

The Ways of Womanankind

BRIDES AND BRIDAL TOURS.

Bab Chats Merrily on the Wedding Functions of the Spring Season—Some Queer Types of Men.

(Copyright, 1898.)

The entire city of New York is permeated with the Easter bride. When she hadn't happened to be married yesterday in this very town and to be hiding her bliss in a big hotel, she was married the day before out of town and has come here to learn how it is to be called "Mrs." and to control a man. She is convinced that everybody regards her as an old married woman, whereas she bears the stamp of newly wedded bliss as plainly on her countenance as the finest silver does the hall mark. The Easter weddings were many, but all of a kind. The fashionable bride is after the French style. She looks as if her wildest dissipation had been a view of the zoological garden and the only books she had ever read had been "Alice in Wonderland" and those illustrated by Kate Greenaway. She is the most innocent looking thing that ever possessed a man. She is married in a white satin gown very high in the neck, with sleeves that fit her arms closely and come in valois fashion far down over her hands, while in one hand she carries either a white kid or an ivory prayer book framed in silver and with a spray of orange blossoms tied on it. And she looks as if she were frightened to death, not because she is getting married, but because it is the thing to have that gentle gaze, scared sort of look at the accomplishment of what you have been aiming at for some time. As a picture nothing could be more absolutely delightful. It has had the effect of causing a number of wicked old men about town to weep bitterly, presumably for their loss of innocence.

I love a bride, and I pity a bridegroom. He is so humiliated, so awfully and so certain to begin in the wrong way. The average bride of today who has come to New York on her wedding trip may be found almost any afternoon when the sun shines—and the sun has a fascinating way of shining almost every day—drinking soda water and holding on to the young man whose name she condescends to bear as if she were afraid some girl were going to run away with him. She walks him up the street exactly as if she were exercising a puppy. Everything she wears matches so exactly that if you could not tell she had lately entered the holy state of matrimony by the glitter of her wedding rings you would know it because the rings and here are of exactly the same tint, while his scarf is made out of a piece of the silk that is combined with the cloth in her going away frock. He does love her!

She condescends to him as if he had never been any place before, and she believes as she walks into the Waldorf dining room, attired in a pale blue wrapper trimmed with white lace and swan's down, that the smiles that greet her are those of admiration and not of contempt. She is supremely disgusted because there is only one he to her—has registered under the name "Mr. John Brown and wife" rather than "Mr. John Brown and lady," and she tells him that the people at the hotel are so stupid that they would know he thinks mighty little of her to put her down in black and white in that way. The poor wretch may endeavor to persuade her that what she has done is right, but she will be extremely indignant at a full hour, and the only way he can bring her back to her original state of amiability will be by reading her down street, starting with her into the shop windows and as a matter of course, she will not be entirely satisfied with the result.

When they go to walk, she catches up to him, and the other day, after she had advised him about the flavor of his soda water, she noticed that a girl was looking at him, and she clutched one of his hands as if she feared she was going to be led astray at once by one of those wicked, wicked women who are always looking around for nice things. She believes, sweet innocent, that every woman she sees envies her and that each that catches a rap in her eye is the man of her life to stray from her. It is beautiful to see her in the reading room of the hotel when she is writing a letter to the people at home. After one page has been written it is read aloud to him and for the benefit of everybody around, and, though he blushes and whispers that he doesn't think she ought to talk so loud, she has him for the time being so completely under her control that he doesn't even dare say his soul is his own and demand her to keep silence. I often wonder what her next visit to New York will be, but general inquiry has proved that there is no next visit and that once he gets her home he never lets her wander from her own fire-side, though for the next 20 years she joys in telling of what she thought of the great city. Poor soul! After all, she isn't a bride but once in her life—that is, generally—and it is only right and just that she should be the perscrutator power when she first appears as "Mr. John Brown's lady." She undergoes so many emotions. There is pathos on her face as Grant's tomb, joy on her countenance as she climbs to Mr. Brown's arm and gazes at the animals in the park and a patriotic swing to her entire person and an evident desire on her part to sing "The Star Spangled Banner" when she goes down the bay to see the Goddess of Liberty. She has quite made up her mind that John shall go and fight for those poor, dear sailors who were killed on the Maine, and in her heart of hearts she thinks how perfectly lovely it would be to be making

BALLROOM FASHIONS FOR THE COMING SUMMER.

(Copyright, 1898.)

The summer girl is just now thinking of the zany times that she will have at the pretty balls given at the great watering places. Already she is designing the dresses in which she will dance, and so there are offered for her some special Parisian designs that may give her a hint or two and which show her

black velvet ribbon, while straps of the blue ribbon bordered in the same way go down each side of the front width. The bodice is of the embroidered crepe de chine, and the full frills that form the sleeves are of the blue ribbon edged with black velvet. The belt is of blue ribbon, with a rosette on the left side. Long white gloves are worn, and the tiny feet are dressed in pale blue silk stockings and blue satin slippers. The hair is in the received pompadour fashion, and a tuft of blue feathers, with a

THE MOTHERS' CONGRESS.

Enthusiasm Among the Women of America Over the Approaching Convention to Be Held in Washington.

(Copyright, 1898.)

There has never been a society formed in the history of America that has attracted and held the attention of women as has the National Congress of Mothers, and necessarily so. Every woman on the face of the earth is a mother at heart unless indeed she be a monster in feminine shape. The majority of women have children of their own, either fruit of their bodies or allied to them nearly by ties of blood. Every woman mothers some one—if not a child, then some other dear one who is in some way dependent upon her.

When Mrs. Theodore Birney made public her thought for a national organization of mothers, she sounded a pibroch that summoned the whole mother clan to her side. The first congress last year in Washington was a surprise even to its enthusiastic founder. Hundreds of women were crowded out at each session, owing to the impossibility of accommodating the eager crowds. Child life and motherhood were treated in all their aspects by the able speakers, and absolute satisfaction and

The Tourmaline

A National Gem.

The tourmaline, "the flower of the mineral kingdom," has become the fad. It is a distinctive American gem and consequently, aside from its value and beauty, arouses the patriotic spirit and appeals to the "love of country" sentiment. And fashion has declared in its favor. Of all the precious stones it possesses the one mysterious quality of having two or more colors in the same crystal, and for this one reason it well deserves its growing popularity. It has the peculiar property of polarizing light.

Despite the recent discoveries of fresh deposits at Mount Mica, Me., which yield large numbers (the greatest stores yet known) of exquisite specimens, it is still comparatively rare, and that will enhance its value both commercially and as a social and fashionable favorite.

This Mount Mica is near the town of Paris, in the rock ribbed state of sheep, lumber and fish. There, on the brow of a little hill, one of the spurs of the streaked mountain, is one of the most remarkable mineral deposits on the globe. From an area 30 feet square there have been obtained nearly 40 varieties of minerals, some of them of extreme beauty and rarity. This spot was discovered as long ago as 1827 by two students, Elijah L. Hamilton and Ebenel James, while hunting for geological specimens. Subsequent mining by blasts discovered many cavities which were literally treasure boxes, being lined with beautiful crystals of rainbow hues.

Incidentally it may be stated that there is a strong inference that the magnificent ruby in the Russian crown is in all probability a tourmaline, and so likewise may be the monster red gem which hangs as a pendant to the jade necklaces formerly belonging to the Chinese emperors, which are now the property of the French government, having been captured at the taking of Peking in 1860. A magnificent group of pink tourmalines was given by the king of Burma to Colonel Sykes while the latter was commissioner at his court.

Tourmalines are also found in Siberia, in the Ural mountains, in Ceylon and in Brazil, but none to compare with the American crystals which have been mined in Canada, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and slightly in some of the northern counties of New York, and in California black crystals 6 to 8 inches in diameter occur in feldspar veins in the mountains of Colorado and the Colorado desert. Some of the crystals are red at one end and green at the opposite, while others have a green exterior and a red core. Blue and purple varieties are occasionally found. Mineralogists are unable to account for this eccentricity of hue, and physicists are equally puzzled by the strange electric properties of the tourmaline. It is a natural magnet, with a positive and negative pole of attraction and repulsion.

The United States, aside from diamonds, seems to be prominent in gem production. The bulk of the world's supply of fine tourmalines is now obtained from New Mexico, where great numbers of large stones equal in quality to the best of Persian origin are mined annually. They even hold their color better. The finest gemstone in the world is also found here. In the vicinity of Moscow, Idaho, the volcanic rocks are found honeycombed with cavities, which in many instances contain precious opals. The gem material is supposed to have been deposited by water when the rocks were hot. In Oregon some very beautiful ones are found in a bed of volcanic ash. Large masses of crystals being broken open reveal them, and one in 20 is a "fire" or a "noble" opal.

The garnets of New Mexico occur in loose gravel, which is distributed by the flow of streams. On the Navajo reservation the Indians collect them from ant hills and scorpion holes, the insects and arachnids having brought them to the surface in digging. The only possible rival of the tourmaline for the distinction of being called the national gem of America is the precious stone kyanite. This beautiful species of crystal, which sells for from \$40 to \$100 a carat, is obtained in Alexander county, N. C., the only place in the world where it is found. Its discovery was accidental, some specimens being disclosed when mining for emeralds. Its color is a lustrous, translucent green, and, according to mineralogists, it is a variety of spodumene.

Mistakes Men Make in Wooing.

Nature has not been lavish in the amount of intellect bestowed on the male half of the population. The great mistake is to imagine all girls are alike and that what pleases one must of necessity please the other.

The majority of men make love as though their intended were a kind of lot which can only be captured by strategy. This is a very well-sounded, only, unfortunately, girls are quick witted—much sharper than you are yourselves, nevertheless—and if they discover the strategy either they will begin to laugh at you, which will be absolutely fatal to your hopes, or else grow angry on the whole basis of an undesirable occurrence.

All girls hate to be made conceited, especially when their minds are not quite made up. And the man in love is rather like the ostrich in his opinion—because he is so much occupied by the rest of the world that the rest of the world does not see him. He has fancy over the object of his affection, never takes his eyes off her or talks to any one else.

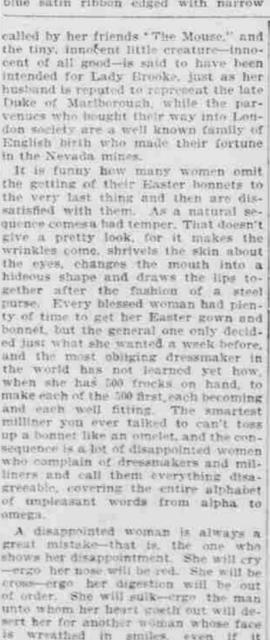
A little hot soul was dropped on his head but he killed the Earl of Chancellors, blood poisoning having set in, and, according to her official superiors, her service has been altogether satisfactory in the four years she has been a railway employee.

A banquet was recently given in France in honor of Clarence Royce, who won eminence for lectures and writings on scientific subjects nearly 20 years ago. She was one of the earliest to advocate the atomic theory.

Not that I feel myself to be wiser than others," the president said recently in a personal interview, "but sometimes these suggestions come from people who do not realize that the questions that they are now considering for the first time or the new thought that has just flashed across their minds is all on ground to me. Every detail of the congress, every possible contingency, the pros and cons of each question, were minutely and carefully thought out months, years, before the idea was mooted at all. The matter brought to me for consideration, by some good friend of the congress perhaps, is very likely one over which I have pondered through sleepless nights long months ago and which, having been thought out exhaustively, has been relegated to the regions of impractical or at present unwise procedure."

It is useless to try to reform social abuses, to stem the torrent of moral evil that is deluging the world, unless the fountain head be reached. Follow the torrent back to the little stream, the little stream to the source, to the one who is the head of all society because the head of the home, the mother. Teach her world principles, world duties, world needs, and she will respond and through her the whole social world. Such is the idea of the mothers' congress, and such being the idea society bids it godspeed.

One young woman, Miss Susan Brayton of Brooklyn, is a student, and a highly enthusiastic one, at the Veterinary college of New York city. She says: "The treatment of dogs and cats and of pet birds is one of the largest branches of the work in cities. In New York the number of pets that are constantly needing attention is remarkably large. Veterinary doctors have all that they are able to do in this line, both in



MRS. PHEBE A. HEARST.



MRS. THEODORE BIRNEY.

WOMEN'S WORK AND WOMEN'S WAYS.

Until lately the work of the general postoffice, London, had been performed by men, but with a new comptroller a small staff of women is being introduced, composed of an assistant superintendent, a principal clerk, five first class clerks and 24 second class. Miss Nina Lankester, a sister of Professor Ray

appeared as at an entertainment of the Press club. Then she was engaged to "chaperone" at the notable production of "Cinderella" given at the Metropolitan Opera House. As a result of her success she was engaged by Mrs. John D. Rockefeller as the feature of an afternoon programme for which she had local popularity. Her first New York

economic in their language, chopping off their words in the fashion that the average Scotchman does, must understand the noble art of saving to the last degree. Yet I have liked some Scotchmen. Haven't you? Ah, my friend, you know as well as I do that there are charming men of all nationalities, and you and I would be very poor types of women if we did not recognize their value when we met them. How? Oh, by their general pleasantness, usually, though, by the fact that they are intensely appreciative of your charms and of the charms of

harmony prevailed throughout the entire session. To an outsider the absence of hitch or confusion and the calm demeanor and decisions of the president were evidences that this movement was not only the outcome of long continued and concentrated thought, but the life purpose of a noble, wise woman. One used to the average or even the superior woman's club and its administrators was especially struck with the gentle yet decided wisdom shown in moments of crisis by a woman who started this gigantic movement with no club knowledge or experience to guide her.

This year the board of officers who are arranging for the coming congress have something to guide them in their preparations. The work has grown tremendously during the past year, and Mrs. Birney could easily keep busy 25 instead of the five clerks of the secretary who are at present employed. The chief work of the secretary and her assistants consists of correspondence with and advice to mothers' clubs all over the country, the distribution of circulars giving details of proposed work and the keeping of records. Recently, in response to urgent demands on the part of clubs and of individuals, there has been organized a book department, and arrangements have been made to fill all orders for books recommended by the congress as suitable for children or for mothers' clubs. Among the books recommended by the congress are Feltz Adler's "Moral Instruction of Children," Froebel's books, "A Study of Child Nature," by Harrison; "Children's Rights," by Kate Douglas Wiggin; Ellis' "Children of the Poor," Ferrand's "The New Womanhood," "Nursery Ethics," by Florence Hull Winterburn; "Little Knights and Ladies," by Margaret E. Sangster, and

Miss Katherine Osborn, who has blossomed forth as a rival of Mrs. Alice Shaw, the world famous whistler, is a New Haven girl of the old Osborn family that has lived in this town. Until this season Miss Osborn has been merely a society girl whose willingness to contribute her musical gift to any and every charitable programme or to small drawing room entertainments won her a wide local popularity. Her first New York