

A WORD ABOUT BORES.
 Even the Most Inscrutable of the Ill Can Be Advised.
 "I wonder if I ever bore my friends as that friend bore me?" sighs a gentleman as he bowed out a visitor from his office.
 Certainly, every body is at times a bore, for this question of bores has two sides, writes Harkley Harker in the New York Weekly. There is no such thing as boring with an auger into a granite block. There is no such thing as boring with your finger into a pine log. A social bore must meet a social sensation. Some men are never bored by anybody, they are of such unflinching good nature, such philosophic patience and helpfulness toward all, they read men so clearly and judge them so charitably, that the most persistent, bothersome fellow does not exasperate nor weary them. They say some skillful words, they listen, yet go on with their own affairs, they are masters of tact, and they are wise enough to foresee that the time may come when themselves will want a favor.
 But there are others to whom even a lovely child is a bore. Their best friends bore them more than half the time. These people are in a chronic condition of selfishness, and every one bores them who fails to contribute something to their majestic comfort or happiness. More than half the bores are not bores at all. In fact we ourselves are bored by those who are friendly to us. We want our friendships to be all receipts and no outgoes; and if a friend insists on our doing a little something for him by way of amusement in return we are bored. I say we; yet not all of us, kind reader, at all times. We mean to give and take generally. But we have our times and seasons of being over-sensitive, when even our dear old mother herself would seem to bore us.
 "I bore you," said a shabby gentleman to a young financier in the back room of a bank some years ago. "To confess the truth, you do," replied the young man, smartly. The old man got quietly out of his chair, folded up his patent, which he had been exhibiting, and politely took his grip-sack and himself off.
 That patent has now become worth millions, and the smart young financier is now at work as a clerk in the office of the great company of which the old inventor is president. Had this financier been less nervous or sensitive he might not have missed his fortune.
 It is hardly safe to tell any decent man that he bores you. The result is stinging, and is rarely forgotten. In fact, I think patience to endure being bored, and not show your fret, is one of the happiest qualities of mind for successfully dealing with men.
 Who is a bore? The man with a hobby. The tedious, uninteresting talker. The bore is the fellow who boasts and tells about himself all the while. The friend who can't keep a good situation six months, and always comes round for new letters of introduction. The inveterate funny fellow, who can never talk about sense. The homely woman who goes too near you when conversing on her long yarns. The dutch youth who makes a long, long call and sits in dumb stoniness expecting you to do all the entertaining. The man or woman who calls too often. The person who persecutes you with genuinely kind invitations to come and visit him, and will never take no for an answer. The fellow who is always on the contrary side, and fires up with "let us argue the point." The good soul who is always preaching to you "that smoking is killing you." The curious person who picks and preps, that he or she may find out a secret that you do not wish to tell. The very, very smart man who always wants to teach you something. The visitor on whose face you see constantly written, "What shall we do next to amuse ourselves?" notwithstanding you have just jumped from one thing to another over since he or she has been a guest in the house. The writer of lengthy letters full of platitudes, which keep you continually in his debt. The man with nothing to do, who drops in on you when you have every thing to do.
 The list is capable of addition. Some persons would bore you who would not bore me. I am vexed by some whom you call "perfectly delightful." Taste has much to do with the matter, the hidden law of likes and dislikes. Hence I never allow myself to take another person's word for it; I'll wait and see if I am bored. Some men begin by boring you; but they end by endowing and blessing you. I know a certain college professor who is the most tedious person in the world for the first half day that you are in his company. But after that he seems to wake up; he lets you into his very soul. His company is the finest delight.
 My experience is that they who talk most about bores are themselves even less careful about trying other people's patience than ordinary mortals who do not have so much to say on the subject. Good nature, sound health, a manly or womanly heart, full of sympathy for the rest of mankind, is not very often bored. We mortals are all here together on the footstool. Take as we run, we are not so very different one from another. The earth is filling up and elbows are touching; square miles are being populated. We must learn to laugh at each other's follies and find the jewel in every heart for there certainly is one. It is going to be a worse world for the over-sensitive soul who is only seeking his own comfort and wants nothing from the rest of us except what he can make contribute to his own happiness.
 Even the most intractable bore can be advised. Try it. Tell him kindly that he is tiresome on certain lines. You are his friend. Get him right, and frankly set him right. You will be surprised to discover how often the bore is in perfect ignorance of his offense. If he is a genuine good fellow, you will see him blush, and he will shake the information; it will be unspcakably painful to him; he can hardly believe you at first. But later on he will thank you fervently, and he will improve his manners, greatly to your own and his own social comfort and welfare. There are few of us, however, who are innocent enough ourselves to attempt this, unless we say: "Tell me, as I tell you."

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