



A FLURRY IN FASHIONS.

It is brought about by the generous spirit of the holiday season. NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Christmas holidays bring invariably a pleasurable flurry in fashions...

FURRY THOUSSEAU.

Aprons of fur and complete discussion of the subject with a bit of news. It may be told that all this winter's bridal corteges have a very furry expression indeed.

HAT PINS.

It does not really require a very sharp eye to see that a great deal of emphasis is being laid on this moment on the sort of pretty heads. No less than six pins can be counted in among the falls and roses...

AN AUCTION FOR WIVES.

It Was Held Under Greenwood Tree in Old Colonial Days of Virginia. From the earliest settlement of the colonies there has always been a defect in the distribution of women in this country.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE GROUP.

By way of an exemplification let the reader refer to the woman's figure in the group about the Christmas tree. Here is a skirt of whatever you will—tulle, moire, velours, cashmere or liberty silk. It is white with lace patterns tacked on it.

woolen silk and knotted after one of the dozen new modes of drawing a tie that has been devised. By way of a girdle violet-colored satin ribbon ran round the waist and long loops of it fell from one side, wherein was caught the stems of a sizeable bouquet of velvet violets.

By way of news it is necessary to say that ties and girdles of this nature are worn very much. They rather mark the woman who keeps well abreast of the pretty, ever-shifting modes, and they are most expensive and decorative additions to any wardrobe. The bouquet of velvet flowers, sometimes a kind of white or red roses, a tuft of pansies, or, at this season, most often a handful of holly and mistletoe, takes the place of the ribbon streamers, of the more costly chateaus, and the cravats are made of whatever you may have in the way of ribbon bits or pieces of silk, satin, moire, etc.

If there are any preferences at all expressed just now with regard to lace, Linen is well ahead of the others. The true from the Irish convents, fetches a big price, but there is imitation linen that is just as well, and now appears wherever a pretty, cream-tinted lace is needed.

Things seem, on the whole, to be having especial fashionable trimmings just now. As we see on all sides lovely dinner and dancing gowns of white and pale pink and green Irish poplin. A distinguished combination was made at a ball recently when a pretty blonde girl appeared in a champagne-tinted poplin all garnished with shimmering green shamrock leaves. Her clear green tint it seems obligatory to explain, is a tone paler than amber, with white lights in it.

A word must be said in behalf of those who are casting about for a stout, serviceable and pretty midwinter gown, and for the new goods that just fill the bill called muscovite cashmere. Cashmere is perhaps all dress goods considered the smartest, but until this moment it has been unduly too light for heavy winter weather. The muscovite species is nothing more than a Russian with a thick, warm, woolly lining that keeps up the heat and the heat while outside it is simply housed in cashmere that pleases the fastidious eye.

"Those that went over to that country first were chiefly single men, who had not the innumerable wives and children in England; and they had, they did not expose them to the fatigue and hazard of so long a voyage, until they saw how it should fare with themselves. From hence it came to pass that when they were settled there in a comfortable way of subsisting a family, they gathered and sold for 120 pounds of leaf tobacco each, and it was ordered that this debt should have precedence of all others. The solitary 'one who' went along with the others, for they could not be particular in those days. The good minister of the colony no doubt had a busy time that day.

"Under this difficulty they had no hopes but that the plenty in which they lived might invite modest women of small fortunes to go over thither from England. However, they would not receive any but such as could carry sufficient certificates of their modesty and good behavior. Those, if they were not moderately qualified in all other respects, might depend upon marrying well in those days, without any fortune. Nay, the first planters were so far from expecting money with a woman that twice a common thing for them to buy a deserving wife that carried good testimonials of her character, was the price of £100, and make themselves lucky to have a 'bride'."

"In one year Sir Edwin provided a passage for 1,261 emigrants. Among these were ninety agreeable young women, poor but respectable to furnish wives to the colonists. This new commodity was transported at the expense of the colony and sold to the young planters, and the following year another consignment was made of sixty young maids of virtuous education, young, handsome and well recommended. A wife in the first lot sold generally for 100 pounds of tobacco, but as the value of the new article became known in the market the price rose and a wife would bring 150 pounds of tobacco. A debt for a wife was of higher dignity than other debts and to be paid first."

THE AUCTION.

In a letter still in existence, dated London, August 21, 1621, and directed to a worthy colonist of that settlement, the writer says: "We send you in the ship one widow and eleven maids for wives for the people of Virginia. There hath been especial care taken in the choice of them, for there hath not been one of them received but upon good recommendations. In case they cannot be presently married we desire that they may be put with several householders that have wives. But the writer of this epistle had little reason to fear that any of the 'maiden faire' would be left over. The archives of Virginia prove that these first cargoes of young women were put up at auction beneath the green trees of Jamestown, where probably the most anxious and interested crowd of auction habitués ever known in the history of the world were gathered and sold for 120 pounds of leaf tobacco each, and it was ordered that this debt should have precedence of all others. The solitary 'one who' went along with the others, for they could not be particular in those days. The good minister of the colony no doubt had a busy time that day.



CHILD'S WRAPPER.

He did not mention any fees, nor did the bridegrooms think of tendering any. All was joy and gladness. THE OLD COMPLAINTS. There exists in the United States today the same defective distribution of women as existed in the colonies 275 years ago. Indeed, it is an economical, as well as a social defect, that the distribution of women in the country is so imperfect that, while Massachusetts has 80,000 more women than men, and while in every city and hamlet from

Atlantic to the Mississippi spinsters bloom beneath the green trees of Jamestown, where probably the most anxious and interested crowd of auction habitués ever known in the history of the world were gathered and sold for 120 pounds of leaf tobacco each, and it was ordered that this debt should have precedence of all others. The solitary 'one who' went along with the others, for they could not be particular in those days. The good minister of the colony no doubt had a busy time that day.

The fact that reasonably eligible bachelors in the interior of the country should find it necessary to send to an eastern port for wives points out a deplorable fault in the contemporary social state. To correct this fault in distribution, so painful to contemplative and endure from the point of view of either section and of either sex is a problem which has received the profound attention of our social economists from the foundation of our country.

CHRISTMAS CHEER.

How to Serve a Toothsome and Dignified Family Dinner. Red is far excellent the Christmas color. For a big family dinner cause the table to shine with satin smooth napery and highly polished silver and glass. A little Norway pine, twinkling with small crimson tapers and flashing with tinsel, should always occupy the place of honor in the center, and low, wide bowls of scarlet roses add perfume as well as further touch of color to the scene.

It is better form to arrange all the silver at the right of the plate, with the articles first wanted farthest away. The oyster fork, for example, should be to the extreme right, the soup spoon next, and so on to the coffee spoon, which is nearest the plate. By this arrangement the table presents a far more orderly appearance as the dinner progresses than by the previous methods.

DAINTY CHRISTMAS BUNDLES.

Careful Packing and Wrapping Adapted to Its Attraction. Pleasure accompanying the receiving of a gift depends largely upon the daintiness of its wrappings, as well as upon its general appropriateness to the one for whom it is intended. A really very pretty present loses much of its apparent value by being carelessly packed, while the simplest article may be greatly enhanced in value if it is prettily wrapped.

In these days, when a large sheet of tissue paper, in varied tints, can be bought for a few cents per quire, and narrow ribbons are 'sold for a song,' there is no excuse for gifts to be tendered in a slovenly fashion. Even, too, a gift should be so wrapped as to be, for however good our intentions may be, it is not always easy to please the one for whom the present is intended, and should this latter be the case, much embarrassment, on both sides, is avoided, if the donor be not present. It is difficult to express unqualified satisfaction at a gift that offends our taste, or for which we have no use even though we own it.

companying recipes are furnished by a chef of no ordinary distinction:

- Oysters on Half Shell. Quarters of Lemon, Horse Radish Sauce, Long Waters, Tomato Soup, Foisted Lobster Savory, Sweetbread Patties, Punch, Roast Turkey, Grape Fruit, Mashed Potatoes, Onions, Squash, Cranberry Jelly, Squares of Bread, Cheese Straws or Bread and Butter Sand-wiches, Mince and Pumpkin Pie, Cheese, Ice Cream, Angel's Food, Black Coffee, etc.

Tips on Triples Appropriate to the Holiday Season.

To make a Christmas bell use two ax muzzles for a foundation, fastening the top of one a little way up into the center of the other to give the proper length to the bell. Fill this solidly with moss and then trim with holly berries and a bit of mistletoe. A calla lily makes a pretty clapper. Suspend the bell by a cord of white or red ribbon, with a bit of holly thrust through, or green, with mistletoe, make charming Christmas noisettes, and if a line of sentiment be written on scented about a napier, enclosed between the wrappings the illusion is completed. One useful and pretty gift was accompanied in this manner by this little French couplet:

Je vous aime, je vous adore, Et que voulez-vous encore?

CHRISTMAS NOTES.

The foliage of a Christmas tree may be brushed here and there with ammonia and then sprinkled with common salt and a very pleasing result is obtained. A pretty drape for the tree is made by cutting long strips, about four inches wide, of tissue paper, then cutting it closely, partly, but not entirely across the width, making it wavy. The strips are dampened and held over a hot stove the fringed edges will curl and look quite ornamental.

Female Personalities.

Woman is at times never mentioned in Morocco. It would be considered a breach of etiquette to ask a man about his wife. Miss Jessie A. Ackermann, who has been around the world in the interests of the Woman's Christian Temperance union, is now in Baltimore. The citizens of Liverpool have on hand a fund for a monument to Mrs. Hemans, one of the first women to enter the field of English poetry. A friend having declared in Mrs. Siddon's hearing that applause was necessary to correct that it was the confidence, "More," inquired about it. "It gives us credit."

Miss Jennie Wertheimer of Cincinnati has invented a commercial paper which excludes the possibility of forging names or other wise tampering with its face value. The invention has been sold to a New York firm for \$25,000.

Miss Frances Willard recently made a stirring address in Chicago and in the collection taken afterward secured a magnificent diamond and emerald ring of great value.

Miss Hamilton, of rather Dr. Hamilton, the English woman who has been a member of the Afghanistan for many years, and it is totally impossible for a westerner to understand an oriental.

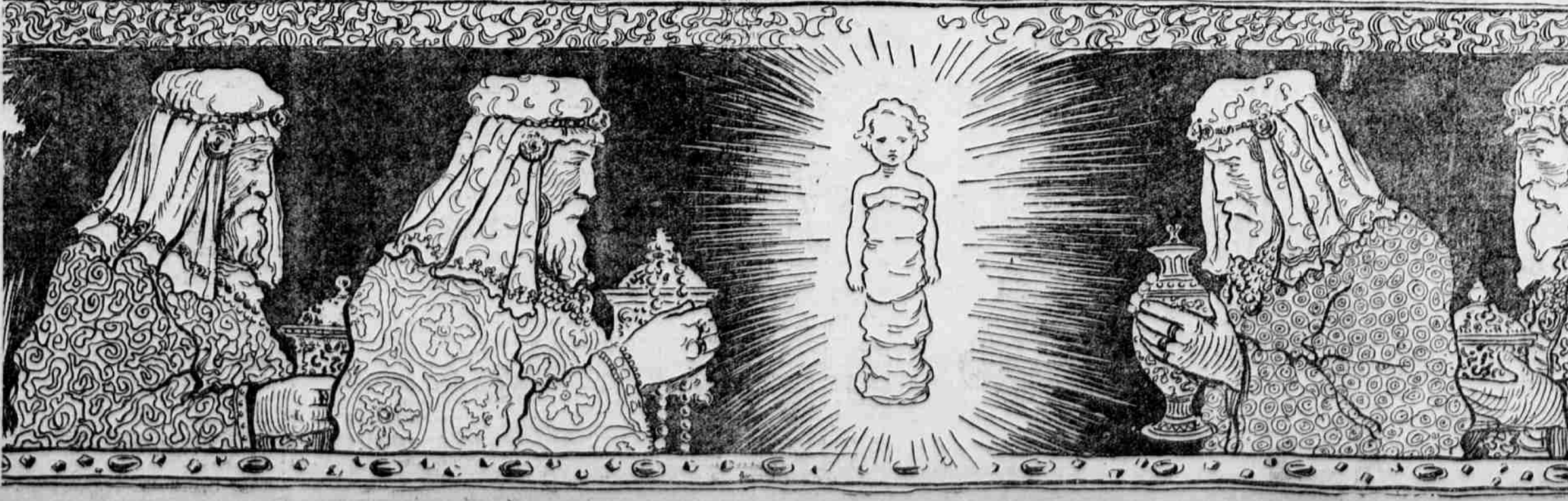
Miss Diaz, wife of the Mexican president, has founded a home where girls can always find employment, a nursery where children of working women are cared for, and a Magdon home for repentant sinners.

Baltimore's Bally Day once appears in short skirts, boots and leggings, and is viewed a waterproof costume with a view to discarding umbrellas. What ducks those women must be!

A Norton county (Kan.) paper, in speaking of Miss Kate Johnson, the county treasurer-elect, says: "She is good looking, jolly, well liked financially, full of business, likes company, but couldn't be dragged into a pig team with a four-horse team."

Miss Bettie Runnels of New Orleans, a social favorite and a young woman of genuine worth, has the unique distinction of being the first female student in the state of Louisiana. She has matriculated at Tulane university and will take the fall law course preparatory to entering the practice.

Miss Julia Neilson is the tallest actress, as well as one of the most classically beautiful women on the English stage. Almas Patena exercises her ideal Greek figure and he is fond of designing her costumes. He has more than once even suggested various ways in which her hair might be worn.



PANEL SHOWING THE WISE MEN OF THE EAST AND THE GIFTS THEY BROUGHT.