

LADIES' TAILORS IN JAPAN

Little Jobbing Seamstresses Who Do Much Work for a Trifle.

MANY GRADUATES OF SEWING SCHOOLS

Exquisite Japanese Fashion Plate That Exceeds the Parisian Article—Difference in Styles—Advertising Tabooed.

There are ladies' tailors in Japan, but these are chiefly patronized by the giddy Geisha girls, for women of any social standing whatsoever place the destinies of their wardrobe exclusively in the hands of seamstresses who come to the house. The Japanese sewing woman, however, bears no resemblance in her methods to those cold-blooded butchers of time and good material, who are known and feared in this country. One and all the little jobbing seamstresses are modest artists in their way and nearly every one is the graduate of a sewing school of good standing.



PLATES FROM JAPANESE FASHION BOOK—A SMART DESIGN FOR ARRANGEMENT OF KIMONO, NOVEL COMBINATION OF COLORS, PATTERNS AND FABRICS.

states they made a vast flutter in the sewing schools and in private families. The little Japanese women even now are rather timid about using them, and a lady who dresses really well will simply refuse to have her pretty frocks made other than by hand. The machines are well enough, if you intend to wear European clothes, and for years ago the Japanese women welcomed the tight, heavy European dress with an enthusiasm that threatened to make the kimono a relic of the past. This fad for western fashions is every year losing its hold on the feminine mind in Japan, and the women are very wisely going back to their own simple, comfortable and beautiful mode of dress.

Japanese Sewing and Shopping.

When you want a sewing woman in Japan you do not advertise for her or look out for a sign on house walls. She is found by requesting her address of a friend. The friend is sure to know of an expert who will come to your house with all her utensils and sew from sunrise to sunset for 25 cents. The 25 cents is asked for making cotton dresses, while a somewhat higher price is demanded for sewing on silk. Among the tools of her profession the seamstress carries a book of fashion plates, which is just as explicit in details of cut and color combinations as the plates published in Paris or New York. From an artistic standpoint these Japanese fashion plates are far ahead of anything one sees even in France, just as the designs on their cotton crepes are little masterpieces, and their dyes are absolutely clear after the fabric has been washed and worn to rags.

Contrary to the American custom, there is no matching of samples in Japan. When the seamstress comes she spreads out her fashion book to its fullest extent and then when a selection is made somebody goes off and shops, for cotton thread, sewing silk and the like, and the sewing woman measures her employers for gowns by means of a queer little ruler.

A PARISIAN TOILETTE AS WORN BY JAPANESE LADY. (Made from Japanese Fashion Plate.)



patterns of just that amount, and by using straight lengths everywhere the dressmaker contrives not to waste an inch.

Shapes Never Change.

This sensible arrangement, of course, would be impossible, if, as with us, the cut of garments varied every season. In Japan no such fickle and foolish extravagance is countenanced. The shape of women's garments scarcely varies by a hair's breadth from year to year, but the pattern used in decorating cotton and silk goods change with nearly every bolt. After a few dress lengths have been printed off in a factory a new design is made, a new combination of colors brought about and in consequence for her spring and fall dress-making any woman has actually hundreds of exquisite designs to choose from without the least fear of wearing the same pattern as that chosen by a dozen other feminine friends.

The same rule holds good with regard to the embroidered silks and crepes, and, moreover, there is an opportunity to display a deal of good taste and knowledge of etiquette in your choice of a pattern. Designs in Japan are made and especially approved for the sole benefit of young and unmarried women and by no means do they assume to appear in cottons or silks decorated for young married women or for elderly ladies. So subtle are these distinctions in patterns that foreigners rarely or never learn all the ramifications of this branch of etiquette in dress, but the fact is nevertheless that actors don't presume to adopt the same pattern as lay folk. The Geisha girls adopt especially ornamented fabrics as their very

WINGED ENEMIES OF THE FARM

Serious Depredations Committed by Birds on Growing Crops.

THE COMMON CROW AS A RAIDER

Species of Blackbirds that Make Inroads on the Grain Harvest—Where They Operate—Seeking a Remedy.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8.—(Correspondence of The Bee.)—Aside from its importance as a principal source of food supply the immense financial value of the grain crop of the United States gives a peculiar interest to any natural agency which affects its amount or quality. For this reason much time, labor and money have been expended by the United States Department of Agriculture in the study of the insects injurious to grain and in devising methods to prevent their ravages. But insects are not the only members of the animal kingdom that have proved destructive in this crop. Several species of birds feed at certain times upon cereals, and in some places, where these birds breed in vast numbers, their depredations become very serious. The total value of the grain product of the United States is, in round numbers, \$1,000,000,000 per annum. Any agency which reduces this value by only 1 per cent involves a loss of not less than \$10,000,000, a sum sufficiently large to startle a thoughtful person.

Several species of birds cause depredations upon grain either by attacking the seed at the time of planting or soon after germination, or by preying upon the immature or ripened crop. In the eastern part of the country the common crow, which is the most conspicuous example, while in the Mississippi valley and farther west several species of blackbirds have at times made such havoc as to cause serious apprehensions.

The redwing and the yellowhead usually nest near water, and, when possible, directly over it. For this reason the prairie ponds and sloughs of the upper Mississippi valley, often of vast extent, afford such favorable breeding grounds that the region has become the theater of their greatest activities. It is the gathering place of the immense flocks which often strike terror to the heart of the farmer as their countless hosts settle upon his fields. The nesting period is in May and June and by the end of the latter month the young are on the wing. At this time the old birds lead their young to the fields for food when the grain begins to ripen. These birds prey upon the wheat and oat fields in the month of July, and winter rye and wheat in June, while during the other months of the year they subsist largely on insects.

It is highly probable that the changing of the original prairies into fields of grain has contributed to the increase of blackbirds by furnishing an abundant and sure supply of food at a time when it is most needed. Many instances can be pointed out where birds have increased in vast numbers since the settlement of the country owing to the increased food supply resulting from cultivation; and in some cases, at least, this increase has taken place in spite of the fact that the birds were extensively shot for food.

Thief of the Cornfields.

Among the most destructive grain-eating birds is the common crow, which ranges over the United States east of the great plains, more sparingly over the rest of the



MADE DIRECT FROM A JAPANESE FASHION BOOK USED BY THE LADIES AND SEAMSTRESSES OF JAPAN—PLATE SHOWING THE LATEST AND MOST CORRECT COIFFURE.

country and to the northwest extends beyond our borders. East of the Alleghenies, and especially in the New England and other Atlantic states, the crow has long been known as "thief of the cornfields," having been so christened by the absentee inhabitants. The greatest damage is done in spring, when the birds pull up the sprouted grain. Dry, hard corn is not palatable food for the crow, as has been shown by experiments with caged birds. Corn which has been softened and sweetened by the process of germination is its favorite food and is eagerly sought. Various devices in the way of "scarecrows" have been designed to frighten the marauders away, but to no avail. More recently the plan of coating the seed corn with tar has been extensively used with good results. Their acute smell of the tar will prevent them from picking the young sprouts of the kernel. Reports to the department show that extensive damage is done by the crow by eating corn when in its "milk" or "roasting-ear" stage. This bird does more damage in the east than elsewhere. Investigations of the food habits of the crow, based on an examination of the contents of 300 stomachs, show that about 25 per cent of the food for the year consists of grain, of which corn constitutes more than 21 per cent. On the other hand, the loss of grain is offset by the destruction of insects, which is about 23 per cent of the crow's yearly diet. The larger part of these insects are noxious. From this point of view it is evident that what grain the crow takes from the available crop is well paid for by the insects destroyed.

The most destructive of birds to various grains is the crow blackbird, which thrives in vast numbers over the United States east of the Rocky mountains, and remain through the year in most of its range south of Illinois and Pennsylvania. It nests in trees or bushes and seeks the neighborhood of man for its breeding places. This bird appears in large flocks about the 1st of September, and when they attack a field of ripening grain the result is very disastrous. Crow blackbirds are fond of grain, and, being of good size and abundant, have the power to do great harm. Moreover, the examination of the contents of 100 of their stomachs show that grain forms 45 per cent of the food of the year and that corn alone constitutes 35 per cent. From this it might be expected that they would attract

much attention from grain growers, as such is the case. Hundreds of communications have been received by the department testifying to their destructiveness.

Ravages of Blackbirds.

These come next the red-winged blackbird, swamp blackbird, or "American starling," which is distributed over all sections of our country and breeds throughout this region except along the extreme southern border. They are found in more abundance in the prairie region of the upper Mississippi valley and in the vicinity of the Great Lakes. The red-wing is destructive to the different kinds of cereals, oats being their favorite, which constitutes more than one-half of the grain eaten. Corn stands next in order and wheat last of all. The months of July and August is the period when these birds get in their destructive work.

From most of the states drained by the Mississippi river and its tributaries complaints both numerous and loud have been received of ravages of the red-wings. The vast marshes of the northern part of this region and the small prairie ponds everywhere are their recruiting grounds for immense flocks, whose numbers are almost beyond estimation. When these hordes settle upon a field of ripening grain not only is much of the grain eaten but the straw is broken down and rendered difficult to cut. So extensive are some of these flocks that in a few days they eat and destroy a great percentage of the grain.

The yellow-headed blackbird is abundant in the Mississippi valley, less common in the far west, and occasionally straggles eastward to New England and the District of Columbia. It is identical in feeding habits with the redwing and even in its preference for oats. During the breeding season it is a hearty insect eater and destroyer of what is well known as the "army worm." There is also the rusty grackle of the eastern United States and Brewer's blackbird of the west; are similar birds in their grain-eating habits, but are very valuable birds in destroying noxious insects.

In addition to crows and blackbirds several birds have attracted notice in different parts of the country by their grain-destroying proclivities. Among them are the mourning and turtle doves, the horned lark and the Mongolian or ring-necked pheasant.

No Remedy for the Evil.

The department believes an attempt to exterminate these species of grain-eating birds would be not only ill advised, but hopeless. Various states have offered bounties for their destruction, without perceptibly thinning their ranks. It confesses that it can suggest no remedy for the evil except in the case of crows and blackbirds that pull up sprouting corn which can be prevented by thoroughly tarring the seed. This plan, if properly done, neither injures its vitality nor prevents the use of machinery in planting.

There is, however, some hope for the future through perhaps a device. The department believes that while the advance of civilization has thus far not affected these birds or their habits the time will come when it will. Increased density of population will broaden the area of cultivation and this in time must lead to the draining of the smaller marshes and ponds, thus turning over to agriculture much land that has heretofore been waste, since it has served as a breeding ground for the birds that have destroyed the crops. With the breeding places more restricted and an environment otherwise changed by increased population, the number of birds will decrease, and in time the proper equilibrium will be restored. In the meantime it be-

FAME PLUCKED FROM A POEM

Region Exploited by Longfellow Becomes a Summer Resort.

WHERE EVANGELINE ROMPED AND ROAMS

The Original a Great-Great-Great-Grandmother and a Centenarian Past-A-Lively Girl for Her Years.

From 10,000 to 50,000 Americans visit the Valley of Annapolis, N. S., every summer, in the first place to escape the heat of the United States, in the second because a sojourn in that part of Acadia is cheap and delightful in the third place—and chiefly because it takes place in the scenes of Longfellow's poem, "Evangeline."

These scenes, as beautiful today as they were early in the last century, are exploited for all they are worth by the hotel keepers, and for a good deal more. The hotel keepers of Acadia live and flourish on Longfellow; every line in Evangeline is worth a summer boarder to them, and the summer boarder means a profit of \$100 at the end of the season. Indeed, the hotel keepers are talking about erecting a monument to Henry W. Longfellow in some part of Acadia, possibly in Grandpré.

Despite last century's depopulation of the Acadians there are fully 200,000 of them at the present time living between Yarmouth, one of the gateways to the Province of Nova Scotia, and Halifax, the other, among them, doubtless, many descendants of Benedict Lafontaine and Basil the Blacksmith. At all events the names of Lafontaine and Lafontaine are common enough in the valley.

All the Acadians did not leave the valley with Evangeline and Gabriel. Many of them were not pure whites managed to conceal themselves in the "forests primeval" and fished and hunted there until the mission of King George had become satisfied that nothing more was to be feared from the French of Acadia. When the crisis was over they emerged from the forests and settled down in the places where their descendants are to be found today with that strain of Indian blood that makes them bold hunters and patient fishermen, but unfits them for competition with men of British descent in civilized enterprise.

If L'Evangeline and other local newspapers are accurate in their statements, the valley contains a surprising number of centenarians. There is at least one Acadian now living near Elbrook, Digby county, who is in her 107 year. The parish register mentions her as the wife of a man whose name is Evangeline Lafontaine. This ancient dame has undoubtedly some Mic-Mac blood in her veins, and the strain is observable in her many descendants down to the sixth generation, as represented by 2-year-old Nanette day, born in Elbrook on July 21, 1896.

Old Evangeline, for as such is she known and venerated from Yarmouth to Halifax, was born in August, 1795, and was married in 1811. She became the mother of eleven children, two of whom are now living, one a son in Lowell, Mass., the other a daughter in Yarmouth county, Nova Scotia. This daughter—Mrs. Emma Langlois—has had fourteen children, nine of whom are living but scattered, they and their descendants, all over the United States and Canada. It is a great-great-grandchild of Mrs. Langlois who is referred to as the 2-year-old, and therefore a great-great-great-grandchild of Old Evangeline. Considering that they are Acadians this is not by any means extraordinary for those people marry young, and in fact there is a tradition in Yarmouth which says that an old man died in that municipality in 1873 who beat Old Evangeline by a great, in other words, when he departed this life he did so as a great-great-great-great-great-grandfather.

As for the personality of Evangeline, she is quite lively and attends St. Anne's Catholic church regularly every Sunday, rain or shine. She does not wear glasses, in fact, if the truth must be told, she cannot read, but she does not appear to mind that, and takes a pinch of snuff now and then. She has been using tobacco more than seventy years. As regards the dress of the quartette it is the Acadian peasant's Sunday best.

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SIMPLE CURE FOR NERVOUSNESS.

Celestial Declares Americans Should Wear Soft-Soled Shoes.

"The American people are essentially a nervous people," remarked an educated Chinaman to a Washington Star reporter, "and the best of physicians agree that this nervousness is on the increase as the country grows older. Where it will end is, of course, a matter of conjecture, for a remedy, or a series of remedies, may be discovered as time runs along. Certain it is that unless this nervousness can be cured the future of the American people is a very serious problem. Already it is a matter of discussion in the medical journals, and though hundreds of books have been written and will yet be written on the subject there is no great unanimity of opinion as to the remedy. Indeed, the cause has not yet been ascertained, though there are a number of causes.

"I have a theory as to a great deal of the American nervousness, and though many do not agree with me, I think it is the right one. My idea is that it is caused by the shoes the people wear—not the shape of the shoe, for they are of all shapes, but the way the shoe is made. All American shoes have hard, solid soles. Those who wear slippers or felt shoes find relief, simply because the soles are soft and yielding. There is no nervousness among the people of China, and there has been none for the last 1,000 years. Maybe there is not as much activity among the people of my country as there is among Americans, but Chinamen are not as slow as some may suppose. The best Chinese wearers of soft-soled shoes, and they have been kept out of China by the fact that the people there wear soft-soled shoes. The soles, as anyone has discovered who has examined them, are of a yielding, pliable character. The benefits of this kind of a sole are numerous, and time has proved it. Everyone who wears soft slippers, carpets or leather, appreciates this, though maybe unconsciously. He knows he finds a relief, but rarely realizes that it is the softness or yielding of the soles that gives it.

"Of course, it is a very large question, viewed from any standpoint, but it is a very important one. It may be going backward, as some imagine, for the average so-called up-to-date American to adopt an idea that is over 1,000 years old in China, but I firmly believe that the idea is a very valuable one. In past years the best writers have agreed that the national disease of America is dys-

pepsia. I do not concur in this in full, though I realize that there is much dyspepsia. My experience, however, is that there is as much nervousness as dyspepsia, and that nervousness is the more damaging. The 5,000 years of civilization of China, or want of civilization, you may think, have proved many things that have not been proved in other nations, and that cannot be proved except in time. Soft-soled shoes drove nervousness out of China and will do the same for America. A hard-soled shoe, like a high-heeled shoe, puts a person under a tension. This tension is wearing, and the nerves seem to wear out first. It is the relaxation that is desired to cure nervousness, not bracing up or tension. My theory may not be borne out by the facts, but I feel convinced that it will be.

Limitation Does Not Avail.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 10.—The United States court of appeals has decided that constitutional limitation is no bar to the legal collection of an honest debt. The case was that of E. H. Hollins & Sons against the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Grande county, Colorado. The suit is an action to recover judgment on a number of county warrants. In the United States circuit court of Colorado the defendants admitted that the debt was an honest one, but that the issue of warrants was in excess of the amount allowed by the constitution, and, consequently, they asked that it be declared null and void. They were sustained by the court, but the appellate court reversed the decision and remanded it for another trial, insisting that the lower court was in error by directing a judgment for the defendant.

Society at a Horse Show.

CLEVELAND, Nov. 10.—The Cleveland horse show, which opened at the Central armory on Tuesday evening, is meeting with marked success, notwithstanding a continuous downpour of rain for the last three days. The attendance, especially of society people, is phenomenally large. The rough riders with their trained western bronchos give the finest exhibitions of horsemanship ever seen in this city and receive much enthusiastic applause.

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