—or subjects, or whatever the right name for them is. We can't put it off any longer. It is a nuisance having to spend any of my salary on it, although when I come to think of it, it is mainly for the very purpose of hospitable entertainment that the pay is given to me. Well, I shall do it decently, as we have to do it. I shall take care that there will be plenty of good music—good champagne—a good floor, pretty faces, and a cheery host and hostess.

FROM A CLERICAL DIARY.

I must try and break myself off that foolish habit of arranging the markers in the Bible and Prayer Book in church for the lessons, etc., just two minutes before the bell stops. It must give the false impression to the congregation that I have such a quantity of work to get through that I have only managed to get a moment of leisure, literally "at the eleventh hour." A horrid thought obtrudes itself: They may think I do it to show off my cassock!... I wonder is there anything I can do to make the choir sing better, and not "fancy" themselves so much in ornate chants quite beyond their power.... I do so hate making myself obnoxious to others; think I'll let it slide, but cannot it be true that they talk all the way down the aisle, and discuss the latest burglary, or wedding? Perhaps they have forgotten that the church was consecrated. They are all such kindly and helpful people that if I preach another sermon to them on reverent behavior in church, I feel sure they will assume a virtue, even if they have it not.

FROM A LAWYER'S CLERK'S DIARY.

I must try and remember that it is not generally considered to be good manners to keep on my hat and to continue sitting at ease in my chair when a lady client of my employer comes in to ask if Mr. — is disengaged. I committed these two sins the other day. I shall try and be doubly polite to her the next time she comes to the office.

JAM.

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