The Usefulness of Snobs—By Bert Kennedy

THERE are all kinds of snobs. There is the snob who will snob around a titled person. There is the snob who will snob around a person of wealth. There is the snob who will snob around a great artist or a distinguished man of action.

It must not be thought that snobs are always people who have a false sense of values. If you are a stout tenor who can shout out a top C in the opera in Covent Garden, you will find people who will be extremely deferential to you because of your top C. If you are a wiper up of savages in distant parts of the earth, you will find people who will try to catch your eye. If you are a poet, you will find people who are only too delighted for you to be rude to them.

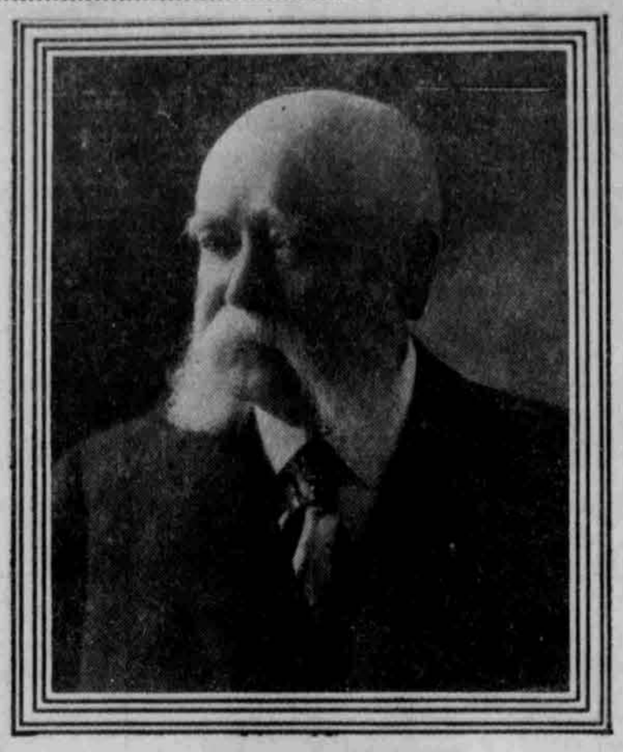
The snob lives on snubs. A snub quickens and lives up a snob. For a snub proves to him that you are really what he thinks you are—a high and mighty on-the-top kind of person. You must never by any chance make the mistake of treating a snob as a person on an equal footing with yourself. If you do, you are lost. You will topple from your pedestal.

Distant, careless notice, tempered with snubs, is the food on which he thrives. And never forget to be rude to him even when you are accepting his homage. I don't mean that you must be rude to him in a barbarous way. Be rude to him in a polite way. However, it is better to be rude to him in any way than not to be rude at all. Still, I would recommend polite rudeness. And if your early training has been such that polite rudeness is not in your armory, I would strongly advise you to go and take lessons in the art from a peer who has inherited his peerage. Such a peer may not know enough to come in out of the wet when it rains, but you will find him a past master in the art of polite rudeness.

PEOPLE WHO LIKE SNOBS.

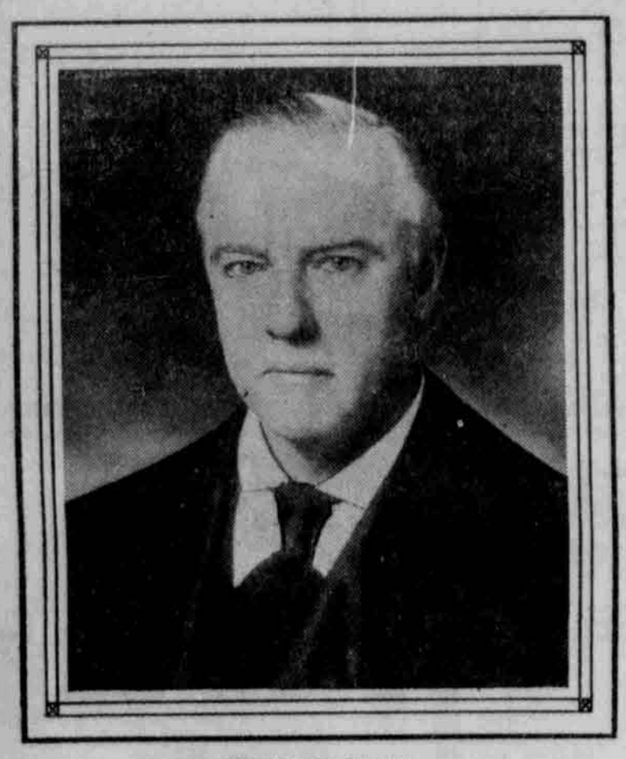
Let no one think that the snob is not a useful person. Let no one think that the great and the successful could do without him. But for the snob, the great and the successful person would perish from the face of the earth. For the great and the successful thrive on the manna of praise and deference even as the snob thrives upon snubs. A great man will sometimes tell you how awful it is to have to listen to praise. He will tell you how tired it makes him. He will dilate upon the fine time that a mere nobody has when compared with the time that he, a great and well known man, has. He will sigh for the old days when people did not know of his greatness. He will tell you this, but my advice to you is to listen sympathetically to his statement and at the same time to accept it with inward reserve. For the great and distinguished person is but talking through his hat.

One of the uses that a snob serves is that of a barometer. He is the register of your success—you, the distinguished person. When he comes around, you will know that you have scored a bull's eye. He will never by any accident come round if you miss the target. So, when you see him, brace up and gratefully wipe your boots upon him. For his advent upon the scene means that you have won in the struggle.



GEN. STEWART L. WOODFORD.

President Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission. General Woodford was United States Minister to Spain when the Spanish-American War was declared in 1898.



HERMAN RIDDER,

Presiding vice president of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission and a prominent Democrat and journalist of New York.

A snob is a disinterested person.

For the snob does not want to be great himself. He has no desire to wrest the tiara from your distinguished brow. He does not even wish to bask in your smiles. All that he wishes is to be near you. He is well rewarded if you throw him a bone—I mean a look now and then. And for this look he will reward you with shovelfuls of admiration. You say you don't want his admiration? Oh, but you soon will. It is astonishing how quickly great and distinguished persons get used to shovelfuls of admiration. Indeed, the time will come when even the snob will be unable to pile the shovel high enough up for you. Be rude to him, of course, but don't be too rude!

The snob must not be confounded with the slave. For the slave is one who is born with the useful instinct to work for others without thanks. Usually the slave is sullen, for he naturally feels that working for others without even thanks is not such a great catch after all.

Indeed, the snob feels more above the slave than does the great and distinguished person. And the snob is never sullen. He is the most cheerful and good-humored flunkey in existence.

Though you would hardly think it, the snob is, in a way, a good sort. If you, the person who is great and distinguished, need money—and you manage it with care—the snob will come gallantly to your help. He will be only too eager to do so. For you are his hero. But don't make the mistake of treating him as though he were your equal just because he places his wealth at your disposal. Always wear the air of superiority. In fact, it is all the more necessary for you to be superior after he has lent you his thousands. You must never forget that the reason the snob took to you in the first place was because of this very air of lofty, starry superiority. When you drop this air, you are defrauding him of his due.

I may as well point out here that the snob has not much use for great and distinguished persons who are free and easy in their manners. He likes his heroes to be exclusive. He likes his dukes and earls and lords and geniuses to stand on their dignity. If you would be the snob's ideal you must be somewhat careful. You mustn't bow to every Tom, Dick and Harry you see. Lofty, Vere de Vere exclusiveness. That's the ticket.

He finds it impossible to understand free and easiness in the great and distinguished. And in the end he thinks that there must be a screw loose somewhere. So be careful, ye great and distinguished! Treasure the tip I have given you. Vere de Vere exclusiveness! That's the touch.

I have never been able to understand why snobs are abused. For it is they who stamp the great with the real, genuine hall-mark of greatness. The world finds out suddenly that you are great. But you would soon drop out again were it not for your friend, the snob. For he solidifies, so to speak, the edifice of your fame. He sticks to you closer than a brother. He often enough writes books about you. In fact there was once a snob who wrote a book about an immortal whom he followed around, and this book is by long odds a better book than any that even the immortal himself wrote.

So think a time or two before you abuse him.

The snob also holds up the dukes and earls and lords in their lofty places. Where would they be but for him? Indeed, I tremble to think of what might happen to dukes and earls and lords were there no snobs. I shudder when I think of it. Why, they might have to take off their coats and earn a living. A thing too awfully awful to think about.

No, the snob would be too valuable an asset to lose.

For the snob is the prop and the pillar of the great. Of all the great. Of the great writer, of the great artist, of the great soldier, of those of great rank—in fact, of everybody who is great.

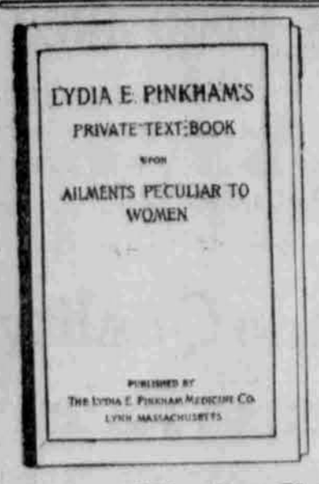
So be kind to him, ye great people. Stand upon him, of course.

But be kind!

BART KENNEDY.

A TEAM BOAT.

Here and there, along the Ohio river, there still persist a few of the olden-time ferries, such as were common over the Middle West three-quarters of a century ago. In one or two cases, as at Anderson's Ferry, well below Cincinnati, the ferry is operated by steam-power. It is just a flat boat, with tail for assisting landings, at either end, and then the engine house at one side the covered body of the boat. At Lawrenceburg, however, the ferry is of more ancient style still. At either side the vessel a stall admits a horse. The animal, well within this, operates a treadle in treadmill fashion, and this rotates the clumsy paddle-wheels outside. In such fashion the boat is worked back and forth across the river. The same style of boat was in operation between Halifax and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, before the adoption of the steam ferry in the first half of the last century.—Shipping Illustrated.



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Signed, MRS. DAVID C. JONES.
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"Signed, BERTHA JENSEN."

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Many Folks Do Have Catarrh and Don't Know It.

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This form of catarrh is most common — resulting from neglected colds—quickly cured with little cost by Drs. Shores' Famous Treatment.

"Is your nose stopped up?"
"Does your nose discharge?"
"Is your nose sore and tender?"
"Is there pain in front of head?"
"Do you hawk to clean the throat?"
"Is your throat dry in the morning?"
"Do you sleep with your mouth open?"

You can be easily cured Now—don't let it run into complications.

THE BRONCHIAL TUBES.

When catarrh of the head or throat is neglected or wrongfully treated it extends down the windpipe into the bronchial tubes, and after awhile attacks the lungs. Quickly cured with little cost by Drs. Shores' Famous Treatment.

"Have you a cough?"
"Do you take cold easily?"
"Have you pain in the side?"
"Do you raise frothy materials?"
"Do you spit up little cheesy lumps?"
"Do you feel you are growing weaker?"

Don't risk neglecting these warnings—stop the disease before it reaches the lungs.

OF THE EARS.

Catarrh extends from the throat along the eustachian tubes into the ears, causing partial or complete deafness. Quickly cured with little cost by Drs. Shores' Famous Treatment.

"Is your hearing failing?"
"Do your ears discharge?"
"Is the wax drying in your ears?"
"Do you hear better some days than others?"
"Is your hearing worse when you have a cold?"

Don't neglect this until your hearing is irreparably destroyed.

OF THE STOMACH.

Catarrh of the stomach is usually caused by swallowing poisonous mucous which drops down from the head and throat at night. Quickly cured at little cost by Drs. Shores' Famous Treatment.

"Is there nausea?"
"Do you belch up gas?"
"Are you constipated?"
"Is your tongue coated?"
"Do you bloat up after eating?"
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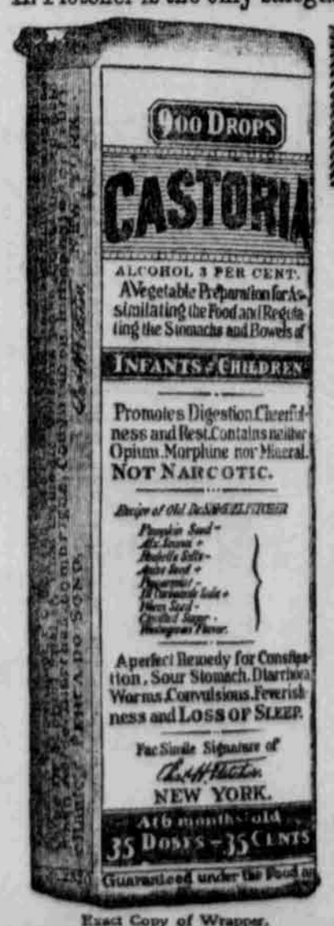

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