

gentleman will never ask such permission. Neither will he smoke in any room which ladies are in the habit of frequenting. This is etiquette, but not comfort.

Always request a favor. Never issue a command, even if you have the authority to compel the observance of your wishes. Always recognize a favor, even from an inferior, with courteous thanks.

A gentleman may keep his hat on when handing a lady to a carriage, certain rules of etiquette to the contrary notwithstanding. Indeed, for him to do otherwise, and at the same time give proper assistance to the lady, he would find it necessary to have a dozen hands.

Never affect superiority. In the company of an inferior never let him feel his inferiority. If you invite an inferior as your guest, treat him with all the politeness and consideration you would show an equal. Assumption of superiority is the distinguishing trait of a parvenu.

Conform your conduct as far as possible to the company you chance to be with, only do not throw yourself into improper company. It is related of a certain king that he once turned his tea into a saucer and drank it thus because two country ladies whom he was entertaining did so. That king comprehended the true spirit of a gentleman. It is better even to laugh at and join in with vulgarity, so that it do not degenerate into indecency, than to set yourself up as better and better-mannered than those with whom you may chance to be associated. True politeness and genuine good manners often not only permit but absolutely demand a temporary violation of the ordinary obligations of etiquette.

Never address a mere acquaintance by his Christian name. He will have reason to take offense at your presumption. No