

If the difference in age between two ladies or two gentlemen be unmistakable, the younger is presented to the elder. If there is an admitted superiority, the disparity in age is unobserved. The unknown person is presented to the man of greater fame without question.

The single lady is introduced to the married lady, and the single gentleman to the married, other things being equal.

Persons born and reared in the best society never make a hasty presentation or introduction. An habitual though momentary reflection adjusts in their own minds the proper relation of the two who are about to be made known to each other, and unpleasant mistakes thus become almost impossible.

Introductions should be considered wholly unnecessary to a pleasant conversation. Every person should feel that he is, at least for the time, upon a social equality with every guest who is present. That a person was bidden to the entertainment proves that the host so considers him, and the acceptance of the invitation levels him, for the time, either up or down to the social grade of all whom he may meet, no matter at what estimate he may hold himself when elsewhere. A lady or gentleman must conduct himself or herself, while remaining in the house, as if there were no more exalted society than that which is present.

*Salutations.* "A bow," says La Fontaine, "is a note drawn at sight. You are bound to acknowledge it immediately, and to the full amount." According to circumstances, it should be respectful, cordial, civil, or familiar. An inclination of the head is often sufficient between gentlemen, or a gesture of the hand, or the mere touching of the hat; but in bowing to a lady the hat must be lifted. If you know people slightly, you recognize them slightly; if you know them well, you bow with more cordiality