

PROMINENT among the curses of civilization is the map that folds up "convenient for the pocket." There are men who can do almost everything except shut a map. It is calculated that the energy wasted yearly in denouncing these maps to their face would build the Eiffel Tower in thirteen weeks.



The impossibility of shutting maps except by accident having been long notorious, it is perhaps remarkable that the public should go on buying them. There are hundreds of persons engaged at this moment upon making maps that shut (as the advertisement puts it), and there must, therefore, be a demand to meet such a supply. It is vanity that brings so many people to folly.



No doubt the most maddening thing about maps that shut is that they do shut occasionally. They never shut, however, when you

are particularly anxious that they should do so—before company, for instance. Very probably you take the map with you from the shop to your office, and there open it up. To your delight it shuts quite easily. This gives you a false feeling of security. If you would really know whether this map shuts more easily than the various other ones over which you have lost your temper, ask your office-boy to come in and see you shut it. You will find that it no longer shuts. This is a sure test.



Do not be too sanguine.—
Your tendency is to open the map with a flourish, as one sometimes unfurls a handkerchief. Accompanied by the remark that nothing is easier than to shut a map once you have the knack of it, this raises hopes which are not likely to be realized. The smile of anticipatory triumph on your face loses you the sympathy which is your right at such a moment. If you are over-confident, the feeling

is that your failure will do you good. On the other hand, keep your misgivings to yourself.



Don't speak to the map.—
Now we come to the rules which should be observed if you fail. As the chances are forty-nine to one that you will fail, these rules are more important than the others. When you have got the map half-folded you will see that there is something wrong. Do not frown at this point, and say, "Confound you, what is the matter with you now?" The map will not answer. It will give you no assistance. You ought at once to realize that you and it have entered upon a desperate struggle.



Don't be rude.—
You would like to shake it as a terrier shakes a rat; but forbear. You may remember that when you witnessed the illegal contest between Sullivan and Corbett they

shook hands before trying to kill each other. In the same way you should look as if you had no ill-will toward the map, even when it is getting the better of you.



Don't fold it the wrong way.—
When you can't discover the right way, don't clench your teeth and fold it by brute force. In this way you can no doubt appear to gain a momentary advantage over it, but your triumph is short-lived. The instant you take your hand off it, the map springs up, and now, instead of finding it convenient for the pocket, you would have some difficulty in packing it away in a sack.



Don't kick it round the room.—
Though this is a pleasure for the moment, it is not lasting. When you come to yourself you see that the proceeding has been undignified, and, besides, the map is no nearer being folded than ever.

You cannot remember too persistently that a map is not to be folded by bullying. On the other hand, you can try kindness if you like.



Don't blame your wife.—
It is unmanly to remark pointedly that you did it quite easily when she was not by. To imply that she is in league with the map against you is unworthy of a reasoning animal.



Don't lie.—
In other words, if she leaves the room for a moment, don't say you did it while she was out.

