MANNERS AND TONE OF GOOD SOCIETY. OR, SOLECISMS TO BE AVOIDED. BY A MEMBER OF THE ARISTOCRACY. SECOND EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS

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Manners and tone of good society. Or, Solecisms to be avoided. By a member of the aristocracy. Second edition, with additions by Various

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Trieste

MANNERS AND TONE

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OR,

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A MEMBER OF THE ARISTOCRACY.



SECOND EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS.

LONDON : FREDERICK WARNE AND CO., BEDFORD STREET, STRAND.

PREFACE.

In the course of writing this little work, it was thought advisable to write a companion work on the subject of "conversing with case," that is to say, on the art of polite conversation, or the so-called "small talk" of Society, as in many of the chapters of the present work it was found necessary to frequently suggest appropriate remarks to be made under various circumstances; and such remarks have been occasionally made in the various .chapters, but in a cursory manner only, as to have gone into the subject more fully would have rendered this work of too voluminous a character, besides trenching Preface.

upon its original design, viz., that of being a book of "rules and reference;" while the art of polite conversation could but be considered as a book of useful hints, suggestions, and advice, on "what to say," and "how to say it," or how to converse with ease.

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE title of this work sufficiently indicates the nature of its contents. "The Usages of Good Society" relate not only to "good manners" and to "good breeding," but also to the proper etiquette to be observed on every occasion or at every social event.

Not only are certain rules laid down, and minutely explained, but the most comprehensive instructions are given in each chapter respecting every form or phase of the subject under discussion that it may be clearly understood, what *is* done, and what is *not* done, in good society, and also how what *is* done in good society should be done. It is precisely this knowledge that gives to its possessor the consciousness of feeling thoroughly at ease in whatever sphere he may happen to move, and causes him to be considered "well bred" by all with whom he may come in contact.

Introductory Remarks.

A "solecism" may be perhaps in itself but a trifling matter, but in the eyes of society at large it assumes proportions of a magnified aspect, and reflects most disadvantageously upon the one by whom it is committed; the direct inference being, that to commit a "solecism" argues the offender to be unused to society, and consequently not on an equal footing with it. This society resents, and it is not slow in making its disapproval felt by its demeanour towards the intruder.

Tact and innate refinement, though of the greatest assistance to one unused to society, do not suffice of themselves; and although counting for much, cannot supply the want of the actual knowledge of what is customary in society. Where tact and innate refinement do not exist—and this is not seldom the case, as they are gifts bestowed upon the few rather than upon the many—then a thorough acquaintance with the social observances in force in good society becomes more than ever necessary, and especially to those who, socially speaking, are desirous of making their way in the world.

Those individuals who have led secluded or isolated lives, or who have hitherto moved in other spheres than those wherein well-bred people move, will gather

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