



Some time ago a noted writer announced that scientific physicians had utterly condemned the large round hats weighed down with excessive garnitures, pronouncing them "a serious and undeniable means of producing headache, wrinkles, and gray hair."

Very cool and attractive is a grass-lichen gown made up over apple-green satin, the upper and under skirts joined at the waist only by one belt.

The woman who wishes to look her best must never blindly follow the latest caprice of fashion, but aim to adapt fashion to her own special needs. Take, for instance, the very large ruches and collarettes now so popular.

In no point whatever is fashion subjected to any sort of rule in the shape of bodices. Of pointed waists, shirred, accordion-pleated waists, yoke waists, blouse, Norfolk, bebe, pompadour jacket bodices, round surplice, or Jersey styles there is no end; they may be either in habit, cuirass, frivolously French or quaint Quaker fashion.

Very bewitching above young and pliant faces look the Victorian poke bonnets tied under the chin with strings of airy net or gauze, the bonnets trimmed with rills, large paste buckles, and compact clusters of flowers and foliage.

Very many of the new shirt-waists in lawn, batiste, linen, chambray, etc. are still made with starched collars and cuffs, very pretty styles being formed of repped cottons patterned with Oriental designs in beautiful colorings.

It would seem that shoulder-capes, or rather the manufacturers of shoulder-capes, are rallying all their forces to enchain the somewhat wavering preference for this sort of covering, and it is quite certain that, for a time at least, we shall continue to wear these very fascinating confections. One noticeable feature is the extreme shortness of the new cape and the excessive fullness which has become a characteristic of a large frilly collar surmounted by an extremely large ruffle around the throat.

Berthas and Marie Antoinette fichus of silk muslin with pleated frills of the same, and the other, are always useful in imparting a fresh dainty effect to a gown at small expense. Not is easy of adjustment, and may be edged with narrow lace. Book muslin is too wiry to look easy and graceful, but India mill drapes well and is not costly, as it is very wide, requiring but a few yards for an entire toilet, fichu included.

Some of the new dress skirts have a vertical or otherwise circular trimming carried from the waist down to the depth of half a yard or so. Many women will be glad of this fashion, for a perfect figure below the waist-line is rare, and it is always the study of the modiste to rectify this trouble, and the severe uncompromising skirt that has so long prevailed, gave the wearer the chance of improving upon too great slenderness, nor of moderating the redundancy of the figure by judicious trimming.

China effects are still the keynote of very many elegant and pretty fancies in the world of dress, the patterns appearing among silks, satins, muslins, and silk-and-wool fabrics, and instead of the crisp frothy tulle-taffeta silks these being pretty chine brocades are much used. Then a piece of the same, cut bias, picked on both edges, and placed inside the hem, is imperative. These fancy silks look well for a change, but the shot patterns, or better still, the plain lustrous taffetas in many cases, really are the most elegant and refined choice.

The transparent materials so greatly in vogue this season will make most beautiful and comfortable gowns for sultry summer wear. Sheer white dresses and those of tinted batiste, organdy, linen lawn and similar textiles, are ideal hot-weather gowns, and never were they made up in a more becoming and charming manner, for now that exaggeration has wholly ceased, in the matter of immense sleeves and absurdly extended skirts, all the features of fashion are most graceful and attractive, and although there is a pretty and picturesque fullness left at the top of the sleeve, they are so fashioned as to fit the forearm closely with all the becoming width distinctly at the upper part. The sleeves of transparent gowns this season show unlimited variety and change almost with each individual wearer. Triple frills and puffs, a single medium width puff tapering to almost nothing under the arms, insertions of lace embroidery or shirrs and narrow puffs alternating, going round, up and down, or diagonally over the arm, are favorite styles in summer sleeves. Another very popular model is the shape with a seam on the outside of the arm with fullness let in from the

shoulder to half way to the elbow. The buttered and bow-knot draperies are still used on sleeves for evening wear.

Many years ago, when printed music was dearer than it is now, a quiet old man, evidently from the country, went into a music shop and asked to see a certain book of music. The assistant laid before him an oblong volume with

two tunes on a page—a book familiar to old-time choir singers. The old man drew out a chair, and, opening the book at the first page, began to play softly, turning the leaf with careful figures as each page was finished.

"The assistants, very much amused at first, grew weary of the droning noise after a time, and one of them waiting till a tune was ended, ventured to say, politely: "Do you think you will take the book, sir? Does it seem to suit you?"

"The life was lowered, and the player, looking over at the youth in surprise, said gently: "I cannot tell; I have played only half the tunes." And he placidly turned another leaf.—Weekly Telegraph.

LETTER TO JEFF DAVIS. What Former President Pierce Wrote Just Before the War Occurred.

Captain Jacob Sheppard of Lawrenceburg, Ind., is in possession of an interesting letter written by former President Franklin Pierce to Jefferson Davis, just before the war, says the New York "Herald."

"Colonel Seymour (Thomas S.) arrived here this morning and expressed his views in this relation in almost the identical language which I remember to have seen in the present state of things at Washington and throughout the country no man can predict what changes two or three months may bring forth. Let me suggest that in the running debates in Congress public opinion is rapidly changing, and that the Democracy of the North. I do not believe that our minds at the South have any just idea of the state of feeling prompting at this moment to the pitch of intense exasperation between those who respect their constitutional rights, and those who apparently have no impelling power but that which fanatical passion on the subject of domestic slavery imparts."

"Without discussing the question of right of abstract power to secede—I have never attached the actual disruption of the Union, which without blood, and if through the mad excesses of Northern abolitionism that dire calamity must come, the fighting will not be along Mason and Dixon's line merely. It will be within our own borders, in our own streets, between the two classes of citizens to whom I have referred."

"Those who defy the law and scout constitutional obligations will, if we ever reach the arbitrament of arms, find occupation enough at home. Nothing but the state of Mrs. Pierce's health would lead me to leave this country now, although it is quite likely that my presence at home would be of little service. I have tried to impress upon our people, especially in New Hampshire and Connecticut, where the only elections are taking place during the coming year, the importance of union meetings are all in the right direction, and well enough for the present, they will not be worth the paper upon which their resolutions are written unless we can overthrow political abolitionism at the polls and repeal the unconstitutional and impolitic laws which, in the cause of 'personal liberty,' have been placed upon our statute book. I shall look with deep interest and not without hope for a decided change in this matter. Ever and truly your friend, FRANKLIN PIERCE, 'Hon. Jeff Davis, Washington, D. C.'"

SWALLOWED A YOUNG LION. Snake Had to be Killed Before the Cub Could be Rescued.

McKinley, a cub lion, was dozing beside the stove in the winter quarters of Lemmon Brothers, at Fort Hays, Kas., the other morning. Around the room were the animal cages containing the little creatures of the jungle placidly passing the time away for the circus season to open. Not far from the little sleeping lion cub stood several large boxes of snakes, which have been kept near the stove to prevent the reptiles from freezing. There was not a human being in the room. It was as still as death.

Suddenly the head of a large South American boa, constructor appeared above one of the boxes, and rose slowly up into the air until about two feet of its body was in sight. The snake moved up to within a few feet of the lion cub, when it paused. The cub's tail was closest to the snake. It glided closer yet and then drew itself into its mouth. As the tail disappeared the snake came closer and closer to the cub's body, and then, with a wide spreading of its jaws, it took in the entire hindquarters of the cub.

McKinley awoke and began to cry in a plaintive voice. Swiftly its body disappeared under the covers. The mother heard the wails of her offspring, and looking between the bars of her cage comprehended the situation at a glance.

She sprang to the bars and let out a roar that brought every animal in every cage to its feet, and panic-stricken broke loose. The mother roared incessantly, while the lions joined in the chorus; even the sea lions bellowed, and soon the elephants began to trumpet. The turmoil of the animals reached the circus attendants, who hurried and they ran quickly to the scene. They comprehended matters at a glance. One of them ran to the elephants, which were tugging at their chains and still trumpeting, and with an iron prod quitted them.

Others tried to extricate McKinley. The snake, like a miserable coward, tried to sneak away, but was caught and held. Then the men caught McKinley by the paws and other men held the snake, and they all pulled together.

Matters were approaching a crisis. It was either the life of the snake or the cub. A quick consultation was had, and it was decided to sacrifice the South American snake. Knives were procured and the snake was cut in two.—New York Herald.

Light moves 187,000 miles per second.

IN RELIGION'S REALM.

Expressions From Various Religious Newspapers.

The Religious Thought of the Day as Expressed in the Secular Press.

"A curious story has come to light," says "The Living Church" (P. E.) of Chicago, "regarding a Rev. Mr. Thomas, formerly a rector of a parish in London, who succeeded to Rome last fall. It appears from a statement of 'The Tablet' that he has received permission from the Pope to be reordained conditionally. As this indicates the possibility that he was already in valid orders, the question at once presents itself whether the Pope admits that Anglican Orders may be valid. The answer is a curious one. Twenty-five or thirty years ago there was much talk of an organization called the 'Order of Corporate Reunion.' Not much was known of it, though it leaked out that Anglican Orders of both the Roman and English Churches. It was reported that some of the Anglican members, already in Priests' Orders, had received reordination at the hands of some known bishop or bishops, at some unknown place and time, and that one or more had been consecrated to the Episcopacy. Nevertheless, they continued to officiate as vicars of English parishes. The whole thing was supposed to have died out years ago. But it appears that Mr. Thomas received ordination, in addition to his Anglican orders, which he was enabled to hold his parish, at the hands of one of the clandestine bishops of this society. It is this secret, irregular ordination at the hands of a supposed bishop, without known bishop or bishops, at some unknown place and time, and that one or more had been consecrated to the Episcopacy. Nevertheless, they continued to officiate as vicars of English parishes. The whole thing was supposed to have died out years ago. But it appears that Mr. Thomas received ordination, in addition to his Anglican orders, which he was enabled to hold his parish, at the hands of one of the clandestine bishops of this society. 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