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THE FOUR CENTURIES



THE spectacle America presents this day is without precedent in history. From ocean to ocean—in city, village and countryside—the children of the states are marshaled and marching under the banner of the nation, and with them the people are gathering around the school house.

Men are recognizing today the most impressive anniversary since Rome celebrated her thousandth year—the 400th anniversary of the stepping of a hemisphere into the world's life; four completed centuries of a new social order; the celebration of liberty and enlightenment organized into a civilization.

And while during these hours the federal government of these United States strikes the keynote of this great American day that gives honor to the common American institution which unites us all, we assemble here that we, too, may exalt the free school that embodies the American principle of universal enlightenment and equality, the most characteristic product of the four centuries of American life.

Four hundred years ago this morning the Pinta's gun broke the silence and announced the discovery of this hemisphere. It was a virgin world. Human life hitherto upon it had been without significance. In the Old World for thousands of years civilized men had been trying experiments in social order. They had been found wanting. But here was an untouched soil that lay ready for a new experiment in civilization.

All things were ready. New forces had come to light full of overturning power in the Old World. In the New World they were to work together with a mighty harmony. It was for Columbus, propelled by this fresh life, to reveal the land where these new forces were to be given space for development, and where the awaited trial of the new civilization was to be made.

Today we reach our most memorable milestone. We look backward and we look forward. Backward we see the first mustering of modern ideas: their long conflict with Old World theories, which were also transported hither. We see stalwart men and brave women one moment on the shore, then disappearing in dim forests. We hear the ax. We see the flames of burning cabins and hear the cry of the savage. We see the never ceasing wagon trains always toiling westward. We behold log cabins becoming villages, then cities. We watch the growth of institutions out of little beginnings—schools becoming an educational system; meeting houses leading into organic Christianity; town meetings growing to political movements; county discussions developing federal governments.

We see hardy men with intense convictions grappling, struggling, often amid battle smoke, and some idea characteristic of the New World always triumphing. We see settlements knitting together into a nation with singleness of purpose. We note the birth of the modern system of industry and commerce and its striking forth into undreamed of wealth, making the millions members one of another as sentiment could never bind. And under it all, and through it all, we fasten on certain principles ever operating and regnant—the leadership of manhood; equal rights for every soul; universal enlightenment as the source of progress. These last are the principles that have shaped America; these principles are the true Americanism.

master force which under God has been informing each of our generations with the peculiar truths of Americanism. America therefore gathers her sons around the school house today as the institution closest to the people, most characteristic of the people and fullest of hope for the people.

Today America's fifth century begins. The world's twentieth century will soon be here. To the thirteen millions now in the American schools the command of the coming years belongs. We, the youth of America, who today unite to march as one army under the sacred flag, understand our duty. We pledge ourselves that the flag shall not be stained, and that America shall mean equal opportunity and justice for every citizen and brotherhood for the world.

THE FIRST VANILLA.

The Man with a False Eye Who Would Lose It.

The thin old man in an alpaca coat and a palmleaf fan, at the third table! A Gratiot avenue ice cream dispensary, showed evidences of great excitement. His supply of vanilla cream was only half gone, but he seemed to have lost interest in the other half, and was sipping ice water and fanning himself violently. "Feel faint?" asked the proprietor, stepping over to the third table.

"Bet your life I don't." "I kinder thought you looked flustered," suggested the other soothingly. "Flustered, hey. What did I order?" "Vanilla cream." "Plain, wasn't it?" "You don't remember my asking for a wooden leg?" "No."

"I didn't mention a gutta percha arm nor a plate of false ears, did I?" "Certainly not," admitted the proprietor, vaguely wondering whether he could get the police station on the telephone without scaring the other customers. "Well, see what I dredged up in your dummy old cream." And the excited customer in alpaca passed over a glass eye.

The proprietor looked horrified. "It's Jake's," he said briefly, inspecting the discovery. "Mary," he added, calling to a passing waitress, "you tell Jake the vanilla at the third table found it. Tell him if it happens again I'll discharge him. You see," he continued apologetically to the agitated customer, "I've got a man down stairs to make cream. He makes the finest ice cream in the state of Michigan, but he's got a false eye, and he's always leavin' that eye around and losin' it. It's got to stop now, though, or that sort of thing will break up the ice cream business."

"Do you mean to say," faltered the old man, "that other people have found that same—same—article in their cream?" "Oh, well," admitted the proprietor diplomatically, "you're the first vanilla." "A serious exception." "Dashaway—They say that to lend a man money is to make an enemy of him. Do you believe it?" "Travers—Not always. A fellow lent ten dollars not long ago, and I am sure have never tried to get even with him. Life."

Just the Thing. Witherby—How do you manage to keep your sidewalk so nice and fresh? "Plankington—My wife puts on her tail-made gown, and every morning she walks up and down in front of the house.—Clear Review.

An Original Girl. Skidds—When you proposed I suppose said, "This is so sudden." Spattack—No. She only remarked, "You might have had me a year ago, George." New York Sun.

Cruel. Mrs. Crimmonbeak—I hope I make myself plain, sir? Mr. Crimmonbeak—Nature saved you that trouble, ma'am.—Yonkers Statesman.

FINE FEATHERS ALL.

THE PLUMES THAT DECORATE THE NEW FALL HATS.

The New Bonnets Are Very Attractive and Are Worn in All Shapes and Sizes. Colors Diversified to Suit All Tastes. Becoming Street Costumes.



SOME NEW BONNETS. There are little bonnets scarcely larger than a blue postage stamp, and big ones that overshadow the face like an umbrella, hats that make one look like a picture of bygone ages, and hats that make one look particularly fresh. There are felts in all colors, both smooth and hairy, and there are bonnets trimmed with fur, such as seal, beaver, mink and astrakhan. Feathers and flowers, wings and feelers, Mephistopheles and drooping plumes are all shown in every imaginable combination.

Colors are as diversified as they can be, and there is no law for all to follow. Each one can have just exactly what she likes. Perhaps the models that will most generally please will be these in the illustration. The lower right is of slate gray smooth felt, has a plain band of green velvet and two Mephistopheles tips. In many hats of this form the brim projects far out over the face. Above is a tiny bonnet of gray felt, a simple saucer shape, with bows of corn colored velvet and two black satanic tips.

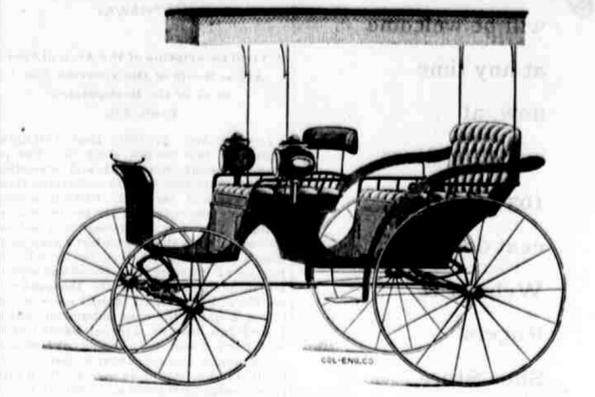
Mourning bonnets are flat, with rolled folds of crape and butterfly bows of crape and black feelers. The long veil hangs from the back, and a black tulle face veil has a border of crape at the bottom. This helps hold the bonnet on. A mourning hat for a young lady is of black felt, with a wreath made of small loops of crape encircling the crown, and two prince's plumes stand up on the left side.

Several new hats and bonnets, too, have one long, natural black ostrich plume reaching from the front and falling backward down the back. These natural plumes are very expensive, costing from five to ten dollars apiece. Many ladies have just such plumes laid away. Bring them out now and put them on your hats. They are just the thing. I should have said that the gray and white, as well as the mottled ones, are worn too.

I have been watching to see what the peculiar fad is going to be this season, but the girls are staying out of town late: than usual—that is, the girls who start fads. I have a haunting fear that it is to be enormous blue or green umbrellas with china knobs half as big as a baby's head for handles.

During one of my pilgrimages to the shrine of fashion this week I came across two gowns that I know will be of real service for many readers who have tucked away in some place or other portions of a broche bordered or camel's hair shawl. How richly this looks when made up with other goods they can judge by the illustrations. That on the right is of old rose vicuna cloth. Around the bottom are two rows of shawl bordering, headed and separated by a narrow puff of surah of the same shade as the dress. The corsage is of the shawl broche, with a simulated jacket of the vicuna. The other was fern colored camel's hair, with panels, corsage belt, gump and bretelles of the broche in soft shades and pale tints. The ends were finished with a fringe of narrow ribbons of the same shade as those in the broche pattern. Two more elegant and original costumes I have not seen this season. They are both cut so as to just clear the ground. OLIVE HARPER.

Now's the Time to Buy!



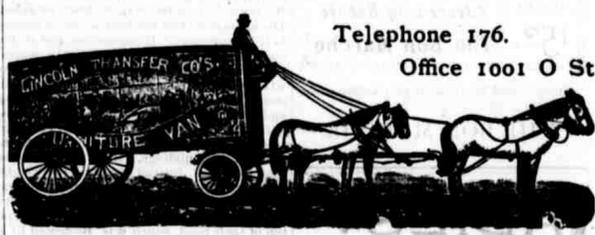
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