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I'll show you diamonds, laces and tapestries
Of all variety
At the lowest cost;
Weavings of chaste design
Perfect in every line;
Connoisseurs surely will buy of the Frost.

I am the Dew.
Notice my elegant bracelets and necklaces,
All of rare quality;
Pearls not a few;
Emeralds and amethyst;
Opal all rainbow kissed;
Ladies rise early to buy of the Dew.

I am the Snow.
Let me display for you carpets most exquisite.
Choicest of bordering
Also I show,
Heavy and soft and white,
Spread in a single night;
Folk who have wisdom will buy of the Snow.

I am the Rain.
Something I'll show you priceless and wonderful,
Making these offers seem
Tawdry and vain!
'Tis but a cloak of gray
Wrapping the world away—
Happy the few who will buy of the Rain.
—Isabel Mackay, in St. Nicholas.

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Box 1, Gainesville, Ga.

Bad Manners at the Table.

Here's a lively company, boys and girls, no doubt about that! It seems to be meal time with them, and they appear to be acting upon the motto that this important hour should be a lively one. Nobody seems to be bored; nobody, not even the dog or the baby, seems to be having a dull time. True, the baby is kicking about something, but it can't be on account of the dull time he (surely it isn't a girl baby?) is having or allowing anybody else to have. A lively company it is, boys and girls, but somehow it doesn't seem to be the sort of gathering you and I would like to join. Can you tell what the trouble is? Look at each member of the company, and the department of each one before you read the references underneath, and see if you can determine what breach of good deportment each one illustrates. Then you may read the charges numbered below the picture, and you will find, in truth, that each one is "guilty as charged in the indictment." These "horrible examples" of bad manners at the table show us with much vividness some glaring faults to be avoided.



BAD MANNERS AT THE TABLE.

- No. 1. Tips back his chair.
- " 2. Eats with his mouth too full.
- " 3. Feeds a dog at the table.
- " 4. Holds his knife improperly.
- " 5. Engages in violent argument at the meal-time.
- " 6. Lounges upon the table.
- " 7. Brings a cross child to the table.
- No. 8. Drinks from the saucer, and laps with his tongue the last drop from the plate.
- " 9. Comes to the table in his shirt-sleeves, and puts his feet beside his chair.
- " 10. Picks his teeth with his fingers.
- " 11. Scratches her head and is frequently unnecessarily getting up from the table.

Fall Nest-Building.

We are apt to think that birds build only in spring or in summer, because that is their "natural" season and because their ancestors did so. But have you never thought that perhaps the heat or the mildness of the weather may have a direct influence, and may actually invite them to build? Here is a little incident which I saw last year, and which seems to point in that direction. The 24th of September was spring-like in temperature; a fine rain was falling, and I was afield, watching a host of small migrants, chiefly myrtle warblers and sparrows, but especially interested in the movements of some young goldfinches that were learning to feed on thistles. About a cavity in an old apple tree were four bluebirds hovering and warbling. Looking more closely I noticed that each pair seemed trying to get possession of the hollow, as I have seen them fighting for a nesting place in spring. But to my astonishment one male had a straw in his bill. He went into the hollow, tarried for awhile, and returned without the straw. Then the female went in and stayed for several minutes. The birds were so much interested that I went to within a few yards of them before they left. In the hollow was the foundation of a nest.
A bird, called the pine siskin, which I caught one day, and which roamed about the house, found an old vireo's nest and at once took possession, pulling and picking curiously at the loose fibres as if to arrange them to a siskin's taste. I have also seen a pair of wax-wings gather nesting material when it seemed too late in the season even for them. Perhaps further study of the birds in the fine autumn weather will show that they are often led to build useless nests. It would be interesting to know how far they may sometimes carry those untimely efforts.—From Nature and Science, in St. Nicholas.

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