

MAN AND THE PIN

A Domestic Tragedy in One Act by Howard Fielding.

MAUD SATISFIED WITH DRESS

Showing How the Simplest Problems May Present Difficulties Even for the Most Intelligent.

Maud said that she would be all ready in five minutes, so I selected a long cigar and a good story and prepared for an hour of solid comfort. I am seldom asked for advice or assistance when Maud is putting the finishing touches on a new outfit. Occasionally, indeed, she is in doubt about some portion of it, and invites me to express an opinion. Very slowly she leads me, in such cases, to condemn the thing which she distrusts, and then a woman's natural belief in the eternal fallibility of her husband's judgment in matters of dress comes to her aid, and from that moment she is thoroughly satisfied with her costume.

On the occasion in question when she called to me I supposed something of this kind was required. I was in a



hurry to get through with it and return to my cigar, so the instant I entered her room I said cordially: "That is positively the ugliest dress I ever saw. It is the summing up of the whole case in favor of dress reform. It makes you look like a circus tent with the middle pole up and no guy ropes. Is there anything else I can do for you, my dear?"

"Yes," she replied, in a tone which showed me that my attempt to cheer her up had failed. "Take this pin." I took it. I grasped it firmly with the back of my right arm two inches above the elbow. She passed it to me just as any other woman might have done. Of course she did not look at me; her eyes were fixed upon the mirror, and though my image appeared there like a fathom and a half of black string she did not see it. She swung her arm backward, holding the pin with its intrusive end foremost, and I received it as above described.

"Why don't you pay attention to what you're doing?" she said, in answer to some remarks from me which were of a strictly private and personal nature, and not intended for publication.

"My dear," said I, mildly, "it would seem almost impossible that a man's attention should wander away from such business as this."

And I extracted the pin from my arm.

"Do not waste time upon trifles, Howard," she rejoined. "This skirt doesn't hang right in the back."

"It would hang all right in the closet," said I, "while you were wearing another one."

"If you could pin it this way," she said, disregarding my hint, "it would look very well. I would do it myself, but I have my gloves on."

She made a fist of the dress, and I got down upon my knees to insert the pin. At this moment Maud turned around, so that she could see the back of the dress in the glass. This left me slyly making holes in the atmosphere with the pin, and in the carpet with my knees. No amount of piety or patience can make a kneeling posture pleasant to a man as this as I am. It was, I believe, the original intention



of nature to protect the human frame with a fleshy padding especially on those points which are likely to come in contact with hard substances. I am an experimenter in the line of economy. It would, of course, be cheaper if a man could get along with only his skeleton, but I doubt if such a man could ever be truly devout. As for me, I cannot kneel in a hovel of feathers without punching holes in my skin, to say nothing of my pantaloons, which time cannot heal.

"Maud," said I, "if you don't stand still, how can I do anything but kneel here and swear?"

"There, there, Howdy," she exclaimed, "why don't you hurry up and not talk so much?"

She turned around as she said this, and I betook myself to my task. Then she started off across the floor. She did it so suddenly that I pinned two fingers of my left hand firmly together, and did not touch the dress at all.

"It isn't one bit better," said Maud. "You did it all wrong."

"Look at those fingers," said I, "and do not weary me with idle reproaches."

I held up a finger from which a drop of fine old maternal blood was falling.

"Oh, Howdy, how careless of you!" she exclaimed. "If you should get a single bit of that stuff on my dress it would simply ruin it."

I thanked her for her gentle sympathy, the blessing which Paradise lacked till woman came, and also afterwards, to a considerable extent. Her reference to my blood as "stiff" pained me, and yet, in comparison with dress goods at one dollar and fifty cents a yard, it really does seem cheap. I bound a handkerchief about my wounds while Maud regarded the tall mirror with an expression in which admiration, doubt and disapproval were uppermost according as her eyes fell upon herself, her dress or me.

"Now, Howdy," she said, handing me a pin much sharper and more penetrating than the other, "do try to use your intellect this time."

I seized the pin and the dress. I punctured one fold of the material, and was about to reach out after the other when Maud took four rapid steps forward with her head over her shoulder. I pursued her on my knees. Then she took four steps backward, and I executed a skillful flank movement, and escaped being run over.

"Maud," said I, "what are you trying to do?"

"I just want to be perfectly sure that the skirt hangs even," she said. "For goodness' sake! Haven't you got it pinned yet?"

With this she swung sixteen points to starboard and I followed her, colliding violently with the dressing table as I did so. But I hung on to the dress. My blood was up, and I resolved that even if I wore my knees out till they were only half their original distance below the belt I would pin that dress.

Maud took up a hand mirror and inspected the skirt by double reflection. Then with a sudden downward sweep of her arm she let the mirror fall. It was a graceful gesture in which M. DeLaurie would have seen great promise, but my admiration of it would have been greater if the back of the mirror had not encountered my head in such a way as to depress my bump of love of the beautiful nearly two inches.

"Howdy, why don't you hurry up," she cried; "you're making me just as nervous as I can be."

"If you'll only stand still—"

"Now that shows how much a man knows about anything. How can I tell how the skirt falls, if I stand still? If I were a statue that might answer,



but I've got to walk in front of a whole lot of people and—"

The thought inspired her so that she began to walk just as she expected to do. I paged along after her on my knees like the celebrated soldier whose legs were hewn in two. Every time Maud passed the mirror she looked into it. But why mention that? Of course she did. What woman does not?

The track was not over twenty feet to a lap, but I think we walked eleven miles. My breath came in gasps. My nine-dollar pantaloons were worn to a single thread across the knees. And I never got that pin through two thicknesses of the dress at the same time. As Maud got more and more nervous she quickened her pace. I was falling behind. But I pegged on, stretching out my hand in desperation toward the skirt that ever receded before me. How long this continued I cannot say. My brain reeled. I felt that I must inevitably fall, and I knew that this exhibition of myself would poison all our happy married life. I should never hear the last of it. This was the final effort of my warring mind. When consciousness returned, I was lying upon my face trying to unite two little folds of the carpet with that pin. Maud was standing back to the mirror with the hand glass in position.

"Howdy," she said, sweetly, "I don't believe the dress needs anything after all. The skirt hangs perfectly lovely."

HOWARD FIELDING.

Her Prayer-Book Was Lost.

There is a suggestive story told of the misadventure of an elegantly-dressed lady at one of the resorts on a recent Sunday. She was on the board walk just after church time, and her hair caught in the parasol of another lady passing. While trying to release herself she dropped a handsomely bound volume inscribed: "Book of Common Prayer," upon which a stout gentleman stepped before he noticed it. He stooped with profuse apologies to pick up the volume, when those near observed a thin stream of liquid coming from it while an odor of cognac filled the air. The woman who had dropped it disclaimed ownership and disappeared.—Philadelphia Times.

How She Came by It.

Maud—Did she inherit her beauty? Arthur—Yes, from a rich aunt who died a short time ago.—Brooklyn Life

Cheap Excursion to the West.

An exceptionally favorable opportunity for visiting the richest and most productive sections of the west and northwest will be afforded by the series of low rate harvest excursions which have been arranged by the North Western Line. Tickets for these excursions will be sold on August 22, September 12 and October 10, 1893, to points in North-western Iowa, Western Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Manitoba, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah and will be good for return passage within twenty days from date of sale. Stop-over privileges will be allowed on going trip in territory to which the tickets are sold. For further information, call on or address Ticket Agents at connecting lines. Circulars giving rates and detailed information will be mailed, free, upon application to W. A. Thrall, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, Chicago & North Western Railway, Chicago.

THE BOSTON STORE

ON FALL FASHIONS 1893.

comed; this change has come with clearness and strength. Last spring when the French and German manufacturers submitted their samples for the coming fall, American importers showed their appreciation of the changes exhibited in fabrics by placing very heavy orders. Since then the financial conditions of the country induced many to cancel, while, with each succeeding flash of novelties produced, many others added large supplementary orders, and these centers of European industry have had a season of extreme activity. The French market, as usual, is well in front in its lead of fashionable materials and has shown the most striking and beautiful fabrics of years. In attempting to give a description of the many and elegant cloths brought out for ladies' dresses for the coming season, it will readily be understood that only a few out of the vast lines shown can be given in an article so limited as is at our disposal, and, of course, our selections for description will naturally follow the lines of personal choice.

New Fabrics.

One of the most beautiful and striking fabrics brought out is called by the French, "Cheviot Crois." The fabric is of a soft texture, rather loose in weave, and is of a shaded mixture of threads forming an illuminated ground; on the surface of this cloth, woven of threads of black, appear in effect a design of a heavy corrugated crape. The idea is evidently borrowed from crape, but the effect of these irregular "crape waves" of black on an illuminated surface gives an effect so striking and beautiful that is very hard to describe; the black as a color is lost sight of, its purpose is to give effect to the wavy patterns. Of this beautiful fabric we have imported very largely, the ground shades being of every coloring desirable. The cloth is forty-six inches in width and comes at the moderate price of one dollar a yard. The English fashion paper, "The Queen," in speaking of this fabric a few months ago, spoke of it as being one of the most beautiful fabrics seen in recent years.

MOMIE JACQUARD This is a beautiful cloth, woven, the foundation of a fine momie surface with raised figures, the figures being of irregular size and shape, all thrown over the surface without any apparent design, the effect is extremely beautiful. The cloth comes in solid colors, every shade in the new colors being represented; it is a forty-five inch fabric and comes at one dollar a yard.

HOP CLOTH This is a new and very striking fabric, two colorings are used, the warp and filling being of harmonizing colors, and are woven in regular basket weave form, a sixteenth of an inch square. In this cloth the new brown and blue are woven together, green and brown, black and white, blue and gray, red and blue and other combinations.

GRANITE CLOTH Here is a fabric of English manufacture, the name of which will describe it very well. It is of a loosely woven texture, the ground being of heather mixtures, with figures of a lighter hue to suggest the patterns seen on granite slabs. It is a beautiful fabric and is sure to be a leading one for the coming season.

CANVAS SUITING This material of French manufacture is spun in very thick heavy threads of worsted, the warp being double threads of two colors twisted together, and the filling of another color; when woven it looks somewhat like a heavy canvas, with a rougher surface, and the mixture of colors gives to it an exquisite appearance. This is one of the most stylish fabrics brought out for the coming season. Among many of the charming mixtures of this cloth we notice one of wine, heliotrope and black being especially pretty.

BOUCLE The weave of this fabric is too well known to require description. It differs from the boucle cloth of past years only in the idea of colors, there are black grounds with heliotrope boucle effect, black with lavender, with green, wine and white. It will be noticed that the boucle is not so shaggy as the effects of some years past. The cloth is sure to be welcomed back into fashion.

FANCY DIAGONALS This fabric, while it maintains the diagonal pattern, is entirely changed in the weave. It is brought out in wavy patterns of two colors, the one alternately overlapping the other. They are very beautiful goods and one of the most serviceable fabrics that can be woven.

DRAP-DE-PARIS Is a smooth surfaced fabric, beautiful in weave and soft in finish, with a slightly corded pattern resembling a whip cord, only very much finer in the cord. It comes in a fine line of new colors, and is sure to be the most popular of plain fabrics.

HEATHER MIXED STORM SERGES These fabrics are French manufactured and are very unlike the serges sold as storm serges for the past year. They come altogether in mixtures and are among the most beautiful of the fabrics brought out this season. Navy blue and tobacco brown forms one of the prettiest mixtures in this line.

GEORGETTE The English have brought into the market a magnificent fabric, but they have stamped it with a name better suited and understood in their own country than on this side of the Atlantic. It is so named after the Duke of York. The cloth is brought out in solid colors and has the appearance of a fine stockinette. It is sure to be a very popular fabric.

AMAZON SUITING This is a fifty-two inch fabric, with a satin finished surface, very similar to a French broad-cloth. Its excellent weave and beauty will command it as one of the leading things among the plain fashionable fabrics.

DESPITE the clouds which so recently enveloped the commercial horizon, the coming season gives promise of being the brightest and most prosperous in the experience of the dry goods trade of this country. For a short time many merchants took a gloomy view of matters, some cancelling and others abridging their orders but the progressive business man whose confidence is too strong to be shaken, and whose grasp of the situation induced him to follow an entirely opposite course, placed orders largely in excess of previous years. One of the strongest reasons for such a course is the decided change in the fabrics comprising the great line of goods to be worn the coming season. The transitional stage has not been one of slow evolution, but a quick decided change from the smooth effects and plain shades of the past season to the more interesting and striking fabrics of rougher, coarser weaves and more positive colorings, shadings and fancies of a decidedly novel character. These conditions give to the markets a specially interesting feature and are absolutely certain to create demands that will tax the capacity of retailers to supply. These facts will indicate to our readers some very strong and cogent reasons why we anticipate a season of very active and prosperous business in the dry goods trade. We, ourselves, have made very extensive preparations and our importation orders have been much larger than any previous season in our experience.

A Great Change in Fabrics.

The change of fashionable fabrics that has taken hold of leading ideas for the coming season, is a change that will be the most popular and pleasing in recent years. For some seasons past the current of fashionable ideas steadily flowed in the direction of plain fabrics—despite the gentle breezes to turn it in the opposite course—until it led up to a point of absolute dullness, as was so clearly the case last season. Together with the severe plainness of materials came the dull colors, or, shades of colors as they were so generally called. After a few seasons, lacking in that character of fabrics which go to make up novelty and striking effects, it had become evident that a change would be well-comed; this change has come with clearness and strength. Last spring when the French and German manufacturers submitted their samples for the coming fall, American importers showed their appreciation of the changes exhibited in fabrics by placing very heavy orders. Since then the financial conditions of the country induced many to cancel, while, with each succeeding flash of novelties produced, many others added large supplementary orders, and these centers of European industry have had a season of extreme activity. The French market, as usual, is well in front in its lead of fashionable materials and has shown the most striking and beautiful fabrics of years. In attempting to give a description of the many and elegant cloths brought out for ladies' dresses for the coming season, it will readily be understood that only a few out of the vast lines shown can be given in an article so limited as is at our disposal, and, of course, our selections for description will naturally follow the lines of personal choice.

Novelties.

The novelties in silk and wool for the coming season are striking and fascinating. They come in brocades and mixtures of every kind, in patterns that have no perceptible method in them, and in thread markings of no special form. Some of these extremely novel fabrics are brought out in lengths of eight yards, making them, besides being elegant, exclusive.

Silks.

Are increasing wonderfully in popularity. Indeed, never in the history of silk weaving has there been such magnificent fabrics in weaves and textures placed upon the market as there are for the coming season. Chinas and fancies are shown in endless variety and in exquisite patterns and with them there is also a very strong current setting in, in favor of black silks.

Many new and fancy weaves are introduced in black silks, and it is expected that the coming season will be one of the best seasons ever remembered in the silk industry.

Velvets.

With such a great change in the styles of dress fabrics it would be expected that a change of dress trimmings would naturally follow, and for the coming season velvets will be the great popular combining trimming. The styles of the fabrics especially favor such a combination, and velvets are placed upon the market in magnificent colors and shades and in a great variety of qualities.

Materials and Styles in Millinery.

It has been said by some French artists that the crowning effect of a beautiful costume is left to the milliner. The coming season gives promise to be an eminently artistic one and the united arts of costumer and milliner will create many beautiful "living pictures."

Many of the new models from Paris show, on the underside of the brim, an entire lining of velvet; the upper part of fine French felt of subtle shades being trimmed off with black velvet and feathers.

Felts come largely in brick and wall flower red, terra-cotta, gray, navy, brown, black and many shades of green; pearl also being a strongly desirable color.

Soft felts to be shaped by the milliner will be more worn than the stiff blocked felts of past years.

Black velvet and colored trimmings promise to be very stylish. Picturesque shapes of black velvet and plumes are brightened by a large bird or part of a bird in brilliant colors. Others are toned up with satin ribbons in changeable effects.

Shot and fancy velvet crowns are put on brims of plain velvet.

Latest Notes from Europe.

English Tweeds, now called "Admiral Suitings," are much in demand. Matalasse Coris, with Persian figures, are to be very fashionable. Diamond Checks are a great novelty.

Changeable Nette Costume Cloth is a very desirable fabric for fall wear. Changeable Crystals promise well for fall and winter wear.

"Waffle Cloth," Ombare Cloth, Iridescent Tweeds and Satin L'Arme are well worthy the great interest they are receiving.

Cloaks.

A great season is promised for medium length coats and capes. Furs will be very desirable. The novelty fabrics in coats and the elegant designs all combine to add promise to the cloak trade, being one of the best ever experienced. Suede Gloves to match fabrics.

SPECIAL NOTICE. It is especially pleasing to us at this time to be able to announce to the ladies of this city and Western Michigan the arrival of the large shipments of dress fabrics, silks and velvets imported by us for the coming season. Most of our orders have now arrived and the beauty of the French fabrics especially cannot be pictured in words. The change in fashionable fabrics is the most thorough, striking and beautiful within the range of our experience. The great change has come at a time the most opportune that could be desired; the vast sums of money locked in the pockets of homes will find a most tempting bait, stronger and more effective than all the arguments of locustian politicians who picture disaster unless their previous ideas are at once applied. While they talk, let the business men act, and as soon as United States money begins to move, confidence will be restored and business better than ever before. The situation is held, not in the hands of legislators, but in the hands of the people. There is an abundance of money in the country, and no better way could be devised to draw it out than the magnificent exhibitions of dry goods and fashionable fabrics that will be made throughout the country during the coming season. Next week we shall have our semi-annual opening and general display of new goods. The displays in our dress goods, silks and millinery and cloak departments will be the finest we have ever made and it would be well worth a special effort and even some sacrifice on the part of the ladies to attend this magnificent exhibition of "fine fashionable fabrics." Particulars of this opening display in next Sunday's papers.

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