

American Need of Housekeepers

"If you want to know why we have no first-class professional housekeepers in this country," volunteered the importer of a real live English specimen, "it is because the American woman is too proud and far too independent to allow an employe to manage her home. That is also the reason why we with the best ordered, most luxurious homes in the city suffer from criminally wasteful domestic management and the worst service of any highly civilized people. In France or England, where half as much money is spent, twice the work for the servants to do and a third of the conveniences put at their disposal, the fashionable country or city house is conducted with a noiseless regularity that

tea and eats her dinner alone, later, wearing a plain black silk gown, a muslin wreath cap and a small lawn apron. Every servant in the house, with the exception of the butler, is under her direct control, and for the good or evil that every servant does she is responsible.

"She accepts my directions with a humility no decayed gentlewoman would show, and with a respectfulness no confidential lady's maid ever feels. She gets \$50 a month and an allowance for paying the servants' wages and catering to their table, and she it is who sees that no waste goes on in my house.

"With a prayer of thanksgiving and a quiet mind I can now nightly lay my head

hear that the cook has left in a rage, the parlor maid has smashed my best bric-a-brac and the laundress scorched a hole in my best tablecloth.

American Woman's Makeshift.

"But let me tell you what lots of our rich women do. They don't mind handing their babies into the care of kindergartners, but they deeply resent sharing the command of their households with a competent woman. For my part I think every big American household where there is a great corps of servants should have one of these competent women at the head, and very soon, in consequence, we would see a marked improvement in the American maidservant, for training domestics is one of the important missions of the English housekeeper. She takes in ignorant girls and teaches them first to be competent kitchen maids and then promotes them as their value and knowledge increases and thus the generation of English maidservants, the dearest, most accomplished domestics in the world, are trained in their profession. Clever and versatile as the American woman may be when thrown on her own resources, she has no gift for educating crude talent. When she has wealth and luxury she simply solves the difficulty by paying fabulous wages, overlooking a good deal of incompetence and retiring to a hotel every now and then to recover from the battle with servants."

Living Fashion Models

The holiday season brings out the new garments that wait for a special occasion for their display. It cannot be denied that well-attired people add to the zest with which any social gathering is permeated.

This toilet, designed in Paris for the beautiful czarina of Russia, is one of the most elegant costumes ever perfected. The material is a superb satin-finished black lady's cloth, richly embroidered with black chenille in large, graceful arabesque patterns. Both skirt and bodice show clusters of light, conventionalized flowers, the effect being obtained by cutting out the cloth over heavy lavender velvet. The high collar, boa fronts, muff and trimmings for a toque of black and lavender velvet are of Russian sable and one last touch of Parisian distinction is given to the whole by a couple of big artificial flowers on the muff.

The Directoire gown is of the palest sea green velvet, richly embroidered with silver and pearls. At the bottom of the skirt is a band of silver lace, adding greatly to the brilliancy of the dress. Chinchilla and a cluster of white camellias give the low bodice an air of great elegance.

The short coat is of heavy grey melton with smart revers of cherry-colored velvet. The slashed skirt, spade front, elaborate stitchings and big steel bullet buttons show it as the last cry from Paris.

Enameled Butterflies

A bit of antique history, a touch of individuality, the crisp flavor of romance are becoming more and more associated with the ornaments most valued and worn by fashionable women.

This prevailing sentiment is well illustrated by a lady of fine taste who has carried out an idea wholly her own. She has always had a passion for butterflies, and in her collection are many of the rarest and most beautifully colored specimens known to science. Whenever she finds one that especially suits her fancy, or has attached to it some pleasant association, she sends it to an enameler in London, a man reputed to be the finest artist of his kind in Europe, and he makes a fac-simile of the specimen. Their fantastic shape and brilliancy combine to make the butterflies excellent models for this particular kind of workmanship. With wonderful fidelity they are copied, and even the transparent quality of their wings is effectively simulated. They are finally mounted so that by pinching their wings together the sharp gold claws fasten tightly to whatever they are placed upon. It would be equally feasible to have them made into hair pins, bracelet dangles and clasps for veils.

This particular woman, however, who has perhaps forty of these enameled beauties, wears them in but one way, as shoulder clasps on her ball dresses, or placed diagonally across the front to represent a flight of the gauzy insects. She has one complete set of yellow butterflyes; and they are held in reserve to be worn with a ft. white gowns. The largest ones are fastened on the right shoulder and from there they decrease in size to the waist line. Another flight includes every color of the rainbow, and for them bodices of a more somber hue are chosen as a background. Wonderfully effective also are two very large and quaintly-formed sapphire blue ones that were worn as decorations for a yellow crepe gown.

Quite aside from the artistic effect and originality of this decoration, the beautiful creatures themselves have been so minutely and accurately copied in the enamel work that they are excellent studies of the originals. In fact the charming woman to whom they belong often sighs and vows that her admirers are all butterfly lovers, and she is continually entrapped by the scientific world to tell the peculiarities and species of those from Australia and New Zealand.

Missed

Detroit Journal: He found her weeping bitterly.

"Oh, Harold!" she cried, "I have missed you so much."

Hitherto, understand, she had thrown teacups at his head, for the most part. Perhaps it was small wonder, after all, that she missed him.

But now she threw herself at his feet and all was well once more.



IMPERIAL GOWN FOR THE CZARINA.

fills the American visitor with nothing short of amazement. In houses where the incomes are by no means large a corps of finished servants will be found that only our millionaires over here can afford.

"Just so long as the American woman is head of a modest household she is the most all-around capable housekeeper in the world; she can face stiffer odds and rout them more utterly than any French or English woman living. We are the only women in the world who, when deserted at a critical moment, can cook a meal and yet sit at the head of the table while that same meal is being served in a fetching frock carrying on the conversation as though nothing had happened. It is a charming faculty, but when she is put at the head of a corps of twenty servants and a great country house her system fails.

French Maitre D'Hotel.

"A big, fashionable household is just like a big ship, it's got to have a captain to direct its course and an engineer to run the machinery, and in the foreign countries they realize and provide for this. In France it is usually a maitre d'hotel who shoulders the domestic burden. He has worked up in the service and his word is law to the servants. He hires and dismisses them, plans their work, sees that it is done and he guarantees to keep the men and maids well fed on a stated allowance. The mistress gives him a sum every month and on this he caters for the servants' table, that is by no means supplied from the larder that feeds the family. Every servant is entitled to the scraps he or she leaves and has his or her own plate, knife, fork, spoon, etc., and when a meal is over these are washed and set away by their owners in their special cupboards. Scraps are an important item to the thrifty French domestic.

"In England there is a woman who does this, and every handsome English house is built with special housekeepers' quarters, a sitting room and bedroom. Some American houses are now being provided with these special two rooms.

A Model British Housekeeper.

"My housekeeper is of the typical sort. She is about 40, plump, pleasing and a settled widow who entered service at 15 as a scullery maid and has worked up. She is addressed by the household as Mrs. Brown, and every afternoon her tea is served in her sitting room at 4 o'clock by a maid. She drinks



DIRECTOIRE GOWN OF SEA GREEN VELVET.



SHORT MELTON COAT.

The Newest Omaha

Recently a pioneer resident of Omaha made an address before the Woman's club devoted chiefly to reminiscences of the early days. He gave a graphic description of the village as it stood more than forty years ago, consisting of less than a dozen cabins made of logs cut from the timber found along the small streams hereabouts. Another pioneer still lives who used his hat for a postoffice, there being no building for an office. Within a generation Omaha has grown to be the metropolis of Nebraska.

Is history destined to repeat itself? Our artist has produced a picture of Omaha Camp, an embryonic city situated in the Gold

forest so dense in places that one cannot see fifty feet ahead in any direction. Ferocious wild beasts abound and at night mountain lions come within gunshot of the cabins and keep up their hair-raising, supernatural cries to the discomfiture of tenderfeet.

While the present environment of Omaha Camp is just as nature made it, the hand of the sturdy pioneer is being felt and before many months shall have elapsed civilization will mark a marvelous metamorphosis in this mountain hamlet. Already down the valley to the east the shrill whistle of the locomotive can be heard at Omaha Camp and early in the spring the iron rails will



"THE NEWEST OMAHA"—OMAHA CAMP, B. C.

mountains of British Columbia, not far above the international boundary line separating the state of Washington from the queen's possessions. Omaha Camp can scarcely be called a village, yet the queen's officials have designated it as a British postoffice and mail matter is delivered and collected there daily. The log cabins were erected by the Lemon Gold Mining company of British Columbia, a company officered largely by Omaha men, and the rude structures are inhabited by the employes of that company, whose mine and stamp mills are situated just over the brow of the hill to the right.

The spot is a most delightful one, especially in the summer season. Rugged mountains rear their lofty peaks in every direction, and massive pine, fir and tamarack trees add color to the wild, picturesque surroundings. In fact, Omaha Camp is right in the heart of a primeval

be laid within a few miles of the camp. With the advent of the railroad the region will swarm with prospectors and miners who are already developing the rich mineral deposits that have made the district famous. There are many prosperous mines in operation there and the railroad is building to tap them and take their output to the mills and smelters now building fifty or a hundred miles east. "The Newest Omaha" is located on the site of the Gold Standard claim, one of the Lemon properties. That it will continue to grow and prosper as its big sister has done goes without saying, for the resources beneath its surface portend great possibilities.

Colonel, Not General

Speaker Henderson objects very much to being called "General," a practice of recent growth—as the highest rank he ever held was that of colonel.