

THE PLEASURES OF EATING

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Eating is necessary, and in most cases, pleasurable. If one derives pleasures from eating, one has reasons for doing so. These pleasures, the foods that make eating pleasurable, and the people who eat such foods will be discussed in this paper. The pleasures of eating is an interesting topic and should provide you with some interesting and amusing thoughts.

I have heard of people who love certain foods because of their dainty and beautiful appearance. And then, too, I have heard of people who have favorite foods because they have such a pleasurable feeling after having partaken of these foods. Frankly, I think that such people derive no pleasure at all from eating. I eat my favorite foods because I like them, and not because they look pretty. When I eat them, I eat too much, and to hell with the after effects. I may not live so long for eating in such a manner, but I really enjoy it while I do live!

The chicken wandering around the farmer's yard fails entirely to excite the flow of my gastric juices, however, take that same fowl, fry it to a beautiful delicate shade of brown, garnish it with mashed potatoes and chicken giblet gravy and my hunger becomes ravenous. In the same manner, a cow on the hoof doesn't appeal to me at all, but show me a pound slab of that cow's posterior (or is it in interior?) surround it with a heap of French fries, and I'll eat right through it and start gnawing on the bone. I have also heard that some people like sea food, but not I! To me, sea food is very unappetizing. Deep sea scallops have a peculiar taste rather, I imagine, like that of bilge water. Clams are even more of a mess. But as an exception to the general of the sea foods, I must

admit that I like shrimp. I know of no better way to start a meal than with a spicy shrimp cocktail.

In this modern day and age we continue to find and adopt new things, but in the line of desserts my favorite dishes are the old fashioned ones. Strawberry shortcake, homemade pie, and ice cream and cake may not be your idea of super delicacies, but to me they are veritably the monarchs of the dessert world. What is more tempting than cake heaped high with luscious strawberries? If that doesn't appeal to you picture a deep pie, piping hot as it came from your mother's oven. Do you remember waiting on the back porch and watching Mom putting them out on the window sill to cool? And then, the final proof was in the eating. And now, like then, those pies never fail to fill that last little corner; they provide the final touch that makes a meal perfect. Lastly, if either of these hearty finales to an excellent meal fails to entice your palate, why not try some delicious ice cream made of fresh peaches and produced by the old fashioned hand turned freezer? A good companion for this ice cream is a tall, fine textured, angel food cake that melts in one's mouth. These desserts are, indeed, fit for a king.

Another way in which people gain enjoyment in eating is by doing their own cooking. A few of the male species (usually bachelors) delight in inviting the opposite sex to their abode in order to demonstrate and prove their ability in the kitchen. Naturally, during the course of the dinner each particular dish is completely explained and criticized by the proud amateur cook, which proves to be either boring or amusing to his guest. Then too, there is the kind hearted Irish lady who insists that her

Irish stew is the best in the world, and in attempting to prove her point eats most of the stew herself, with the result that the delicious but fattening stew blossoms the lady's waist line to a delicate thirty-six or forty inches.

A person's surroundings and occupations during a meal often makes his food more pleasurable to him. Some people prefer to dine in a small quiet restaurant where the food is good but plain, and manners are secondary. Others, however, enjoy the food more if they are in a formal atmosphere in which manners play an important part. Some people, also, like to occupy their allotted time for meals in various other ways in relaxation. Among these forms of relaxation are reading one's newspaper or listening to his favorite music, while others prefer merely to eat slowly and thoughtfully, which is both resting and delightful.

Having sufficiently covered our favorite foods we may now touch upon the methods of eating that food. These methods may be divided in to three general classifications: first, the gluttonous method; second, the convenient method; third, the ultra formal or prissy method . . . To begin with type one, the glutton is the most repulsive of all social outcasts. His eating habits repel both his stomach and associates. Also, as the true epicurean will readily testify, a person who bolts his food

looses the real pleasure of eating. Therefore, we may dispense with the glutton by saying that as a gourmet he is worthy only of contempt. The exact antithesis of the glutton is the ultra formal, or prissy type of eater. Compared to the glutton his appearance while eating makes up in ludicrousness what it lacks in repulsiveness. He may also be dismissed as deserving only of contempt. In sharp contrast to both former types the advocate of the convenient method stands out as the epitome of practicability and pleasing appearance. He shows enjoyment of his food without the revolting manners of the glutton. At the same time, he observes the practical rule of good manners without the ridiculous affectation of the ultra formalist. The true epicurean would surely fall under his classification.

Now I have exhausted my vast sources of study on the subject of pleasurable eating. I feel a grawing at my stomach — my knees are weak from hunger. I think that I had better ease downstairs and raid the ice box to appease my enormous appetite. Ah! the lights are out, no one will bother me at all! Open that refrigerator door quietly! Let me see now — cold beans, cold potatoes, vegetable salad, French dressing, but no meat, no cheese, no nothing! The pleasures of eating — bah! The only pleasure one can get from it is the dry writing about them!

