

HIGH ART IN DESIGNS

THE NEW SUMMER FABRICS SHOW MORE THAN USUAL TALENT.

Silks Over Which Flowers Appear to Have Been Scattered by Baby Hands—Palm Leaf Patterns on Swiss—A Silk Trimmed Gown That Can Be Laundered.

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THE men or women who design the figures and flowers seen on the new silks, satens and challes come under the name of artists, or are they only "designers"?

If they are not called artists, I think they are defrauded of their just due, for the designs are more than designs this season.

There are so many perfect pictures, each after its kind. I have seen pictures painted by artists which were not nearly so artistic and true to nature as are some of these.

There are others with small branches of pussy willows in bud and bloom, and perfect orchids in their gorgeous coloring, and pale, brittle leaves. Tiny rosebuds lying on a rose geranium leaf that is partly green and partly faded yellow are seen in one pattern, and pink pimpernel makes another.

One most exquisite pattern had a pearl gray ground, with irregular pale purplish blue leaves in two shades and moss rosebuds with short broken stems in pink and purplish blue woven in the cheney pattern, so that it looked like the colors of mountains seen through the misty haze of distance.

To suit the matter to every purse these patterns are all reproduced in satens, fine cambrics and challes. The dark grounds are likely to appear clean longer than the others, but those with the lighter grounds are far prettier and more summery.

How are they to be made? Well, here is a picture that will show you. One has a ground of French gray, with pimpernel blossoms and leaves for a pattern. The skirt is gored and without ruffle or ornament around the bottom.

A lovely pink batiste was made up as if it was the most extravagant silk, with six gathered flounces, each headed by a band of bias silk, changeable old rose and gold, the cape revers and stole ends all of the same.

Among the other lovely new spring and summer cotton fabrics one finds empire brocades, satin striped and plaid gingham, French twills, rayonne, figured and hemstitched; chintz, two toned figures; gloria foulard and a num-



PRETTY SPRING DRESSES. New styles in fancy French muslins with woven spots, both white and colored, many of them in imitation of the unique straw embroidery from Fayal, where the natives embroider beautiful patterns with straw on net and thin muslins.

There are also Irish lawns, crinkled gingham and Havana cloth. As if these were not enough in the way of wash fabrics, there are many pretty patterns of fine Madras and mus-o-war suitings, printed check lawns, where the

pattern is very delicate and pleasing with its soft tones and semitransparent fabric, and there is a broche Swiss. This latter is a Swiss muslin, which all women know means a stiff one, and on it are printed the old broche and palm leaf patterns, which gain a new softness and beauty on account of the sheerness of the muslin. This pattern has always been used on woolen goods, and sometimes on satens, but never until now has it been successfully produced on thin cotton goods.

I also noticed a line of striped seersuckers and another of pampus cloth, and these two will be largely employed in making tennis suits and such gowns as will receive the hardest wear.

Velvet trimmings on gowns will be worn all the season through wherever they can be put. Private information tells me that plush is to be worn in the fall to an extent never before dreamed of. I am not sorry, for it is a superb material and becoming to all, the only drawback being its cost.

HENRIETTE ROUSSEAU.

AN INTERESTING GROUP.

The Family of Mott Smith, the Hawaiian Minister.

One December evening a little over eight years ago the literary society of Washington met at the residence of Mrs. Jean Davenport Lander, a quaint old fashioned white frame house not far from the capitol. General Hawley presided, and many other distinguished men and women were present. To me one of the most interesting was a plump little woman with a bright, attractive face, crowned with wavy gray hair combed



MYRA MOTT SMITH.

back from a broad, low forehead. This was Mrs. Mott Smith. I sat beside her for some time and listened with delight to her pleasant voice telling me about her home in Honolulu. It all seemed very wonderful and new, and such a long way off! And now we are talking about annexation, and the young Princess Kaiulani is protesting against it.

Dr. Mott Smith was then a special commissioner from Hawaii. I don't remember whether he and Mrs. Smith kept house in Washington that winter or not, but they did the next winter in a large, plain house on I street. This agreeable family attracted the best people in the city and the distinguished stranger within in her gates, so that one was sure, even at the least formal evening at this house, to meet more than one personage of political or literary distinction.

An interesting feature of that big, pleasant parlor was a "Hawaiian corner," with a fine collection of photographs of the royal family and many points of interest. There were instruments of various kinds, specimens of native handiwork, some of the beautiful feather work, strings of the loveliest shells and many things which I cannot now describe.

Dr. Mott Smith, a native of New York, went when quite young to Hawaii. His wife was born in Honolulu of New England parents. She received most of her education in this country and has made the trip to and from Hawaii many times. Her children were born in her native city, and there was a household when they were all at home—four girls and three boys. Then this charming family went away in pursuit of knowledge, which to them was a pastime, not a hardship. The eldest two girls spent two years in



IDA MOTT SMITH.

Dresden studying German and music, and the rest were scattered for awhile. About four years ago they got together in Boston and set up a home there, where the younger members pursue their studies, while the elders come and go as business or pleasure calls.

Mrs. Mott Smith is now very much of an invalid, and her social duties are discharged by her second daughter, Myra, a pretty girl, with soft, golden brown hair, dark, golden brown eyes and fair complexion. She is as bright and clever as she is good looking, and as natural and unaffected as the schoolgirl of seven years ago.

Ida, the third daughter, who might easily be taken for Myra, so much does she resemble her, graduated with many honors from the Harvard annex some time ago. Her knowledge of mathematics especially is something quite wonderful for a girl, but she does not consider her education finished and is now taking a "post-post" course.

May, about 14, is following close in the footsteps of her sister and promises to rival her in mental attainments and good looks.

Of the boys, Harold, just of age, is studying architecture. Ernest, two years younger, is still at Harvard. Morton, who was one of the little ones I remember, has a decided taste for electricity.

JULIETTE M. BABBITT.

How to Make Stove Polish. Mix black lead with the white of an egg.

How to Brighten Tinware. Wash it in soda water; it will look like new.

THE COST OF FAME.

POOR MEN SHOULD AVOID BEING EMBASSADORS.

Wellman Would Spurn the Mexican Ministry—Professor Langley Would Fly—The Single Taxers and the Cat—Mrs. Cleveland's Candidate For Postmaster.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, April 6.—There is very small chance for a poor man to win fame in the higher ranks of the American diplomatic service. The first class missions can be held only by men who are able to spend each year a large sum from their private purses. Ex-Secretary Bayard, for instance, will pay dearly for the honor of being the first ambassador this nation ever sent across the water.

At London he will receive a salary of \$17,500 a year, and his expenses will probably be just about twice this sum. When Mr. Phelps was minister at London and ex-Governor Waller of Connecticut consul general at the same place, the minister and the consul general occasionally compared notes on their financial status. One day after a conversation on this topic Minister Phelps proposed to Waller that they exchange places during the remaining two years that they expected to remain there. "You see, Waller," said he, "I get a salary of \$17,500 a year and spend a little more than \$35,000 a year, as I discover by looking over my bankbook. On the other hand, you take in salary and fees together, about \$40,000 a year, and you say your living expenses do not much exceed \$1,000 a month. So, if you will agree, we'll simply exchange places for the next two years, and that will bring us both out even. What do you say?"

When congress gave the president the power to send an ambassador to countries sending an ambassador hither, it did not authorize any increase in the salary, and hence Ambassador Bayard and Ambassador Enstis and the other ambassadors, if we have any, will have to meet the demands upon their more exalted rank out of their own pockets. France and England, on the other hand, allow their ambassadors a good deal more money per year than they do their mere ministers, and it is believed Sir Julian Paucotote's salary and allowances from the British government as ambassador at Washington will run well up toward \$70,000 a year.



THOMAS F. BAYARD.

The British minister at the City of Mexico is allowed about \$50,000 a year all told, and he spends it all, or nearly all, in sumptuous entertaining. The dinners which he gives in the Mexican capital are described as truly royal, and their richness quite puts in the shade the efforts of our poorly paid representative at that capital. A few years ago our minister to Mexico was paid only \$12,000 a year, but minister after minister finding it impossible to maintain the dignity of the United States on that sum without plunging himself into bankruptcy congress very reluctantly raised the mission to the first class.

If Minister Gray goes into entertaining at all—and it is difficult to see how he can avoid doing so and hope to maintain a status which will be satisfactory to himself and his government—he will find his salary of \$17,500 a year scant enough. That looks like a big sum of money to most of us, but it doesn't go very far with a foreign minister. Besides, Mexico has one of the gayest and most prodigal capitals in the world. All the wealth of that country nearly is owned in the City of Mexico. It is a land of glorious climate, soil and resources, but teems with poverty stricken millions. The wealth is controlled by a few, and these fortunate families live in splendor in the capital city.

There is little or no manufacturing in the country, and excessive import taxes are levied upon everything bought in the United States or Europe. For instance, there are no breweries in Mexico, and the imported beer costs 50 cents a bottle. No wine is produced in the country, and as the rich will have wine they find it necessary to pay enormous prices. The truth is, I wouldn't take the Mexican mission as a gift. In addition to the necessity of spending all of one's salary and throwing in his time as worth nothing, one must run enormous chances of ending his days there. The city has no drainage. It lies reeking in the accumulated filth of centuries. Who would want to leave the glorious United States and live in a hole like that four years simply for the purpose of acquiring a little fame?

Much more sensible would it be for a man to stay at home and devote his energies to something for the benefit of his fellow man. Take, as an example, the case of Professor Langley, secretary of the Smithsonian institution. For several years this man has devoted his great learning and his wonderful energy to the development of a flying machine. He spends his days at the institution earning the salary which is paid him, and he does earn it too. But I don't believe he would admit a cabinet minister to his house in the evening. After dinner is the golden hour which he devotes, and which he has devoted for several years, to work upon his device. All social invitations, all the fleeting vanities of the world, he eschews with the rigor

of a religious recluse. He has no time for frivolity. Life is too short with this man to waste an hour that might be devoted to science. Is it not admirable?

Of course it is, and the results of all this self denial, of all this labor, are likely to astonish the world and make Professor Langley one of the most famous men of his time. The progress which he has made with his flying machine he guards as more or less of a secret, but I am able to tell you that within a year or so he will without much doubt solve this problem of problems. He is building a flying machine that will fly. Years of study convinced Professor Langley that flight could not be effected by means of a balloon. So Professor Langley set out to build an aeroplane—a flying machine which should fly by virtue of the impact of itself in motion against the surrounding atmosphere. Countless experiments have been made in this direction also, but all have failed for lack of proper adjustment of weights and absence of the necessary power. He deserves fame and is almost sure to attain it.

There are many different ways of attaining fame. Some men acquire it, and others have it thrust upon them. As an example of the latter, take the case of Judge Maguire of San Francisco, who is coming down here as a member of congress. Judge Maguire won fame with a single story. It was not much of a story either, but its success lay in the application of it. Perhaps you have heard of the single taxers. The single taxers, led by Henry George, have one of the most perfect organizations known to the art of propaganda. All the single taxers hang together. There are single taxers all over earth. In nearly every country they have their national society, controlling and co-operating with innumerable local societies. No religious sect, no secret society, no social or political organization that I know anything about, is one-half so much in earnest as the single taxer.

I hardly know what single taxing is myself, and yet confess to a great deal of admiration for these men who, out of pure earnestness of conviction, very love of their principles, are going forth to try to conquer. It happens that a great many people can't see through the single tax doctrine. No matter how clearly it may be explained to them, they fail to see the point. And yet it is claimed when they do see it they see it all at once, and with such vividness that the impression is left upon their minds ever afterward. It was in illustration of this that Judge Maguire told the story which made him famous. I will try to tell his story for him.

"Before a show window in San Francisco a crowd was gathered looking at a picture there displayed. A placard by the side of the picture bore these words:

DO YOU SEE THE CAT?

"I (this is Judge Maguire's story, remember) looked and looked and couldn't see any cat. I twisted my head this way and that, shut one eye and then the other, called all my powers of imagination forward, but the agile cat eluded me. Concluding that the thing was a humbug and that there was no cat in the picture, I walked away, feeling that the shopkeeper had imposed upon me. A good many people are the same way with single taxing. They don't see the point and say the whole thing is a fake. But I couldn't get the cat out of my mind and in an hour went back again. The result was the same. The figure of the cat never presented itself to my vision.

"Next morning found me once more before the window. I had determined to see that cat or die. Finally a friend standing near me cried out: 'There it is. Don't you see his tail?' And looking where he pointed I did see the end of Mr. Cat's tail, and in another second the whole feline had flashed upon me. He was almost as big as the picture itself, and when I had once seen him he almost obscured everything else on the canvas. So it is, my friends, with the single tax principle. All of a sudden it flashes upon the window of your mind, and it can never be removed thereafter."

Another man who is fast acquiring fame in a queer way is Frank Lawler of Chicago. An old sort of a fellow is Frank. He served several terms in congress from Chicago, and though an illiterate man who had graduated from a saloon and the board of alderman he made a good congressman. He nearly killed himself working as an errand boy for his constituents. Once he was well to do, but he spent all his money in politics, and now his little home is mortgaged. He wants to be postmaster of Chicago. To back up his application he brought to Washington with him the most remarkable petition which was ever presented to a president. It contains all 63,497 names.

But even this unparalleled petition, which he brought to the capital with him in a trunk that had traveled around the world, been in two steamship disasters and any number of railway accidents and come out unscathed, is not likely to do him as much good as the fact that at a church fair in Chicago a year or more ago where Baby Ruth and Benny McKee were rivals for a beautiful chair Frank rushed in and conducted Baby Ruth's campaign with so much energy that the chair was voted her as the most popular baby in America. Mrs. Cleveland now has but one candidate for appointment, and his name is Frank Lawler.

WALTER WELLMAN.

Cutting Sticks.

Apple bees are no longer good form in the rural districts of northeastern Pennsylvania. Whittling parties are the favorite evening amusement now, and skill with the jackknife is the fashionable attainment. Prizes are offered for the best ax handle, rolling pin, potato masher or other useful and aggressive article, and the only tools allowed are a jackknife, sandpaper and a file. The girls are not barred from the contests, and some of them are more expert than their male competitors. A time limit of two hours is usually set for the completion of the article called for, and after things are cleared up the contestants have a supper and sometimes a dance.

THE MODERN DINING ROOM

WHAT SHOULD PROPERLY CONSTITUTE ITS DECORATIONS AND FURNISHINGS.

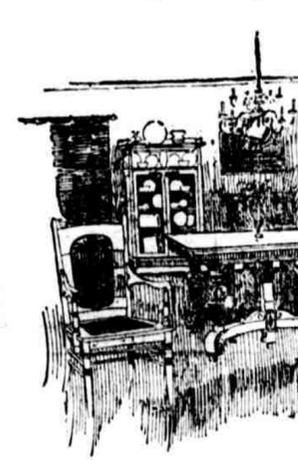
Some Suggestions of Value and Illustrations of Interest Relative to One of the Most Important Rooms of the Home of Today—Colorings for Its Walls and Draperies—Oak is King in the Furniture and Finishings—A Room That Can Be Artistically Furnished at no Great Cost or One Upon Which a Great Deal of Money Can Be Expended Judiciously.

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THE diningroom of all the rooms in the average American house is apt to be the most difficult to make attractive and artistic, partly because of the unwieldy formality which has hitherto characterized its necessary furnishings. Unfortunately in thousands of city houses families submit to pass their pleasantest hours—those of the morning reunion at breakfast and the evening rest and refreshment at dinner—in semi-cellars more or less below the level of the street. Of course, if people will take their meals in cellars, they must be responsible to a large extent for the lack of brightness and cheerfulness which ought to characterize the modern diningroom. As will be seen by the sketch here submitted, the diningroom of our imagination is certainly one that asserts its right to a portion of the ground floor, where space and light are important factors in assisting us in developing an attractive and pleasurable interior. In fact, the arrangement of the furnishings of a diningroom should give the eye as great a sense of comfort, warmth and satisfaction as the food there partaken will give the body.

Oak is commonly regarded as the most suitable wood for diningrooms, and the woodwork should be substantial. Even painted pine, if well treated, gives admirable effects. Mahogany is used for the more elaborate rooms, its beautiful color conveying richness and substantial beauty when spread over a whole room, even without any relief. In an oak room the walls of the apartment may be decorated in an olive tint in a way of self harmony to the woodwork, but wherein richness of effect is desired a contrast of color in the wall surface is recommended. A combination of blue, green and silver is very cool and refreshing for a diningroom.

up to the ceiling, the ceiling itself being laid in panels of solid oak. These are the essential requirements of the dining room, but in addition to these there are non-essentials which depend on whether the room shall serve as a dining room, or for the more familiar service of breakfast or lunch as well. Certain things are necessary in rooms where people are apt to linger, as they certainly will do after the more informal meals. The first of these as suggested to every mind are books and papers, and for the accommodation of these small standing shelves are preferable to hanging shelves on account of their



A COMPLETE BUT INEXPENSIVE DINING ROOM.

having a southern outlook, and in the evening the effect is peculiarly delicate and charming under artificial light. The floor of the diningroom may be of oakparquetry covered with oriental rugs in rich, soft colors, but carpets of small figure are more generally used. The hangings may be of heavy stuff of a dull blue green shade with silver, having broad bands of greenish plush at top and bottom heavily embroidered with silver. The walls may have a paper of unobtrusive pattern, the general tone of which is silvery green. The ceiling may be of peacock blue of varying depth, and over this is lightly brushed filmy cobwebs of silver. The chandeliers should be of chased and burnished copper. Of course this is a wide range of rich effects in color decoration for dining rooms, such as gold and dull red, terra cotta, Indian yellow, etc., all of which are equally appropriate. With regard to furnishing the apartment, the most important article is, of course, the sideboard. In the room the coloring of which is described above, a sideboard of oak, with delicate carving, ornamented with chased brass drawer handles, etc., such as here delineated, is in every way a most satisfactory piece of furniture. The back of the sideboard has a French plate glass mirror, and is trimmed in excellent taste. There is a shelf at the top supported by finely turned columns for the reception of vases, china or silverware. The table, as will be seen, is richly designed and very substantially constructed, and is modern Renaissance in style. It is of oak, like the rest of the furniture, treated with ammonia, so as to have that rich bronze green tint so much admired in old mediæval work. The armchair and side chairs, with carved backs filled with delicate spindle

work and cane seats are thoroughly modern in style, substantial in construction and exceedingly attractive in appearance. Standing against the other wall by observed a beautifully designed china closet, whose lines are in conformity with the rest of the furniture in the apartment. Interior shelves seen through the doors display chinaware and glassware, and the shelf at the top is appropriately decorated with more ornamental pieces.

In addition to giving a view of the modern dining room, a sketch presented of a side table, buffet, or dinner wagon, in the Adam style. Nothing could be more graceful or appropriate than the finely designed lines of modern creations in this style of work, the article itself being the ne plus ultra of utility as well as of decorative grace. There is a drawer in the front for silverware, with cupboards having rounded doors at either side.

By way of variation in the style of dining room chairs an illustration is shown of a side chair in oak, upholstered in olive leather, which is fastened to the frame with silver headed nails.

It may be mentioned that in cases where expense is not a question of great consideration, a wainscoting of oak is extremely desirable as a characteristic decoration of the dining room. In many stately dining rooms the wood is carried



BUFFET, IN THE ADAM STYLE.

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