

#### Diplomatic Courtesies.

A very interesting article might be written on the rights of diplomats, and on the rights of the governments sending and receiving such representatives. But only a few general principles can be mentioned here. In the first place, the diplomats sent by each of two countries to the other should be of the same rank. Great Britain sends an Ambassador to Turkey, and Turkey sends an Ambassador to England.

The highest rank of American foreign Ministers is that of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, and, accordingly, no Ambassador, which is the highest rank in diplomacy, is sent to Washington by any government.

Again, the government to which a Minister is accredited has a right to refuse to receive him, and, if the reason be a personal one, the government which sends him need not take offense. In 1861 the Austrian Government refused to receive Mr. Anson Burlingame, who afterward did good service as American Minister to China, but no offense was taken, and the historian Motley was appointed Minister to Vienna.

Moreover, if a Minister has been received, it is the right of the government near which he is serving to ask that he be recalled, at any time. The United States Government has more than once taken this course—the most notable case having been during Washington's administration, when M. Genet, the French Minister, had behaved himself with intolerable insolence.

But, on the other hand, if the government whose Minister is thus virtually sent home regards the reasons of his dismissal as insufficient, the retaliation takes the form of leaving the mission vacant. The other government soon recalls its own Minister, and diplomatic relations between the two countries are suspended. If some time elapses before Mr. Sargent's place at Berlin is filled, it may be expected that an excuse will be found for withdrawing the German Minister from Washington.

So long as a Minister remains at a court, and the relations between his own government and that to which he is accredited are friendly, he is entitled to all the official courtesies which are extended to the representatives of any government. To withhold one of these would be more than a slight—it would be an insult to the government from which the Minister came.

Yet, outside of the purely formal courtesies there are offered opportunities to a sovereign or a foreign Minister to show special friendliness, or the reverse. For example, Prince Bismarck was forced, by diplomatic usage, to invite Mr. Sargent to the dinner which he gave to all the foreign Ministers at Berlin on the Emperor's birthday. But, while he shook hands with all his other guests, he put off Mr. Sargent with a courteous bow.

The late Emperor Napoleon was an adept at this sort of business. At his New Year's receptions he graded his reception of the different Ministers according to his disposition toward their respective governments, and his smiles, nods, and frowns were reported by telegraph all over Europe.

Prince Bismarck seems to have succeeded him in this trick, but it would be absurd for any one in America to be angry simply because a testy old man shows a lack of good-breeding.—*Youth's Companion*.

#### Keen Observation.

A man is never so much impressed with his wife's power of discernment as when he goes home drunk and attempts to play sober. As a rule, the man has only taken one drink. He doesn't understand why one drink should make him drunk, but after a while he acknowledges that he did take two drinks, but the last one was so small that he had forgotten it.

When Mr. Harvey Blades, a well-known official of Arkansas, went home, he had reached that close observing stage of intoxication when a man stops and minutely examines the most unimportant objects and makes wise comments. In this state of drunkenness, a man takes notice of every household article. Every chair demands a certain amount of attention. After sitting down with studied gravity, Mr. Harvey Blades noticed a feather lying on the floor. He debated for a while whether or not it would be an illustration of sobriety to remove it, and remembering that he had often seen his wife pick feathers from the carpet after having jammed the pillows in making the bed, he arose, took up the feather, examined it a moment, raised a window and threw it out. This performance did not entirely satisfy him, for in his mind there lurked a suspicion that his wife might fancy him to be drunk. In looking around for another test he discovered the water-bucket. He knew that to bring fresh water, beyond a doubt, would settle the question of his sobriety, so he took up the bucket and went out to the well. Feeling around and not finding the "moss-covered bucket," but deciding that it must be at the bottom of the well, he began to turn the windlass. For fifteen minutes he turned the crank. "Deepest well I ever saw," he mused, and continued to grind. After awhile his wife came out and said:

"Harvey, what in the name of common sense are you doing?"

"Tryn' to draw bucket water. Deepest well I ever saw. Grindin' for hour, bucket not up yet."

"Why, don't you know that we had the well cleaned out, and that the bucket has been taken off? Come on away. You are as drunk as a fool."

"Keenes' observation I ever saw," said the gentleman to himself. "Never saw thing like it."—*Arkansas Traveler*.

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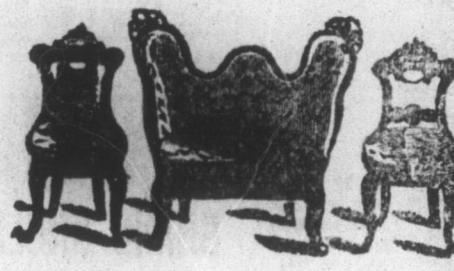
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