

IN STRANGE ATTIRE.

WHAT A COSTUMER SAYS ABOUT MASQUERADING.

The Most Popular Characters at Fancy Dress Parties.

Cost of the Garments—The Honesty of the Borrowers—The Custom of Renting "Swallow-Tails."

"It is a curious fact," said the customer, leaning back in his chair and gazing thoughtfully into the glowing coals of the open grate, "that about every seven years the craze for masquerading revives. I have noticed this during my experience in the business, and it is a well-known fact to the trade. This year I predict will see a revival of the custom, and it has already commenced in Europe. But there is a steady business for the customer each season in furnishing costumes for private masques, which, by the way, are quite popular in Washington for private theatricals and old folks' concerts."

"Are these of such frequent occurrence as to make a paying business?" "Well, I have \$20,000 invested in 800 costumes, and the business is brisk enough to pay me a good interest on the investment. During the social season the larger part of my costumes are continually out in use."

"What do the costumes rent for?" "Well, I charge from 50 cents to \$25 for their use for one evening. I have some fine robes and suits. Come this way and I will show you."

He led the way into a large room, about forty feet long, with a counter extending along each side. Rows of shelves on the walls were crowded with large green boxes, containing the dresses. Each box was labelled, bearing the name of the character represented.

There were Hamlets, Romeros, Prince Hals, Henry VIII, kings, Claude Melnotte, sultans, Fausts, Mephistophiles, General Washingtons, sages, priests, fools, dairy maids, soldiers, sailors, policemen, fat boys, national characters—in fact, almost every character to be represented in a masque or play. There were several cases of suits in such boxes. "What are the characters most popular among masqueraders?"

"Among our better class of patrons the call is for Prince's and King's costumes and Shakespeare's characters. We keep a big stock of Romeros and Hamlets on hand. Claude Melnotte and Fra Diavolo are popular. For old folks' concerts we costume a number of Sir Peter Teazles and the regulation white satin trousers, silk stockings, cocked hats and lace bedecked coats of the time of George III."

"For private theatricals we can furnish any character desired, especially an historical one. We also make costumes to order for a person, and either sell them or rent them. If you were going to have a private theatrical and wished to represent a character of which I have no costume, you would bring me an old picture, or give me an idea of your conception of the costume, and it would be made up and rented to you. To show you what class of people use my dresses, look at this," and he took down a gorgeous suit of white satin, blue velvet and pink brocade, slashed with gold and with cuffs and collar of lace.

"This is real lace," said he, "and all the materials are of the finest quality and made in the best manner. This suit represents an outlay of \$175. Of course it is only rented to responsible parties, not for fear of losing it, for I do not lose one costume in 100, but I am particular as to who wears these suits. They are clean, and no gentleman would be afraid to put them on. Here is one of the finest Hamlet costumes in this country," showing a sombre black velvet, with purple slashes and bugle bindings. "This costume has been worn by a number of Hamlets."

In a large glass case were wigs of all colors, whiskers, beards and mustaches to suit the characters. Then there were chapans, cocked hats and head dresses. Little dainty slippers for Julietts, jack boots for cavaliers and silk shoes for the courtiers.

"Now I will show you the ladies' department," said the customer, leading the way into another room. In this room the boxes containing the dresses bore different labels—Juliet, Lady of Lyons, Queen Elizabeth, Desdemona, Queen Esther, and various character costumes. A faint, delicious odor, suggestive of feminine loveliness, emanated from the folds of the rich silks and satins spread out upon the counter for the inspection of the reporter. The courteous lady in charge of the room grew eloquent in her description of the styles of cut and trimming, using long names and descriptive terms that were as intelligible to the Curio young man as the hieroglyphics on Cleopatra's obelisk.

"These dresses are never rented to the street for use on the stage," explained the customer, "nor are they sent out for parties and receptions, although we have frequent calls for evening dresses, we only rent them to people for private use, so we know they will be kept clean. Here is a robe worth \$50; see the quality of the material. That robe has been worn at some of the most recherché entertainments in Washington. The foreign legations located here give a great many little entertainments and masques, and they make heavy demands upon our wardrobe."

"Here is another branch of the business—costumes for children, for tableaux and theatricals, dainty little trousers and coats. Here is a Claude Melnotte suit for a three-year-old boy. These children's costumes are in almost constant use. Do we rent gentlemen's full-dress suits? Oh, yes, we keep a large stock on hand of all sizes. We can give a man a good fit, no matter what his size. They rent for \$5 and \$5. Of course there is a heavy demand for them during the Christmas holidays. In the social season the larger number of our patrons are visitors to Washington. People who come on a short trip and want to 'take in' a reception or party. It is quite amusing sometimes to see a man from the rural regions trying to fit himself with a dress suit. He undoubtedly feels awkward and certainly looks it. There are frequent calls for dress suits for bridegrooms. I have one very fine suit, made in Paris, which five men have worn on their wedding day. We have a great many dress suits stolen from us. A man calls and gives a fictitious address and never returns the suit. The business of renting dress suits grows smaller each year, as they are becoming so cheap, and a man who takes any part at all in Washington society must own one."

"Alderney Dairy Wagons." Fresh Alderney butter, churned every morning and delivered in 4 lb "Ward" cans, 50c per lb. Also cottage cheese, puttermilk and sweet milk, 5c per qt. Cream, 15c per pt.

GENERAL NEWS OF THE DAY.

Trouble between Russia and Austria appears to grow serious. It is asserted that at the recent conference between the Czar and Prince Bismarck the former flew into a towering rage and quitted the conference in a passion. The Czar demanded the abrogation of the new triple alliance between Germany, Austria and Italy, accompanying his demand with an outspoken denunciation of the compact as being not only an exhibition of bad faith, but of positive menace to Russia. Prince Bismarck hastily refused to rupture the new agreement, and the Czar withdrew. Russia now hopes to crush Bulgaria, and will attempt it by force of arms if diplomacy or menace fails, and this is her sole object in making troops on Galicia, a movement which was suddenly and vastly accelerated immediately after the Czar's return to Gatchina.

The massing of Russia's troops disturbs the equanimity of all Europe. The Berlin National Gazette says it is evident the number of troops on the Austrian frontier is not sufficient to attack two formidable military powers. The present massing is too small for war and too large for peace. Germany and Austria will unite in case either power goes to war with Russia. In that case Russia will be occupied to facilitate mobilization. To offset the danger Russia has increased her forces on the frontier. It is regarded as a purely defensive move. A military conference to consider the question is held at Vienna today. Emperor Francis Joseph presides.

According to private advices received at Paris from Warsaw the massing of Russian troops on the frontier is attributable to information received by Russia of a concerted plan by Germany and Austria for united action in the event of a war between either of those powers and Russia. In that contingency it was proposed that Germany and Austria should suddenly invade Russian Poland and occupy Warsaw by using their greater facilities for mobilizing. In consequence of the discovery of this alleged project, Russia resolved to compensate for her slow process of mobilizing by a permanent increase of her frontier forces. The movement implies no aggression, but is purely preventive precaution.

President Carnot has delayed the forming of a French Ministry until the Republican factions could become thoroughly harmonious. He is determined that they shall concentrate their strength, and ultimately they will do so. M. Clemenceau told the President yesterday that the Radicals are ready to support a reforming ministry. M. Dupuy has agreed to form a Cabinet. President Carnot has been installed in the Elysee.

The General Assembly of Virginia met yesterday at noon and received the Governor's message. In regard to the public debt, the Governor says, in view of the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court declaring the act of May 12, 1857, unconstitutional and void, and reversing the decision of the United States Circuit Judge Bond in regard to the eleventh article of the Federal Constitution, he recommends the passage of a joint resolution suspending legal proceedings against those who may have tendered coupons in payment of taxes, as he was assured by authority that such action would decidedly benefit all parties concerned.

In regard to the contemplated improvements on Staten Island, it is stated that the English syndicate which controls the Minnesota and Northwestern and the Chicago, Kansas City and St. Paul railways has acquired 1,500 feet of water-front property at Clifton, and will build next spring extensive piers, warehouses and elevators. It is also said arrangements have been made with the Baltimore and Ohio and Pennsylvania railroads for through shipments of grain, lumber and other materials without change from the source of supply to the seaboard. It is the intention to establish a line of steamers running directly to the terminus of the Furness Railway Company, at Harrow, on the Irish Sea, fifty miles north of Liverpool.

The Protestant Episcopal Convention of the Diocese of Delaware met yesterday at Wilmington to elect a successor to the late Bishop Alfred Lee. After seven ballots in the afternoon the Rev. Dr. Joseph D. Newlin of Philadelphia received the necessary votes of the clergy to elect him, but failed to secure the confirmation of the lay delegates. The Rev. Boyd Vincent of Pittsburgh was then nominated by the clergy, and the convention adjourned until to-day before action had been taken by the laity. The salary of the Bishop was fixed at \$8,000.

The Reading Railroad organization trustees held a meeting yesterday in Philadelphia for the purpose of closing up their accounts and making arrangements for the transfer of the property to the hands of the company. It is reported that the trustees will have a large cash balance which they will turn over to the company. The trustees will be succeeded by the voting trust under the agreement of the plan of reorganization, which will have the power to vote on the stock as a unit for nearly five years to come.

Waste of Tissue Without Repair. Vigor begins to decline when dyspepsia invades the stomach. The disease, prolonged through neglect, entails grievous loss of flesh and serious waste of the muscular tissue. To invigorate thoroughly and speedily, a sound stomachic is required. There is none comparable to Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, since it institutes, and, if continued, perpetuates a repair of the tissues, which have declined in bulk, vigor and elasticity in consequence of non-stimulation of the food. No time should be lost in beginning the reparative process, nor should there be any delay in removing those ailments of frequent occurrence, which contribute to and foster an enfeebled condition of the stomach and nerves, viz. constipation and liver complaint, disorders which the Bitters will assuredly extinguish. It also remedies and prevents malarial and kidney troubles, and is a prime auxiliary in the recovery of strength for convalescents from wasting disease.

Holiday Goods. If you are in doubt what you shall give your friend for a Christmas present, we would advise you to buy a handsome picture, have it nicely framed, and it will be sure to please the recipient. Every one loves to look upon beautiful pictures, and there are few things as lasting. You will not have to pay a big price, as there are many very pretty pictures that can be obtained at small prices. A choice and beautiful line of artist-proof Engravings, Steel Engravings, Water-Color Paintings, Chromos, Artistic Engravings, Picture Frames and Picture Frames. Engravings can be found at Veerhoff's two stores, 916 and 411 Seventh Street.

Seminarian Building Ass'n., 706 8th st. n. w.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure. This powder never varies. A marvel of purity, strength and wholesomeness. More economical than the ordinary kinds, and cannot be sold in conjunction with the substitute of low quality weight alum or phosphate powders. Sold only in cans. ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., 100 Wall Street, New York.

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The Most Desirable Spot for Residence in the Vicinity of Washington, and Destined to Become One of the Most Popular Resorts in the United States.

Sixty Fine Residences Already Erected! ELEVEN HOUSES IN PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTION!

A School, with Fifty Pupils, in Successful Operation, and the Establishment of a Seminary for Advanced Pupils in Contemplation.

A Church to be Built in the Park A Grand Hotel will be ready for Occupancy, in all Probability, by June 1, 1888.

Of all the suburbs of Washington, none is lovelier in its Natural Scenery, none more Healthful, none more accessible.

Malaria is Unknown, And Malarial Patients Visiting the Park are Speedily Cured.

Takoma Park is but six miles from the Capital, and may be reached in ten minutes by express via trains on Metropolitan Branch of the B. and O. Railroad. There being 19 trains daily, and Sunday church trains, day and evening, as per the following schedule:

WEEK DAYS: Trains leave Washington for Takoma at 6:55, 8:10, 9:30 a. m., 12:30, 4:40, 5:30 (express), 5:55, 7:15, 8:20 p. m. Trains leave Takoma for Washington at 7:20, 7:45, 7:55, 8:08, 9:21, 11:07 a. m., 2:38, 3:58, 4:02, 7:13, 8:09 p. m. SUNDAYS: Trains leave for Takoma, 8:10 a. m., 1:10, 5:35, 10 p. m. Trains leave for Washington, 7:45, 8:08, 10:02 a. m., 4:52, 8:09 p. m.

The drives to Takoma Park are the finest out of the city, and the Park is the objective point of most of those desiring to see the most beautiful surroundings of Washington. The streets and roads are graded and gravelled, a force of men being constantly at work keeping the grounds in order. It is noteworthy that while there is a full demand for property in other suburban subdivisions, interest in Takoma Park has steadily increased, as is evidenced in the fact that purchases for residence have continued uninterrupted. The resident population is made up from among the very best citizens of the District. Included in the list of purchasers of lots are ladies and gentlemen who buy and build for occupancy, rather than for speculative purposes. Among those who have purchased lots in Takoma Park are the following, many of whom have already built villas, while most of the balance are intending to do so at an early day:

- OHIO. Hon. Thomas Cherrington, Governor J. B. Foraker, Hon. C. H. Grosvenor, M. C. Hon. A. C. Thompson, M. C. Corey I. Bush. VIRGINIA. Rev. Dr. Robert McMurdy, L.L. D. Mrs. Cady, widow of Colonel Cady, contractor of Washington Water Works, N. Y. Central R. R., Erie Canal, G. & O. R. R., &c., &c. Mrs. J. P. Heironomous, T. Howard Goshorn, Virginia Parkins, George L. Bitzer. PENNSYLVANIA. Mrs. Mary C. Becker. CALIFORNIA. Mrs. A. C. James. MASSACHUSETTS. Francis F. Endicott. KANSAS. Howard T. Woods. W. E. Skinner, Byron A. Ford, E. Maris, Thomas E. Woods, Silas E. Gillett, C. M. Heaton, Jr.

- WASHINGTON. Hon. Matthew G. Emery, President Second National Bank; Henry C. Swain, Cashier Second National Bank; Hillman A. Hall, B. H. Warner, President Columbia National Bank; George H. B. White, Cashier National Metropolitan Bank; Yvon Elko, Henry E. Cooper, R. A. Wheelock, A. S. Pratt, W. O. Douglas, Miss Harriet Hammond, Colonel John R. Thompson, Janet E. Richards, Emma Hayes, Mrs. Adeline N. Chalker, Mrs. Jane L. Munroe, Mary M. Campbell, Frances D. Brass, Marie F. Sylvester, Joseph Allen, M. F. Remington, William Rodin Woodward, Ida Finch, Henry H. Gilfrey, Elizabeth Green, J. R. Johnson, Mrs. Lane, B. A. Ford, J. Vance Lewis, Mrs. John Chamberlin, E. F. Dunley, Will Cox, Ira J. Baker, Mrs. Hopperton, F. K. Dudley, Rev. Mr. Ramsdell, Mrs. S. L. Ford, Norman Brainard, Dr. Bliss, Mrs. Harrison, Angus Lamond of Lamond's, Harriet L. Harris, Mrs. Lucy Corrie, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Harriet Ordway, G. L. Favorite, Miss Amanda Garrett, Mr. Gries, Mrs. Neil, Captain Buchanan, U. S. A.; Miss M. M. Richardson, Miss Marie Richardson, Miss Poler, Professor J. Owen Dorsey, Mr. Meyers, Miss Penzile, Miss Fenton, And many others.

Of the healthfulness of Takoma Park, much might be said. It is situated 350 feet above the level of Washington City, abounds in delightful shade, is ABSOLUTELY EXEMPT FROM MALARIA, and a never-failing supply of the purest distillate waters, enjoys immunity from mosquitoes, and possesses every advantage possible to be secured in a suburban resort. In fact, so well understood are the healthful advantages of Takoma Park that the erection, at an early day, of a sanitarium is probable.

in making contract to the exorbitant prices demanded for land in some other suburban localities possessing not one-half the advantages of Takoma Park, it may be stated that Lots in Takoma Park may be purchased at from two to six cents per foot.

For further particulars apply to

B. F. GILBERT, 625 F Street, Washington, D. C.

KING'S PALACE,

814 Seventh Street Northwest. READ THE FOLLOWING SPECIALS:

Seal Plush Vests, \$15, \$18 and \$20. Seal Plush Newmarkets, \$15. Elegant Plush Coats, \$10, \$18 and \$20. Children's Coats at \$2, \$2.50, \$3 and \$4. Walking Jackets at \$2.50, \$3 and \$3.50. Raglans at \$5, \$8, \$9 and \$10. Newmarkets at \$5, \$6, \$7 and \$8.

SPECIAL DRIVES IN MILLINERY:

Sixty dozen Felt Hats at 25 cents only. Wings and Fancy Feathers at 25, 31 and 39 cents. Ribbons, sold formerly at 50c, 25c a yd. Trimmed Hats, nice and stylish, at \$2.50, \$3 and \$4.

You are kindly requested not to purchase until you have posted yourself regarding prices at

KING'S PALACE, 814 Seventh Street Northwest.

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404-406 Seventh Street Northwest. Special Sale of Furs

Will Commence on the FIRST OF DECEMBER. We mention a few Bargains Below:

- FURS. Black Hair mitts for 47c. Haddon Mitts, \$2.20 and upward. Beaver Mitts, \$2.80 and upward. Seal Mitts, \$2.40 and upward. MONKEY MUFFS, \$3.40 and upward. We have a full line of Boots to match the above at correspondingly low prices. A few sets of Mink Mitts, with Boots, at \$2.18. FUR TRIMMINGS. Fur Trimmings. A large and complete line of Children's Sets from 18c to \$5. SILK AND MOHAIR TRIMMINGS. Our new Department of Trimmings has been a success. We have a full line of Colors and Black, at very low figures. CORSETS. A big job in Corsets; a manufacturer's sample line, ranging from \$7.50 to \$18 a dozen; your choice for 50c. A full line of all popular makes—"Dr. Warren's," "Dorries," B. and G., French C. P. and many others. BLANKETS. Our stock is complete from \$1 to \$18 per pair. We call attention to our 11-1 nearly All-wool at \$9.20. Bed Comforts of every description, in "Owl Red," "Crestone" and Satine.

GAS STOVES FOR COOKING!

Gas Boilers at \$1.15 and \$1.50 for Instantly Making Tea or Coffee.

GAS COOKERS

For large and small families. Just the stove for summer use, as you can regulate the fire the instant the cooking is done. For sale by the

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CERES Best in the World. Minnesota Patent. USE GRAYS' STRIKING, MINNEAPOLIS, GILF EDGE OR GOLDEN HILL FLOUR. And you will always have beautiful Bread, Rolls and Biscuits. Wholesale Depot, corner First Street and Indiana Avenue. WM. M. GALT & CO.

Job Printing. THOMAS McFARLAND & CO. Printers and Stereotypers, 1107 E Street N. W., Washington, D. C. GOOD WORK AT FAIR PRICES.

R. O. POLAKISHOFF. Book, Job and Poster Printer. 632 AND 634 D STREET NORTHWEST. Next corner Seventh Street.

CARPETINGS GEORGE WILLNER. Has in stock a full line of Carpets, all grades Olefin, Congo and Straw Matting. Also latest styles in Wall Paper, Window Shades and Curtain Goods. Wire Window and Door Screens. PRICES LOW. GEO. WILLNER, 420 NINTH STREET NORTHWEST.

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DRUNKENNESS OR THE LUNATIC TARIFF CAN BE CURED BY ALEXANDER'S BARK BAIN'S GOLDEN SODIUM. Can be given in a cup of coffee or tea without the knowledge of the patient. It is a truly surprising preparation and will effect a permanent and speedy cure, whether the patient is a moderate or a confirmed drunkard. It has been given in thousands of cases, and in every instance a perfect cure has followed. IT NEVER FAILS to restore the patient to his normal condition, and is the only preparation of its kind. For sale by S. P. WALKER, 1000 1/2 Street N. W., Washington, D. C. 1121 PENNSYLVANIA BUILDING, CORNER SEVENTH AND D STREETS, WASHINGTON.

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