

Do not make it a religious duty, so to speak, to return a present at once. You are justified in supposing that the gift has been offered for the purpose of affording you a pleasure, not with the expectation of a return, like a commercial transaction.

In society all should receive equal attention, the young as well as the old. The natural *gaucherie* of young girls results more from the slights which they are constantly receiving, and constantly expecting to receive, than from any real awkwardness inherent in their age.

Always give precedence to those older or of higher position than yourself unless they request you take the precedence, when it is more polite to obey than to adhere to the strict rule of etiquette, since compliance with and adherence to the wishes of others display the finest breeding. In matters of precedence be more careful to give others their rank than to take your own.

Always express your own opinions with modesty, and, if called upon, defend them, but without that warmth which may lead to hard feelings. Do not enter into argument. Having spoken your mind, and thus shown you are not cowardly in your beliefs or opinions, drop the subject and lead to some other topic. There is seldom any profit in discussion.

In meeting people more than once in a public promenade, it is only necessary to salute them the first time in passing.

It is now entirely out of date to ask another at the dinner-table to drink wine with you. Each drinks at his own option, and as little as he chooses. If a person declines, he should by no means be pressed to take more. If he refuses to drink it altogether, he has a perfect right to do so, and no notice should be taken of the fact.

It is neither polite nor respectful to smoke in the presence of ladies, even though they have given permission. In truth, a