

THE TACTFUL MAN

As the wise heron from the stream will rise
On nimble foot that never stirs the mud,
Nor breaks the silence by an ill-timed thud,
As, unperceived by foes, she upward flies,
So he who can avoid calamities
By skillful tact, which rouses no man's blood,
Leaves on each mind a pleasing sense of good,
The while he walks in calm, unruffled guise.

Within his circle perfect order reigns,
No jarring sounds come from his quietude,
No adversaries try to steal his gains,
No enemies on his preserves intrude;
Laws of his sphere conspire to bless his pains,
And extricate him from all forms of feud.

—Jean Cameron Smith.

MY IDEA OF CULTURE

Since reading Huxley's ideas on Science and Culture, I have found myself attempting to discover just what is meant by the word "culture." Looking back over my past acquaintances, I find that I instinctively think of a few as cultured and others, no doubt just as good citizens and neighbors, as lacking the qualities which, it seems to me, belong to a cultivated person.

During the last few days I have been much interested in watching the members of Reed College in the effort to discover what the qualities might be which distinguish some as cultured and others as non-cultured. Seeing that people with the same intellectual capabilities and amount of knowledge, in identical or in different subjects, do not fall in the same class, I have come to the conclusion that culture is not a matter of education along either classical or scientific lines, but must depend upon some other fundamental qualities. What these qualities may be is largely a matter of personal opinion.

We once had a neighbor who has always seemed to me the personification of all that is opposite to culture, for his ignorance, laziness, selfishness and narrowness resulted in a character which was more synonymous in the town with all that is undesirable and unrefined. This is perhaps an extreme example, but there is the case of a woman with whom I was intimately associated for a few months. She was well educated, courteous