

THE NEWPORT SEASON.

Inauguration day, or, as Rhode Island still call it, Election day, is the beginning of the summer capital's summer season. Only a certain proportion of the cottages are open, of course, though the number is larger this year than in any preceding season.

For the benefit of those who live in proper communities it may be said that, in spite of the hot campaign which excited the country from Machias to Los Angeles, Rhode Island did not until this week elect her republican governor.



AN AFTERNOON TOILET.

The legislature holds its ordinary session in Providence, but once a year at the opening of summer the solons go down to the beautiful city by the sea for a week's sitting. On the second day of the Newport term come the election and inauguration formalities.

It was a quaint and a pretty sight on Wednesday, with a blinding sparkle on the water and a dark vivid green to the grass, such as you seldom see in this country except on Newport lawns, when the people gathered in the great plaza in front of the capitol and the old crier came out on the balcony and chanted in his strange, shrill monotone.

Then a bugler at the foot of the balcony sounded a quick, jubilant note, and a second and a little distance took it up, and a third afar down the tree-shaded avenue, and a fourth, until the message came to the batteries which let out cannon fire over the city.

The crier had disappeared, but the people waited. The legislature were deliberating, or by last century precedent were supposed to be deliberating, their choice for lieutenant governor.

Over and over again the old-time formality was repeated, announcing one at a time and at decorous intervals the legislature's choice of secretary of state and general treasurer and attorney general.



ON BELLEVUE AVENUE.

by, when the bagging and cannonading were over, the governor and his staff with slanking of swords and great brilliancy of trappings issued from under the portals of the capitol on horseback and a long and gay procession wound through the streets, exhibiting the new rulers to the people, and fetching up again in an hour's time for the official reception.

Is there any other such ceremonial anywhere else in this country? If there is, I do not know it. Rhode Island does things, just so far as the end of the nineteenth century will let her, as she did at the end of the eighteenth, and so on Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday evening her wealthy people threw their houses open and chatted and dined and wore fine clothes, the like of which you will hardly see here in August, you rarely ones who come when the dancing and the chattering and the crush and the crowding have gone on so long there is no freshness left in dresses or in faces.

One of the prettiest of the gatherings was held in a cottage known to hundreds of New Yorkers for its lavish hospitality. Most of the guests were New Yorkers, with a sprinkling of the early migration from Baltimore. It would have interested you who think beauty of effect dependent on such spending if you had seen the results produced by the bringing of great bunches of pale purple wisteria into the drawing rooms. The decorations, to begin with, were in pink and gold, and twisted about the picture frames and across the curtains and draping the easels and hanging bush and heavy from their own long

gray vines were bunches of clusters of the delicate blossoms.

The house mistress had dressed herself in a quaint and simple dress of white muslin over lavender silk, with a lavender ruffle around the bottom of the skirt, a full waist and a broad sash of lavender carefully tied. Her main dress was full to the elbow, with close lavender gussets, and the neck opening in her low frock was partly filled in with loose folds of pale lavender mull.

The scene was delicately harmonious until the militia and navy uniforms began to drop in to break up the color scheme, but to lend it greater brilliancy. To give you an idea of what frills and trappings the fashion world of Newport is likely to indulge in this season, perhaps I cannot do better than to cite an apple blossom taffeta which was worn by one of the young women whose name will be taken more or less in vain by the watering place correspondents all summer.

"Apple blossom" as a color means this summer the deeper pink you see in the double blossoms of the occasional apple tree, which gives itself up to the magnificent multiplied petals, but without hope of fruition. The taffeta was striped in paler and deeper shades, and had a broad lace flounce to edge it at the bottom, with a narrow heading of black velvet ribbon under which handfuls of the lace were drawn up here and there and allowed to hang down over in cascades. The low neck was filled in with creamy lace, and a deep lace flounce was gathered about the shoulders.

Another notable evening dress was of pale gray silk with a square neck lace filled. Apple green velvet ribbons started from the shoulders, crossed over the bosom, were knotted with bows on either side of the waist and then brought down in a point in front still lower. About the bottom was a narrow apple green velvet puff caught down at intervals with winding ribbons.

Along the drive on Bellevue avenue, about the tennis courts and everywhere



SMART RECEPTION GOWNS.

through the summer city the scene all Wednesday and Thursday was very gay, with flower garden hats and bright tints of parasols and long ribbon streamers.

An odd dress that struck me yesterday was of brown silk, mottled and watered, until at first glance you would almost have thought the dainty blonde who wore it was masquerading in a 'prentice's leather apron. It made a most original afternoon toilet, with its long overdress cut in two or three great scallops at the bottom, its folded brown sash and hanging streamers, its lace frills cascading down the bodice, and its plain underdress of silk that was not mottled and not leather. A big flat brown hat trimmed with roses finished it cleverly.

Prettier than this prehaps was a dress of pale amber crepe de chine, figured with great pale pink thistles and green, prickly foliage. The V at the neck—now many years it is that dresses have gone on serenely having V's—was filled in with green silk and crossed from shoulder to waist with a folded sash of the same material, confining to some extent the loose crepe blouse which fagged over the green waist sash. Green ribbons were run about the bottom of the skirt and green ribbons tied up the shady hat with great bravery.

Long Chantilly veils, black or white, but oftener white than black, perhaps, begin to enliven Bellevue avenue. They are pinned over the flower hats with jeweled pins and hang in loose folds below the waist and sometimes quite to the knee. They make quaint, nun-like figures of the women, or might, perhaps, if the dresses with whose folds they are mixed were less ruffled and ribboned.

You see girls wearing pink gloves by daylight with the utmost hardihood, and pale green gloves stitched with black show on every block on small but vivacious hands.

Silver gray and changeable blue and serpent green are not too pronounced for coats and jackets, and never, I believe, in any previous season has Newport seen such a variety, making now a harmony and now a medley of colors.

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