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A Democratic Pope

Everybody speaks well of the Pope. He is beloved by all, which is remarkable, in view of the many breaches of etiquette of which he has been accused since he came to the Vatican. His liberal views on such matters, however, are gradually convincing those who would wish to rule the Vatican according to the strictest form of etiquette, and to-day it is a real pleasure to find that when you visit the Pontiff you are made at once feel at home.

While he was Archbishop of Mantua and afterward Patriarch of Venice the Pope always went about in the simplest manner. In Venice he always rode in the gondolas and public conveyances, and could frequently be seen in the public parks, strolling among the people, chatting with them on the current topics of the day.

He is fast doing away with many forms of etiquette which have endured for centuries. For instance, a visitor had always to genuflect three times upon coming into the presence of the Pope; first, upon crossing the threshold, then when half-way, then at the Pope's side. You then kissed the cross upon his right slipper, and remained kneeling all the time you were in his presence.

This Pope will have none of it. He invariably comes to greet you and will then go and get a chair for you and chat in good old fashion, making you feel at home immediately. It naturally shocked all within the Vatican, but they are getting used to it now.

An amusing incident occurred when a diplomat called recently, expecting, of course, all the old forms. He was surprised at first by the change, but soon recovered himself, had his interview, and was departing.

In the old form you always bowed yourself out of the Pope's presence, out as Pius X. went to the door arm in arm with the diplomat, talking the while, he did not have the chance to bow. At the threshold he turned to genuflect, and to his surprise found the Pope rearranging the chairs about the room in the most matter of fact way. The Pope smiled and the diplomat retired amazed.—St. John Monitor.

PENNINGS AND PICKINGS

There is no dart capable of inflicting a deeper wound to the heart than an unkind word, and all the repentance will not serve to erase the searing. Be careful, therefore, and shun unkind words always.

Explained—Anette; Why did you accept Jack instead of Tom? Jack, you know, has nothing, and Tom has half a million. Eloise: Well, if you must know, Jack asked me and Tom didn't.

Teacher (opening second object lesson on the cat)—can you tell me to what family the cat belongs, Jones? Jones (after a little hesitation)—I think it belongs to the family that owns it.

Mother—You have disobeyed me, Tommy.— Didn't I say no when you asked me for another piece of cake? Tommy—Well, don't you think I know what a woman's 'No' means.

Bobby—Pop, did you know mamma very well before you married her? Hempeck—No, I'm afraid not.

Few of us manage to keep pace with our good intentions.

Some men owe more to their wives than they ever get paid.

The longer a woman has been married the less hairpins she uses in doing up her hair.

Before admiring a girl's hands, because they are soft white, ask to see her mother's.

It takes a bachelor with money to exterminate the weeds from a young widow's bonnet.

He who looks for gratitude in return for every favor spoils the fine flavoring of his kindly deeds.

Woman will always be a conundrum, but the man who is willing to give her up isn't worthy of the name.

The best sermon is that which prompts the heart to do the most thinking for itself.

Of almsgiving, as of giving advice, it may be said its value depends on the way in which it is done.

'O'Toole—Muldoon struck his wife with a stick. McKick—Is he in jail? 'O'Toole—No, he's in th' horespittle.

Gunner—I saw a cane that could be converted into a chair. Guyer—That's nothing. I saw a table that could be carried in the pocket. Gunner—You must be joking. What kind of a table was it? Guyer—A time-table.

'Jock, aw've mair than twa hunder banes in ma body,' said a juvenile Scot anxious to air his knowledge. To which Jock responded, 'Aw daur say! Look at the herrin' ye've eaten!'

Dowber—I am glad it is good form not to wear a watch with a dress suit. Upper—'Why?' Downer—'Because I never have had my watch and my dress suit at the same time.'

Tom—So you think you need a wife? Jack—Yes. Well, nothing but marriage will dispel that illusion.

'Do you think his books have anything of the selling quality?' 'Oh, yes; every person who buys one is sure to be sold.'

People who have nothing to do sometimes think they are the busiest.

He—'Worth half a million, isn't he?' She—'Yes; but otherwise he's worthless.'

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