



#### FRENCH QUEEN OF THE MAY.

**Pretty Custom That Prevails in Southern Villages.**

An ancient custom which still obtains in many villages in the south of France is a pretty variation of the choosing of the May queen with which we are so familiar. At this season of the year the mayor—each tiny village in France boasts of a mayor—and six of his political officers choose from among the village maidens the most beautiful girl. As soon as the choice is made known the queen, dressed in white even to a long white veil and a wreath of white roses, assembles with her parents and all the villagers in front of the mayor's house. Here he and six friends, dressed in frock coats and top hats, form in procession, the mayor and queen leading, and march to the church, where there is a short ceremony.

They then march back to the mayor's house, where a favored few are entertained at luncheon. When he proposes her health he enumerates her virtues, kisses her on both cheeks and hands her an envelope which contains the prize, \$200 in money. But the ceremony does not end here. They form in procession, the band leading this time, and in a sort of "follow my leader" game walk through the village, up lanes and over hills for three hours. That evening a ball is given at the inn, where the queen dances first with the mayor and his six friends and afterward with the lads of the village, and so the celebration ends. The queen's white veil and wreath are carefully folded away and are brought out again only when she becomes a bride.

#### Girl's Coat.

Loose coats are the smartest of all smart things for little girls and are shown in a variety of attractive materials and colors. This one includes an inverted plait at the back, which always is becoming, and allows a choice of round or square collar. Cloth, cheviot, silk, linen and pique all are worn, with collars of the material or contrasting with it as preferred.



Design by May Manton.

ferred, but the model, from which the drawing was made, is of brown cloth with the collar and cuffs of tan color finished with handsome banding.

The coat consists of fronts and back and is fitted by means of shoulder and under-arm seams. At the neck is the big collar and the sleeves are simple, full ones, gathered into straight cuffs. The back is laid in an inverted plait that provides additional fullness and the fronts are lapped one over the other and closed in double-breasted style.

The quantity of material required for the medium size (8 years) is 4½ yards 21 inches wide, 2½ yards 44 inches wide or 2¾ yards 52 inches wide, with ½ yard of any width for collar and 1½ yards of banding to trim as illustrated.

#### About Salads.

Nothing is more decorative on the table than a bit of salad served in the heart of some lettuce leaves, in lemon or orange cups, cabbage leaves or scooped out onions, cucumbers, tomatoes, beets, turnips or peppers. Celery salad, plain or mixed with apples or nuts or a plain lettuce salad, is served always with game.

Potato salad is perhaps the most popular for the home table, and nothing seems to take the place of a nice chicken salad for social affairs.

Every housewife who wants the factor of a satisfactory life to abide in her family will seek to include a salad in at least one menu each day. A leaf salad, dress or lettuce, should be served with a heavy dinner.

#### Elegance in Mantles.

Very elegant fichu mantles are made of silk, trimmed with ruffles and frills of lace or kilted chiffon. Some are trimmed with feathers. They have stole ends in front and are fastened with jeweled clasps. Young girls will affect Spencers and Marie Antoinette fichus of embroidered white muslin. The Rejane mantle is of gathered silk, trimmed with double ruffles and bias folds of silk. It opens V-shaped at the neck and has long rounded stole ends in front. There are endless varieties of caplets and tiny shawl capes, empire fichus and such like frivolities, but the fact remains that the best coats are the tight-fitting and the Carrick.

#### Pretty Parasol.

An extremely pretty idea introduced in parasols is a small shepherd's check in taffetas, the favorite colors being blue or black or brown and white; silver or gold tips finish the ribs, and the handles are similar to umbrella handles. Lace medallion decorations are still in evidence, although they are certainly not so smart as those which are woven into the material and which are about the size of a silver dollar. Shaded ruchings are very effective feature of the season.

#### Stylish Taffetas.

For the gay and social affairs of the afternoon and evening the supple satins and taffetas are pronouncedly high style. They are well called mousseline satin and taffetas, for they are so fine, light and pliable. The new satins are much used for evening gowns, while the taffetas are employed for both day and evening gowns, according to the color and pattern.

#### OPOSSUM A CRAFTY BEAST.

**Writer Declares He Is Very Much More Knave Than Fool.**

To the uninitiated the opossum is a slow-going, stupid beast, with hardly enough ambition to eat his food. But those who have studied his habits declare that there is more of the rogue than the fool in his make-up, and that his apparent stupidity is but a part of his business policy. He seldom goes hungry, and he always has a hole to crawl into when he is sleepy. And, in spite of the slowness, he manages, some way, to catch many animals much swifter than he is. It is said that even the brisk squirrel falls a prey to him in the open woods, where one would think the spry little creature had all the advantage. The opossum catches rats and mice, and eats ground birds and their eggs. He is not entirely restricted to a meat diet, however, but is fond of nearly all the berries and other wild fruits that grow in the woods and fields, and has been known to creep into orchards and berry patches to devour cultivated fruits.—Detroit News-Tribune.

#### Great Sea Disasters.

Loss of the Russian flagship Petropavlovsk at Port Arthur, with Admiral Makaroff and an estimated strength of nearly 800 officers and men, while a severe blow to Russian prestige in the far East, is one of those catastrophes in naval warfare to which an actual combatant is always liable, though happily their occurrence is not common. In 1759, when "Hawke did bang Monsieur Comflans" at Quiberon bay, Sir Edward Hawke ordered his pilot to lay the Royal George of 100 guns, alongside the Soleil Royal, the French admiral's flagship. Before this could be done another French ship, La Superbe, of seventy guns, gallantly interposed, and, receiving her opponent's broadside, went down into the deep with her colors flying and 650 souls on board. Her revenge, however, came on Aug. 28, 1782, when the Royal George sunk at anchor off Spithead in a squall.

#### He Caught the Idea.

A schoolteacher of Bayonne recently had occasion to talk to her scholars about the different spellings of the word "to." She explained with great care the ways in which the word could be spelled and the meaning of it, as spelled in the different ways. Finally, in order to find out if the children had properly grasped the idea, she decided to give a test.

"Now, children, as quickly as you can, I want you to give me a sentence with all three of these spellings contained in it."

Hardly were the words out of her mouth before up went a hand.

"Well, Isaac?" said the teacher, interrogatively, and the boy, who was the solitary Jewish child in the class, answered glibly:

"Two dollars is too much to spend."

#### "Thy Will Be Done."

Yesterday, when I said, "Thy will be done,"

I knew not what that will of thine would be;

What clouds would gather black across my sun.

What storms and desolation waited me: I knew thy love would give me what was best.

And I am glad I could not know the rest.

"Thy will be done," I say, and to the scroll Of unread years consenting set my name;

Day after day their pages will unfold In shining words that prove thy love the same.

Until my years are gathered into one— Eternal, sanctified, "Thy will be done."

#### Red a Favorite Flag Color.

Red seems to be the most popular of national colors, if flags may be used as criterions. Of the twenty-five leading national flags nineteen have red in them. The same cannot be said of any other color. The chief flags that are marked with red are those of the United States, England, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Mexico, Chile, Portugal, and Venezuela.



#### Digestive Power of the Cow.

The power of the cow to take and digest large quantities of food regulates to a considerable degree her value in the dairy. The small eater is of little value, as it is impossible for her to make milk, and force energy and milk out of food that contains too little of the elements for force and milk making. In all cases a large eater is wanted. The large eater will have a depth of body not seen in the small eaters. The breadth of the body will also be more than that of cows that are small producers of milk. In the same connection, we may say that the body must also be long. It is not enough that the cow have a deep and wide paunch if it is short. With these go the strong jaws, which must be strong to masticate the amount of food the animals require to fill the large cavity of the stomach. The greatest number of good feeders have marked depth of body, and the ribs are what we call well-sprung. This means that the ribs are not bent down in such a way as to decrease the size of the abdominal cavity. No matter what the temperament of a cow may be, if she have not the power to digest easily a great quantity of food, she will be of little use as a milk producer. One of the best milk cows the writer ever knew had this great power of digesting feed to a remarkable degree. She had powerful jaws and a big paunch. Nothing seemed to be able to put her off her feed. She could fill up with anything and digest it without trouble. One night she broke loose in the stable and got to the place where the different feeds were kept. She sampled everything in sight and filled up on corn meal, bran, gluten feed and middlings. When the owner opened the door in the morning the cow was standing facing him, with sides bulged out too far to allow her to pass through the door. He said, "You're a dead cow," for he thought that a cow stuffed so full of dry ground feed as she was would certainly die. But the cow seemed to think otherwise and proceeded to digest her midnight meal as if it had been a common ration for her. The same amount of overfeed would have put most cows out of business, for some time at least. That digestive ability in a cow is valuable, and where found it should be carefully transmitted by breeding.

#### Public Opinion on Milk.

The matter of public opinion is a large one when it relates to the milk traffic. We must have a higher level of requirements for milk if we are to have better milk produced and sold. The public must be educated to refuse any except a perfectly pure milk, and must be also educated to the point of paying for that milk what it costs more than the milk that is now being sold, which has a low average as to cleanliness. At different times, talking with large producers of milk and butter, they have deprecated the agitation of the subject, for they have said that if the public found out how dirty the milk really is they would refuse to use it and that would hurt the milk trade. But that is not the effect of a proper enlightenment of the public on the matter. Once the public comes to understand that the milk for which they pay a certain price is low in freedom from dirt they will demand a milk that is clean and will be willing to pay for it. That is the course as it works itself out in practice. As public opinion rises the quality of the milk also rises, for the men that sell dirty milk find that they cannot hold their customers. The papers and the men that are telling the truth to the public about this matter are the ones that are turning the trade to the vendors of pure milk and that are driving the other men out of business. To illustrate: About two years ago one large milk concern in Chicago was discovered to have preserved its milk with formalin. The papers of the city published the facts. The next day all the customers of that company stampeded, and the company went into bankruptcy within a few weeks. This will be the result with every company that is discovered not to be doing right by the public, provided the public finds it out. Public opinion is a mighty power that is seldom fully counted on. Turn it in the right direction and nothing can stand before it. The strongest aid that we can call to the production of a good and pure milk supply is this same intangible force. Rightly informed it is invariably a mighty weapon for good.

#### The Eye of the Cow.

The eye of the cow, as of the human being, is indicative of much. It shows the character and force of the nervous energy back of it. If the nervous force is strong the eye will show marked intelligence. It will be wide open, and the sight will appear to be penetrating. It is said that a cow with a placid eye always has a good disposition, and this is doubtless true of the human animal. The cow with a placid eye will get along easily at all times, and will generally be contented with her lot, whatever it may be. She is the kind of an animal that would luxuriate in English meadows or contentedly chew herring on the black coast of Iceland. But there is such a thing as having an eye too open, and this indicates too great nervousness, and that the animal is easily frightened. The same is true of the quick, flashing eye. The eye of the cow can be studied with profit.



#### Corn Pollen.

Every particle of pollen is a minute germ that is meant to fertilize the cavity at the end of the corn silk and thus produce a kernel of corn. The pollen is not in itself a seed, but is the germ of a seed. The number of pollen grains borne on a single corn tassel is surprising. On the basis of counting a large part, it has been reckoned that each tassel, or rather collection of tassels, on a corn stalk, has about 50 million grains. Thus nature prepares to have most of her effort wasted. There are probably not more than a thousand kernels on the ordinary ear of corn, and this would give 50,000 grains of pollen for each kernel. In other words nature supplies the pollen so abundantly that nearly all may be wasted and yet enough be left to do the work of fructifying the cavities that are to produce seed. The necessity for this great waste is seen in the methods used to pollenate the silks. The wind is the chief carrier. But many times the wind is blowing the pollen away from the silk instead of towards it. It is only the occasional breeze that carries the pollen to the place where it may be useful; yet so great is the supply that a single zephyr may waft enough to the silk to fructify the whole clump. This abundance of pollen also helps to cross fertilize the corn, and it is probably the rule that most of the kernels have been developed from germs borne from other stalks rather than from the stalks on which the particular ear grew. This is the more likely to be the case for the reason that the wind is generally blowing the pollen away from the stalk on which it is borne and to the silk of some neighboring stalk. Thus nature provides against self-fertilization, which seems to be abhorrent to the general plan of life production. Pollen is blown to considerable distances, if we may judge of the results obtained. Some time ago we heard of a man that had a very fine strain of sweet corn, which brought him a good price when sold green in the market. He would not sell the seed, and as it had been bred up by himself, no other person could get it. To be sure that his seed did not get into the hands of anyone else, he planted his corn on an island in a river. But a neighbor was smart enough to plant his corn on the river bank opposite the sweet corn. The sweet corn was white and the other was the yellow field corn. He rightly judged that some of the million of grains of pollen would reach his field. In the fall when he gathered his yellow corn he found many white kernels scattered among the ears. These he picked out and planted the next year with the result that he had the same variety of corn as his neighbor. He had stolen the variety, but in a manner entirely legal.

#### The Silk of Corn.

Corn silk has received considerable attention from our corn scientists. It is a somewhat unusual manifestation of nature, the cavity to be fertilized by the pollen sending out this long silky messenger to guide the pollen grain to its goal. The growth and development of the silk bears an important relationship to the crop of corn that is to be harvested. The silk at the butt of the ear appears first and is the longest, as it must grow the whole length of the cob to get to the light at all. Yet it does this and is waiving in the air catching the pollen before the tip silks have appeared. The butt cavities or ovaries are therefore the first to be fertilized. It is generally believed that the shorter the ear the more likely it is to be covered with kernels, as the longer the ear the later will the tip silks be in getting out to the light where they can be of service. For this reason the tips of long ears are frequently found with no kernels on them. The silks did not get out till after the stalks had ceased shedding pollen. If an ear of corn that is sending out silk be covered with a long paper funnel, the silk will continue to grow in length till it has attained a length of twenty inches or more. At the Iowa station an ear of corn treated in this way seemed to despair of getting pollen and sent out two new ears near its base; and these two new ears developed a good mass of silk. The falling of the pollen on the silk is followed by the grains being conveyed to the ovaries, after the completion of which work the silk dies.

#### Green Potatoes.

Potatoes that are allowed to lie in the sun become green, as all of our readers that have grown potatoes know. It has been thought by some that these potatoes are not fit for planting any more than they are fit for food. But this is a mistake. They are not fit for food for the reason that they are both strong and bitter and for the additional reason that there have been elaborated in them some kinds of compounds that are thought not to be good for the health. But the green matter in the potato is not what makes it bad for the stomach, as it is only the chlorophyll that is found in all green leaves. The potato is even better for planting than before, and some potato planters expose their tubers to the sun to have them turn green, as this hastens growth of the shoots from the potato. They can thus be planted to advantage.

#### TOLD IN CALIFORNIA.



Helping the kidneys is helping the whole body, for it is the kidneys that remove the poisons and waste from the body. Learning this simple lesson has made many sick men and women well.

Judge A. J. Felter, of 318 So. E. St., San Bernardino, Calif., says:—"For 18 years my kidneys were not performing their functions properly. There was some backache, and the kidney secretions were profuse, containing also considerable sediment. Finally the doctors said I had diabetes. Doan's Kidney Pills wrought a great change in my condition and now I sleep and feel well again."

A FREE TRIAL of this great kidney medicine which cured Judge Felter will be mailed to any part of the United States. Address Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. Sold by all dealers; price 50 cents per box.

#### The German War on Quacks.

The German police have begun a systematic campaign against quacks and quack medicines. They estimate that in ten years the population has increased 58 per cent, regular medical men 76 per cent, and quacks 1,567 per cent. There are more women quacks than men. Nearly 30 per cent of the men cited to appear at the police bureau have been in jail, of the women 15 per cent. More than 100 samples of quack medicines were analyzed by the police, and over 80 per cent were of absolutely no medicinal value.

#### A Request from Tokio.

H. Kobayashi, of Tokio, Japan, has addressed a note to the village Improvement Society of South Orange, N. J., which runs about like this: "The honorable of the South Oranges are asked in what way do they rid themselves of him the much troublesome mosquito? How do they approach him in his house among the reeds and marshes, so as to remove him effectually from the dangers that he does to the people of good minds whose skins he much puncture? All this I would like so much to know."

#### Old Soldier's Story.

Sonoma, Mich., June 13—That even in actual warfare disease is more terrible than bullets is the experience of Deos Hutchins of this place. Mr. Hutchins as a Union soldier saw three years of service under Butler Barke in the Louisiana swamps, and as a result got crippled with rheumatism so that his hands and feet got all twisted out of shape, and how he suffered only a rheumatism will ever know. For twenty-five years he was in misery, then one lucky day his druggist advised him to use Dodd's Kidney Pills. Of the result Mr. Hutchins says:

"The first two boxes did not help me much, but I got two more, and before I got them used up I was a great deal better. I kept on taking them and now my pains are all gone and I feel better than I have in years. I know Dodd's Kidney Pills will cure rheumatism."

Every man is provided with sense enough to mind his own business, but few men have sense enough to let it go at that.

#### FREE TO TWENTY-FIVE LADIES.

The Defiance Starch Co. will give 25 ladies a round trip ticket to the St. Louis Exposition, to five ladies in each of the following states: Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri who will send in the largest number of trade marks cut from a ten-cent, 16-ounce package of Defiance cold water laundry starch. This means from your own home, anywhere in the above named states. These trade marks must be mailed to and received by the Defiance Starch Co., Omaha, Neb., before September 1st, 1904. October and November will be the best months to visit the Exposition. Remember that Defiance is the only starch put up 16 oz. (a full pound) to the package. You get one-third more starch for the same money than of any other kind, and Defiance never sticks to the iron. The tickets to the Exposition will be sent by registered mail September 5th. Starch for sale by all dealers.

Any man who thinks he is courting an angel may live to think again.

#### This Will Interest Mothers.

Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children, used by Mother Gray, a nurse in Children's Home, New York, Cure Feverishness, Bad Stomach, Teething Disorders, move and regulate the bowels and destroy Worms. Sold by all Druggists, 25c. Sample FREE. Address A. S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y.

Hunger is a terrible thing, but some men consider thirst more terrible.

#### When Your Grocer Says

he does not have Defiance Starch, you may be sure he is afraid to keep it until his stock of 12 oz. packages are sold. Defiance Starch is not only better than any other Cold Water Starch, but contains 16 oz. to the package and sells for same money as 12 oz. brands.

In the matrimonial game a baseball player isn't always a good catch.

#### Important to Mothers.

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it

Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Jackson*  
In Use For Over 30 Years.  
The Kind You Have Always Bought.

**Black and White Check Suit.**  
Light gray taffeta silk makes a lovely afternoon dress for cool days in summer.

If you cannot buy the embroidered pattern dress perhaps you can have one embroidered for you just as handsomely. There is one advantage about that—it gives you a chance for an original design.

The waist has a deep girde and above it a heavy padded design of the embroidery, which is studded with palest pink corals. A chain of those beads is worn around the neck.

A large black chip hat with pink roses and a handsome lace veil worn with it make a very stunning costume.

Flowered silks, muslins and nets are very popular, and what material could be prettier for a dainty evening gown? This particular dress is of soft white silk spotted with tiny rosebuds. The soft lace and folds around the neck are held in front by one large silk rose. Simplicity is the feature of this gown.

#### Gray Taffeta Gown.

A pretty summer suit is of yellow and green changeable silk. It has no trimming but a small V of lace at the neck. The waist and sleeves are very full. A fichu collar is tied in front with bows of ribbon the same shade as the gown. The skirt is simply full and ruffled.

A large shepherdess shaped hat with a cluster of shaded green plumes completes the costume in the prevailing fashion.

Again there is the black and white check, and is it not just as pretty and suitable as any material could be for a useful summer suit? The jacket, with its long scalloped shoulder yoke and full short sleeves, is very smart.

White broadcloth and little black velvet straps and gold buttons trim it in a wide band around the edge.

#### French "Powder Rag."

French women apply powder to their faces in such a way that it is never noticeable or blotchy-looking. They abhor the powder puff, and use instead a piece of chamois leather. This is dipped in the powder and passed over the forehead and temples (avoiding the eyebrows), then over the nose and upper lip and next over the chin and about the mouth, leaving the cheeks and parts under the eyes untouched. After the powder has thus been applied, a clean piece of wash-leather is passed over the face to smooth down the powder and rub it in. Attention must then be paid to the eyebrows, and if any powder has fallen on them it must be removed with a small brush.

#### A Dainty Dessert.

Slice a thin round from the stalk ends of oranges and remove the contents. Place the skins in cold water for an hour to let them harden; then drain and when they are quite dry inside fill them half way with pink jelly. Put them on ice and when the jelly seems firm fill them up with blanc mange or cream. Again lay them on ice and cut into quarters before serving. Place little sprigs of myrtle between the quarters. Lemons may be used instead of oranges if preferred.

#### Misses' Blouse Waist.

Blouse waists with deep yokes that are cut well over the shoulders are among the latest and smartest shown and are peculiarly well suited to young girls. This one is made of white mercerized madras trimmed with bands of embroidery and is unlined, but pretty, simple silks and thin wools are correct as well as cotton and linen materials and the fitted lining can be used whenever desirable. The wide tucks are both fashionable and becoming, and the shoulder straps serve to emphasize the broad drooping line



in a most satisfactory manner, while the box plait at the center can be left plain or covered with banding as preferred. The sleeves are tucked to be snug above the elbows, but are full below and are finished with novel cuffs. The waist consists of the lining, fronts, back and the yoke, which is cut in two portions and shaped by means of shoulder seams. At the fr-