

the parties, she says: "This is Mr. Harmon, Mrs. Enfield. It gives me pleasure to present him to you." The married lady replies according to her feeling, and, of course, in terms of polite conversation. If she is pleased to know Mr. Harmon, she says so cordially and frankly, at the same time thanking the presentee, who withdraws at once.

A young lady in the same circumstances, politely recognizes the gentlemen, bows and smiles, using the name of the new acquaintance. The gentleman alone can express gratification, adding such compliments as the occasion seems to demand. The introduced parties may be as friendly as they please, but excessive cordiality on first acquaintance is not to be commended.

The etiquette of hand-shaking is simple. A man has no right to take a lady's hand till it is offered. He has even less right to pinch or retain it. Two ladies shake hands gently and softly. A young lady gives her hand, but does not shake a gentleman's, unless she is his friend. A lady should always rise to give her hand; a gentleman, of course, never dares to do so seated. On introduction in a room, a married lady generally offers her hand, a young lady not.

In a ball-room, where the introduction is to dancing, not to friendship, you never shake hands, and as a general rule, an introduction is not followed by shaking hands, only by a bow. It may perhaps be laid down that the more public the place of introduction, the less hand-shaking takes place; but if the introduction be particular, if it be accompanied by personal recommendation, such as, "I want you to know my friend Jones," or, if Jones comes with a letter of presentation, then you give Jones your hand, and warmly too. Lastly, it is the privilege of a superior to offer or withhold his or her hand, so that an inferior should never put his forward first.