

FOR OUR LADY READERS.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE GENTLE SEX.

Cotton Dresses—The Brunette's Day—A Bit of a Woman—A House Gown by Worth—Sensible Girls.

Cotton Dresses.

There is a revival of dainty old-fashioned muslins for the cotton dresses in preparation for next summer, of corded dimities, of lawns soft as mull, the pretty batistes, and transparent organdies. These sheer fabrics will rival without displacing the thicker gingham, percales, cotton Cheviots, and satteens that have so long been popular. In thin fabrics the first choice is for those with clear white grounds strewn with flowers, or branching designs in pink, lilac, or blue, but there are also many with dark colors as well as with black grounds. The new dimities are thinner than those formerly worn, and are woven in corded stripes powdered with colored figures; they are thirty-two inches wide, and cost thirty cents a yard. Striped lawns are great favor, in broad widths, and in narrow-quarter-inch stripes of yellow, pink, pale violet, or china blue, alternating with white; these come in the soft mousseline de l'Inde, entirely without dressing, that is sold for twenty-eight cents a yard. Embroidered batistes are liked in colors, while thinner organdies and dotted Swiss muslins have large designs of flowers printed upon them.

Tailors are making tucked bodices and shirt waists of duck or of cotton Cheviots for young ladies at board-school and for yachting dresses. The prettiest tucked bodice, with seams only under the arms, falls low on the hips, and is fitted entirely by tucks stitched in the front and back, beginning above the waist line and extending just below it. Ten lengthwise tucks below the bust fit in the front easily, and eight are sufficient in the back. In thinner fabrics, such as the washable silks, there are bodices with lengthwise tucks stitched all around the waist, giving the effect of a corset, with the silk drooping above, like a blouse. Coat sleeves, square cuffs, and a turned-over collar complete tucked bodices of duck or Cheviot. The straight skirt has a fan-pleated back. Youthful looking cotton Cheviot dresses, white striped with blue or pink, or with the color for the ground and the lines of white, are made with a shirt waist and sloped skirt fastened up by buttons in the belt. The shirt usually has a shallow yoke, that may be in the back only, stitched on in a point, while the front is straight, and the fulness is gathered under it. A plain pink Cheviot shirt waist is worn with a bias skirt of pink and white striped Cheviot. A dress of striped blue and white Cheviot has the skirt bias and the shirt in straight stripes, except in the yoke, where they are cut to meet in points in the middle. Such shirts have shirt sleeves with deep cuffs and turned-over pointed collars. Starched edges and pearl buttons give the neat finish needed.

Spencer waists with yoke and belt are cut out in square tabs that fall low on the hips and give a coat effect, or else they are scalloped deeply and edged with embroidery. This design is pretty for gingham and percales. The sleeves fall full on deep cuffs of embroidery. The belt is pointed in front, and may be of velvet, with square clasps of jet or steel set upon it, or else a Cleopatra girle of passementerie is worn.—Harper's Bazar.

The Brunette's Day.

The brunette is going to have her innings. "Bab's" reason for saying this is that most of the new bonnets are decorated with white ribbon and have white ribbon strings. These are absolutely impossible in any blonde except the natural one with a skin like peaches and cream. The woman who has had dark hair and has been idiot enough to bleach it usually has to make up to suit her hair or else her skin is of a leaden hue. Now, white ribbons will bring out every particle of powder and rouge on her face and make a shocking spectacle of the fool and her folly. The brunette will wear the white ribbons and triumph in this way over the blonde, who will not dare to assume them. In the way of fashion her blondes have triumphed for a long time, and it is only just that the brunette should at last have some rights. The bleached blonde will undoubtedly try the white ties—for any woman who has been silly enough to believe that nobody knows that the Lord did not make her hair a color out of harmony with her skin, her lashes and her brows is idiot enough to try anything for she believes that everybody in the world is blind. The glistening white ribbon is a judgment come upon the lady with the bleached locks.

A House Gown by Worth.

A charmingly simple dress for the house is of self-colored woolen and dark otter brown velvet. Passementerie of gold and chenille is the trimming. The round bodice is a pretty variation of a design in great favor with Worth. The front is carved low at the top below a velvet plastron. It is draped from the right shoulder and crossed to hook in a straight line on the smooth left side. All the edges are bordered with passementerie. The velvet plastron is draped in curves, and is cut in one piece with the collar. A velvet girle is folded around the hips. The sleeves expand in a puff at the top, and are gathered in a ruffle high on the shoulders; a band of velvet and passementerie trims the wrists. The skirt front has slight movement, caused by folds caught up on the left by a chateleine of loops, rows of the passementerie extend thence to the foot. The right side falls forward in a straight fold edged with the trimming. This design is being used for spring gowns of crepon or cashmere, or for chawl dresses for summer wear.

Sensible Girls.

Some old philosopher has said that in nine cases out of ten, when a man was thrown constantly in the society of one woman, he would end by marrying her. But there are some exceptions to this general rule, and a notable one is to be found among the class of shopgirls who are employed

in the big retail stores uptown. Said the manager of one of these establishments: "It is a popular idea with the public that our female employes find husbands among the men in the store, with whom they work every day, but it is not true. Most of the girls who marry select their mates from a class of men who are in some other and more remunerative business. The principal reason for this is to be found in the fact that the girls soon become imbued with sensible ideas in regard to the life of all who have to work for a living. A girl soon finds out all about the man who works at the same counter with her and knows that he earns but little more than she does herself. Matrimonial bliss on a salary just sufficient for one has no temptation for the average shopgirl!"—New York Recorder.

Conventionality.

There was a young woman who said with earnestness and sincerity, "I would rather sit in a stupid parlor a whole evening with the stupidest people; I would rather feel the rain of dullness splashing down over my face and into my eyes, and know it was all right and proper, than be introduced to the brightest people on earth if there was about them the least trace of unconventionality." And there was a woman who heard this dictum and who went from the hearing of it straightway to eat a dinner given to the only college president in the whole United States, probably, who would sit down in a flannel shirt to a board surrounded in his honor by a hundred of his old students, half in swallow-tailed coats and the other half in rose-decked gowns. And when the woman looked at the fine, simple, scholarly face and then at the gray flannel, she said to herself: "This man would not be the man he is if any self-consciousness had made him so much as question with himself the propriety of wearing or laying aside his unconventional clothes." And so this woman further said to herself, "In this world there are many opinions."

Ornamental Buttons.

We are once more to have buttons for ornament as well as use. The stores of the antiquary will be ransacked by his feminine relatives for miniature and dainty enameled. For evening dress these will be set around with pearls and diamonds, and antique gold and silver are to be worn encrusted with jewels. For the daytime they will be simpler, miniatures of Wedgwood china being the very smartest. Great care will be taken in selecting the costumes to be honored by these ornaments, for we shall have to dress "up" to our buttons, and the color of our gowns must harmonize with the ground of the miniature. I have seen a perfectly beautiful set, ornamented with portraits of the Countesses of different reigns, set round with pearls, which made me feel very envious and several other sets in old paste, with which I should have been quite satisfied.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

A Bit of a Woman.

Louise Lawson, the sculptor whose statue of Sunset Cox is occasioning considerable discussion just now, is a bit of a woman, with golden-brown hair, gray eyes, a lip and vivacious manner. She wears, when working in clay, a dark-blue blouse and trousers, and her studio costume is always of white linen—skirt and coat—the latter finished with an extraordinary collar of coarse embroidery, tied with the traditional knot of baby-blue ribbon. With this costume yellow shoes are worn. The whole effect is more bizarre than attractive. Whatever the critics say, the letter carriers swarby Louise and her nine-foot image.—New York World.

Fashion's Late Freaks.

String your neck with silver beads. Every black dress must have a dash of color. Swell modistes fit their skirts to the customer while she is seated. Women are shorter now than at any time in the last 10 years, all because of the low-heeled English walking shoe.

All the collars and cuffs on jackets and wraps flare. They are braided and loops are tacked down with buttons. Cleopatra's handkerchief is another innovation by Sarah Bernhardt, made of 10 inches of fine batiste hemstitched, and wet with hly of the Nile. This sweet-scented flimsy rag is worn concealed in the palm of the hand, whether gloved or not.

In beauty shops you can buy a pot of some scarlet grease to put on your gums and make your teeth dazzling white by contrast. This is no secret to the Patis, Bernhards, Minnie Hauks and Ada Relians, but it is only recently that the belles and dames of society have begun to paint their gums.

Hints for the Cuisine.

Fried oysters are not suitable food for a dyspeptic, but when roasted in the shell they are excellent and can be digested with ease by a weak stomach. If doughnuts are cut out an hour before they are fried to allow a little time for rising, they will be much lighter. Fry cutting at night and frying in the morning. Gravy will generally be lumpy if the thickening is poured in while the pan is over the fire. Set the pan off until the thickening is well stirred in, then set it on the fire and cook thoroughly.

Apple Meringue.

To one quart of tart apples, stewed and pressed through a sieve, add the yolks of three eggs well beaten. Sweeten to taste and flavor. Place in the oven, and when brown cover with the meringue made as follows: Beat the whites to a stiff froth with three tablespoons of powdered sugar.

Pea Soup.

After well washing one quart of split peas, soak them for the night, and boil them with a little carbonate of soda in just sufficient water to allow them to break to a mash. Then put them to three or four quarts of beef broth, and stew for one hour; then pass the whole through a sieve, and heat again. Season with salt and pepper. One or two small heads of celery, sliced and stewed in it, will be found a great improvement.

ANXIOUS TO BE DRAWN OUT.

But the Thoughtful Barber Declined to Take the Bait.

He was waiting for his turn in a Grandriver Avenue barber shop, says the Detroit Free Press, and he quietly remarked to the barber that he had been out in the Indian country.

"Yes. Huntin' rabbits, is suppose?" replied the barber, seemingly not the least interested.

"Rabbits! No, sir—Indians!"

"Oh! Find any?"

"Of course I did! I was all through the late troubles at Pine Ridge."

"Yes. Get frost-bitten?"

"Frost-bitten? Why, hang it, I was wounded in three places."

"Gum off accidentally?"

"No, it didn't! What sort of a man are you, anyhow?"

"Beg pardon, but can they raise artichokes out there?"

"Artichokes! Why don't you ask how many Indians I killed at Wounded Knee?"

"Anybody wounded in the knee out there?" asked the barber as he reached for the water bottle. "Bad place to be wounded in. I broke my knee cap once. Next!"

"Not by a jug-full!" exclaimed the waiting man as he reached for his overcoat. "I was intending to have a hair-cut, shave, and have my whiskers dyed, but you are not the man to do it! I'll go to some shop where they know something and have quinine enough to draw a feller out!"

He Paid the Bill.

A few days ago the friends of a prominent society woman were startled by the report that she was seriously ill. The Town Talker, in speaking of her illness to a particular friend of the lady, brought out the cause of the illness. She is allowed by her husband so much a month for dresses. During the last social season she bought so many handsome ball dresses that her allowance only seemed a drop in the bucket toward paying for them. Her costumes attracted so much attention that her vanity was excited, and she endeavored with each succeeding dress to surpass the last. This she succeeded in doing. Every action must have a corresponding reaction. Her pleasure, caused by being the best dressed woman in Louisville, has given place to her sorrow, caused by having the largest millinery bills of any woman in Louisville. The bills were sent to her, amounting to \$1,200. She immediately retired to her bed. Doctors were sent for, but for a week she continued to grow worse. Her husband became alarmed and told her that if she would just get well he would do anything for her. She said she could not. At last in despair, she told him if he would just pay her bill and forgive her she would try and get well. He promised. He paid the bill. From that moment she began to recuperate, and in a few days was almost entirely well. She then confessed to her husband, who forgave her. She has promised to live within her allowance, which he has increased. So they are both happy again.—Louisville Commercial.

Refusing a Fortune.

Among many good instances of success won by perseverance told by Mr. J. H. Osborne in 'The Young Man' is one about the patentee of the Westinghouse air brake. He writes: You have heard of the Westinghouse air brake, now in universal use on the railways. It is reported that \$100,000 per annum is paid in royalties to the patentee. How we are tempted to envy the lucky man! Some years ago we should probably have pitied him. At that time George Westinghouse was trying in vain to get an advance of money on the security of one-half the prospective profits from his patent. One of his friends, M'Kee Rankin, a well-known actor in America, says that Westinghouse argued with him three times a week for nearly eight months. Each time the inventor went over the same arguments, drove home the same apparently conclusive reasons why there was a fortune in his brake, each time to be put off as a confirmed "crank." The actor moved to New York, and played there for some years. One day a friend promised to introduce him to a millionaire, who had once known him in Pittsburg. Not a thought of the "crank" occurred to Rankin, but it was the "crank" who was now the millionaire, and the actor discovered that he had refused, over a hundred times, an offer that would have made him a very rich man.

The "Picket."

The picket was generally inflicted on cavalry and artillery men, and was a singularly brutal bit of torture. A long post, near which stood a stool, was driven into the ground. The delinquent was ordered to mount the stool; his right hand was fastened to a hook in the post, by a noose, drawn up as high as it could be stretched, round his wrist. A stump, the height of the stool, with its end cut to a round and blunt point, was also driven into the earth close to the post. Then the stool was taken away and the sufferer had nothing to rest his bare feet on but the stump, "which though it did not usually break the skin," says Capt. Grose, "put him in great torture, his only means of relief being by resting his weight on his wrist, the pain of which soon became intolerable." One man very well believed him, especially when he makes the admission that a man was not infrequently left to stand in this position for half an hour—although the orthodox period of endurance was fifteen minutes.—London Graphic.

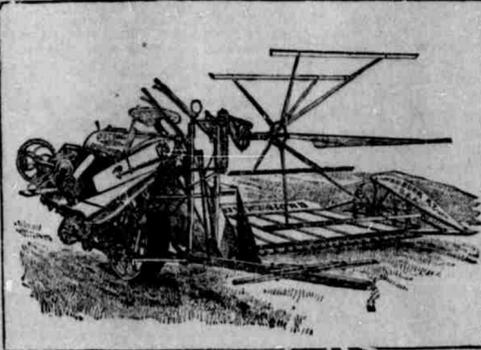
The Barber Was Ready.

An old veteran told this as happening in Savannah during the war: A young officer, who was pretty much of a bully, stopped in at a tonorial saloon. Drawing his sword he ordered the barber to shave him, at the same time warning him that if he cut his face or drew a drop of blood he would kill him when he got up. The operation was performed without accident. Before he went out, however, the bully asked the artist if he was not very much frightened while he was doing the work.

The Barber Enraged.

"Not in the slightest," he replied; "for if I had accidentally drawn a drop of blood I would have cut your throat from ear to ear before you could have moved."

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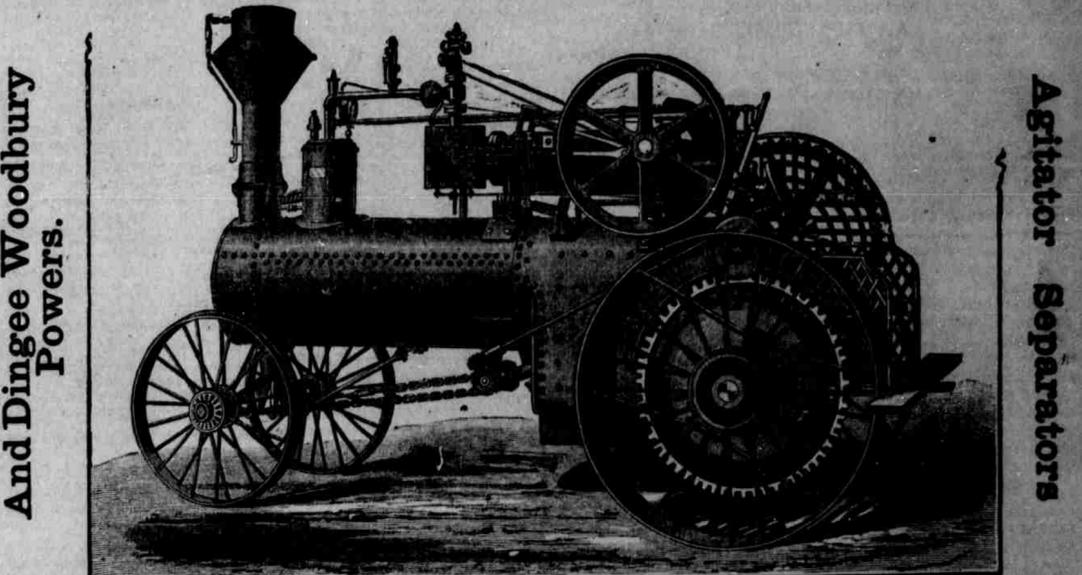


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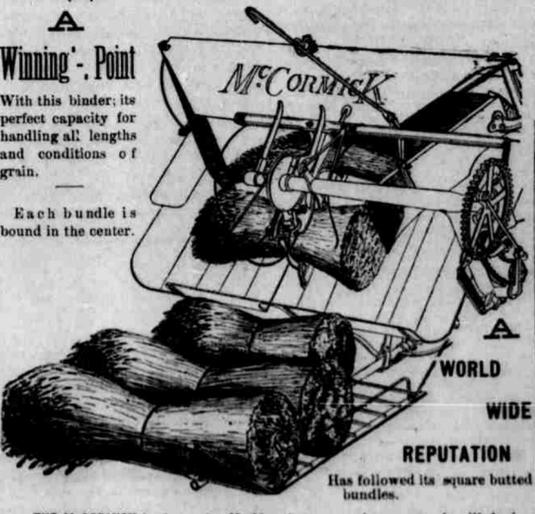
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