

**SHORT STORIES ABOUT  
CLEVER PEOPLE WHOM  
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW**

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Short Stories about Clever People Whom You Ought to Know by Laura Dainty Amusement Exchange

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**LAURA DAINTY AMUSEMENT EXCHANGE**

**SHORT STORIES ABOUT  
CLEVER PEOPLE WHOM  
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW**



SHORT STORIES  
ABOUT CLEVER  
PEOPLE WHOM  
YOU OUGHT TO  
KNOW

CHICAGO  
HOLLISTER BROTHERS PRINTERS  
1900

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## INTRODUCTORY



ABOUT twenty-five years ago, drawing-room entertainments came into vogue. The fashion first saw light in London, and at once sprang into popularity. Performers at the local music halls and theatres found themselves easily earning double and even quadruple salaries, and New York artists, tempted by the large gains of their lucky brothers in London, flocked across the ocean every summer to chase the nimble English shillings by singing American songs, playing American banjos and doing Yankee stunts of all degrees of merit, good and bad. Ten years later the fashion was adopted on this side of the Atlantic. For a time the social clubs monopolized the custom, but gradually it crept into drawing-rooms, and a dinner, an afternoon tea, a children's party, or an evening reception without "Talent" of some sort to help the host or the hostess out, was as unusual as the reverse had hitherto been. But a difficulty arose. People occasionally appeared at these functions who were

utterly out of place, and who brought confusion and dismay upon host and guests alike. The necessity for a "middle-man" was apparent; one who should be responsible not only for the character of the work to be done, but also for the safe payment of the fee, which under the old plan had sometimes failed. In this way the local amusement bureau was inaugurated.

Two years ago, believing that Chicago was ready for the same experiment, this exchange was established. From the first it has been a success, and now at the beginning of its third year, it comes before the public with a definite announcement of its purpose and ability. That such an agency is a necessary adjunct to social life in this city, there is no room for doubt, and that this Exchange can supply this need we beg the public to believe. Is some one required to direct the children's party which you are contemplating? This bureau can send a charming young girl to plan the games, to make the "branspie," to arrange the menu, to receive the little guests, to sing and play and tell stories and take all the care upon her experienced shoulders. Does your church propose a Xmas entertainment for the Sunday school, or desire to give some concerts and lectures at intervals through the winter? We can furnish the first and plan the

others with the certainty of success that comes only through long experience. Lodge entertainments, lawn-fetes, every kind of feast or festival can be arranged and carried to a successful conclusion by this exchange, whose business it is to put people into the places where their work will bring the right results. We have a "shadowgraph" man, a ventriloquist, a Punch and Judy, and a magician. We have musicians who can play at weddings, at card parties and at receptions. We have splendid singers, who can shine in classical concerts in the great halls, and others who sing "coon-songs" to entertain at dinners, "smokers" and on vaudeville programs. Every artist whose name appears in this little book is of sterling merit in his or her especial line, and the management believes that their value will be recognized, that the Chicago public will be quick to respond to this sincere and earnest effort to establish a reliable and permanent bureau, which directly appeals to the large class who are able and willing to pay for satisfactory talent, to be employed as described.