

DEAN'S
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**LORD RODEN AND THE
SERVANT GIRL.**



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34

LORD RODEN AND THE SERVANT GIRL.



It is a graceful habit for children to thank each other whenever they are in any way obliged. The little words, "*Thank you,*" cost no trouble, yet give so much pleasure!—while they cast an additional beauty around the rosy lips which utter them. Children are very apt to forget to

be polite with each other and with servants.

The Earl of Roden was an example of true politeness. Though he was a great lord, and lived in a beautiful castle, surrounded with a large retinue of servants, and though he was very wealthy, he never failed to thank those who served him, and to be mindful of their welfare. I will tell you a story about him—a true story, which you must remember as long as you live.

One day, as the lord and his gentle lady were travelling in their carriage between Tollymore Park and Dublin, the weather, which had been very pleasant in the morning, suddenly changed. Large drops of rain began to fall; a wild wind arose, beating fiercely in the face of the servants, who rode outside. Lord Roden ordered the postillion to stop the horses, and, stepping out of the carriage, he ordered Lady Roden's maid to take his place inside, while he took hers on the box; and there he sat all the long way, and allowed himself to be drenched through

by that disma rain, in order that he might spare so much discomfort and exposure to a humble servant-girl. This was truly a Christian act.

It is a false idea which some people have, that politeness in children renders their manners stiff and affected. On the



contrary, it is the very grace of life and its greatest charm. True politeness is ever easy and free, because it proceeds from a wish to make others happy, and

to surround them with comfort. When a child does not think about his own enjoyment or pleasure, and does not seek his own gratification, that child at once becomes attractive and lovable. Another child may enter a room very gracefully, or eat without vulgarity; may know all the forms of good breeding, and at the same time may remain essentially impolite, not having dislodged from his heart the deep roots of selfishness which hide themselves there. Nothing makes people more awkward and disagreeable than to be too much occupied with themselves.

Then, children, train yourselves early to prefer the comfort of other people to your own. Learn to contribute to the comfort of others at the sacrifice of your own. That blessed lesson the heart never unlearns.

I will tell you another story of Lord Roden, although perhaps you may have read it before. It shows that this same nobleman, who suffered such inconvenience for the sake of a servant, was not ashamed

of his religion in the presence of his superiors.

On one occasion, when the king was in Ireland, he told Lord Roden that on a particular morning he was coming to



breakfast with him. He accordingly set out, and, taking two or three of the nobility with him, he happened to arrive

just as his lordship and family had assembled for family worship.

Lord Roden, being told that his august guest had arrived, went to the door, met him with every expression of respect, and escorted him and the gentlemen that accompanied him to the breakfast-room. He then turned to the king, and said,

“Your majesty will not doubt that I feel highly honoured by this visit; but there is a duty that I have not discharged this morning, which I owe to the King of kings—that of performing domestic worship. Your majesty will be kind enough to excuse me, while I retire with my household and attend to it.”

“Certainly,” replied the king; “but I am going with you,” and immediately rose and followed him into the hall where the family were assembled, and, taking his station in an old arm-chair, remained during the family devotions.

This anecdote reflects honour both upon his lordship and his majesty. While it exhibits in the one the dignity of unyield-

ing Christian principles, it displays in the other the courtesy of a gentleman, and the regard felt for a consistant religious character.

