

JOHN JAY CHAPMAN

than any winter before. Minna is devoted to it — though she thinks she has no taste for it. But she would go ten miles in the rain to a church sociable. My more serious turn of mind makes these things a distress to me, but I have always been quick to recognize the claims of married life and so give way graciously and go to dinners and musicals and pretend to enjoy them when my heart is in my office and intent on the preparation of motions and schedules. I have sorrowfully consented to go to a dinner party tonight. Last night we had a funny time, at my cousins' the Eglestons. The guests were an ancient maiden aunt-cousin, a young singer, very vigorous and from New Orleans, a reciter young lady, Fitch the writer of plays, a nondescript nitroglycerian, a bearded Cyprian sculpture, and one or two unclassified floaters. But the host and hostess are such agreeable people that they cast a charm about the motley crew and we enjoyed ourselves immensely. I think all depends on the hostess and really it don't make much difference who the people are provided they have individuality. Then we went to a still queerer reception at the Korbays', where they played on pianos with the tops taken off, with hammers, and made so much noise that you felt as if you were drowning and the whole ocean was atop of you, and the room was so packed that you became intimately acquainted with strangers by apologizing for being squeezed against them, and the supper was arranged in [a] passageway so that no one could get any without preventing three others, and a young English bull of Bashan sang Hungarian songs in English — all of them to the effect that he was about to murder his lady love, and was on horseback and was warning the next county that he was about to ride into it, and yet we had a splendid time and saw lots of agreeable people and came away thinking it was a splendid thing to go to evening receptions.

Yours very affectionately

JOHN JAY CHAPMAN

1893



Flowe, M.A. DeWolfe = "John Jay Chapman and his letters", Boston 1937, Houghton-Mifflin, p. 92. Level Kette: 1893 Feb. 15.)