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# SAY "THANK YOU"

By ANNA J. COOPER

There are many hackneyed expressions of pure formalism, hypocritical civilities which had better be packed away in moth balls and forgotten. They are intolerable and meaningless when they have no original flavor and represent no sincerity of feeling or genuine warmth on the part of the speaker. In this category would fall, surely, the smirking "Pleased-to-meet-you" on receiving an introduction that you did not desire and which you have already shown the palpable hypocrisy by withholding your greeting under the well-nigh belligerent demand: "Name please!" thus signaling in action anything but pleasure at the courtesy thrust upon you. This last seems to me particularly offensive, if not gratuitously insulting. Here comes, let us suppose, a mutual friend, smilingly expectant, leading party of the second part to begin a lifelong friendship with the party of the first part. Presumably, Mr. Mutual Friend has already rehearsed the antecedents in the case. Where she's from, how much her grandfather owned, her own special accomplishments at bridge, jazz, ice cream etc., while party of the first part stands a not unwilling victim ready for the sacrifice, having made it plain to all possible comers that she is on the tapis for the express purpose of being introduced and stands with the glad hand barely concealed in the shimmer of chiffon and rhinestones. Now comes the anti-flop, so to speak: "Miss Smith, allow me to present Mr. New-comer who is just dying to have a number on your card." When Mr. New-comer stiffens with what he considers becoming dignity and hesitantly demands be-

fore proceeding another step:  
"Name please." Whereupon Miss  
Smith should spell with a flash  
"S-m-y-t-h vamoose! Now git!"

But "I thank you", fortunately,  
is not one of those inanities that  
we can afford to taboo.

Even the million and one "ph-  
thankew-s" from a million and  
one telephone girls have all a  
cherry ring that heartens the lis-  
tener even though he has been  
given the wrong number. Who  
does not enjoy the hearty "Thank  
you, Family" in the Good Night  
of Major Bowes for his Capitol  
Theater Family in New York.  
How homelike and friendly it is!  
How full of real appreciation and  
gratitude! He might say: "I don't  
see why I should thank these peo-  
ple. They are not singing and  
playing for me personally. It's  
their livelihood. They're paid to  
do it.—Then why thank them?"  
But on the other hand, what an  
atmosphere of good fellowship  
and camaraderie emanates from  
that simple Thank you. Who  
would not sing better, play bet-  
ter, work better if the boss some-  
how gave out the feeling that he  
appreciated every little effort,—  
not as a cog on a wheel of a cast  
iron machine—but as a human  
palpitating sentiency, vitally  
promoting the big Cause actual-  
ly at stake, and directly and per-  
sonally boosting his interests and  
undeniably heartening and  
strengthening him. For after all,  
in the last analysis it is our en-  
thusiasms that lift us above the  
brutes and only because we feel,  
admire and appreciate that we  
deserve to lift our head, look the  
sun in the face and assert our  
divine kinship. As one has well  
said:

"No orator ever made a great  
speech to a cold and clammy  
audience.

"No actor ever gave a great  
performance to a house that sat  
on the back of its neck and dared  
him to make it laugh or cry. No  
man lies awake at night thinking  
how he can do better work for a  
boss who never notices what he  
does except to find fault. All our  
labor, all our effort, all our en-  
thusiasm falls flat if we fail of  
the recognition we know we have  
earned."

A simple "Thank you" is easily  
said, costs nothing, and goes far.  
Let us not grudge the praise and  
thanks due honest effort—and  
don't wait to say it with flowers.