

**THE CORRECT
THING IN
GOOD SOCIETY**

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The Correct Thing in Good Society by Florence Howe Hall

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FLORENCE HOWE HALL

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THING IN
GOOD SOCIETY**

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IN GOOD SOCIETY

BY

THE AUTHOR OF "SOCIAL CUSTOMS"

BOSTON
ESTES AND LAURIAT
PUBLISHERS

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BREVITY is the soul of wit; but a soul cannot do without a body in our mortal world. If, therefore, in this brief treatise matters are so condensed that he who runs (or rides) may read, it must evidently be with the understanding that the reader shall give the body of his own intelligence to the soul of these short sentences. Condensation is often important for convenience in carrying with us material for future expansion. In the little work here offered, it has been attempted on this ground. The result sought will not be attained unless those who may take the book in hand shall themselves supply the expanding force of sympathy and intelligent apprehension, reading between the lines, and even across the page, since neither the positive nor the negative statements are complete in themselves, each needing the complement of its opposite.

It is the Correct Thing

To use good jet-black ink.

To use handsome, thick, plain white paper.

To fold and direct a letter neatly, and to put on the stamp evenly, and in the proper corner.

To put on as many stamps as the weight of the letter or parcel demands.

For the autograph fiend to enclose a stamped and directed envelope when writing to his intended victim.

To enclose a stamp when writing to a stranger on your own business.

To use sealing-wax, if you know how to make a fair and handsome seal.

To fold a letter right-side up, so that the person who receives it will not be obliged to turn it, after taking it out of the envelope, before he can read it.

To use black-edged note-paper when one is in mourning.

To use postal cards for ordinary business communications.

To write legibly.

To write straight.

It is not the Correct Thing

To use pale or colored ink.

To use ruled note-paper, except for business communications.

To use note-paper of bright, variegated, or very dark colors, or envelopes of eccentric shape.

To use a monogram or other device on an envelope.

To use stamped or yellow envelopes, except for familiar or business correspondence.

To mail a letter without a stamp on it.

To use sealing-wax if you don't know how, or if you have not time to make the seal carefully.

To make a seal with a thimble or other miscellaneous object not intended for the purpose.

To direct an envelope wrong side up.

To use postal cards for private correspondence.

To write a business communication on a postal card, where it may annoy the recipient to have his business or occupation thus publicly set forth.

To write only the two first letters of a word, and to represent the remainder by a series of unintelligible loops or runs.