

STYLES.

For the Ladies to Read.

Overhauling center drapery will be continued. The Greek style of drapery will be favored next season.

Paris bonnets are conspicuous for the absence of feathers. The vest fronts are much longer than those worn last season.

Only a few days more and the fall fashions will be established. Black lace this season will be used only on black dresses.

Camel-hair goods display smiling combinations in color. The style of arranging the hair at present tends to smoothness.

Great ingenuity is observed in the display of embroidered goods. Foulard silks are selling very cheap.

Swiss and linen Hamburg trimmings are at remarkably low prices. The coming season promises much that is new in the world of dress.

The pinner will, no doubt, increase in size as the season progresses. Veils, detached and simulated, are made of bright-tinted materials.

The first importations of the season are more than usually attractive. Short promenade suits are accepted in Paris, and we shall go to do likewise.

For full dress toilets, lace made of gold and silver thread will be much used. The imported bonnets and wraps are ornamented beautifully with garnet beads.

Narrow, upright collars, nicely truncated from the throat, have a shawty effect. Elegant millinery ornaments are Roman lizards and bees of bright and dead gold.

Ornaments of the greatest antiquity are considered the most fashionable at present. Fancy coverings for the head are made of navy blue Spanish lace with Cardinal border.

Aristocratic wedding dresses this season will be made of white baroque over white satin. September brings forth the first indication of what the seasonable fall modes will be like.

Hose with laces embrodered, are preferred to those that have clocks, and especially for slipper wear. Trimmings of all sorts have grown into favor, and the coming season bids fair of giving a surfeit of dress adornings.

Ladies are slowly becoming conscious that the cut-away jacket and waistcoat is not at all becoming to slender figures. Ladies now embroder their wide silk belts in the brightest colors.

Among the large variety of slippers worn this season, those of black velvet, perfectly plain, are the most desirable for the house. Coat sleeves are still the chosen shape for all ordinary costumes, and the mode with gathers at the elbows is much liked for silks.

The English coat of homespun cloth, with velvet collar, cuffs and pockets, is the jaunty and comfortable-looking wrap for early fall. There is a great furor for ribbons; hence a cheap toilet can easily be made to look quite drossy by the addition of several ribbon bows.

Exceedingly bright hues in every style of bonnet garniture have been accepted, and the result gives to the bonnet a singularly gay appearance. The colors of the season lace names from the precious and semi-precious stones, being designated as ruby, sapphire, amethyst, emerald, garnet, topaz, &c.

Ribbon bows, with long flowing ends, are fastened on the left side of the waist. In fact bows of ribbons will form one of the chief dress granities of the season. Fashion this fall will permit of the wearing of straw bonnets until very late of the season.

White lace will be worn on light as well as dark and even black dresses. Smooth surface goods will be more worn than fancy bonneted patterns. Persian tints will be seen in many dress patterns, and particularly in mixed fabrics.

Traveling cloaks for autumn sojourners are tubular of English homespun cloth with three Currier caps, wide-breasted fronts, and a belt that crosses the back but not the front. Bonnets have grown. The fall modes in millinery show a decided gain in the size of hats and bonnets. Straws, richly trimmed, will be among the first chapeaux for early seasonable wear.

Novel cravats, quite like those worn by gentlemen, will grace the neck of fashionables. These cravats are tied in a neat bow in a somewhat prim style. However, they "will take," since they are novel. The novelty of the season in millinery is the high rating, and a reproduction of the style our grandmothers and great-grandmothers used to wear. They are tied on with a broad ribbon passing over the crown.

Embroidered garments will be imported next season. This fashion of dress beautifying is all the rage in Paris, and hence we have coming to us embroidered lace, bands, materials of all sorts richly embellished with exquisite needle-work. Ribbon two inches wide, known to milliners as No. 12, will be much used for trimming bonnets and for dresses. These ribbons are reversible, being plush or velvet on one side and satin on the other; the sides do not differ in color—merely in fabric.

Fall dressing will present much that is gay in expression, and a reproduction of the eye at almost every turn. Of course, there are other tints that will be favored, but the above dyes will figure most conspicuously. Belt bonnets will be worn again, as they are too popular for medicinal dress, and are willingly relinquished. The beaver felt with long nap are very handsome, and are also becoming. White beaver felt will be much used by young ladies for full dress and reception bonnets.

Old-boiled Scotch gingham are a fall novelty in elegant dressing. This goods come in a variety of bright patterns; perhaps the Rob Roy will be the most favored. Gingham costumes will be handsomely trimmed with velvet, and mostly made after the kill model; the vest and sash, also cuffs and collar, are made of velvet.

Another very handsome fabric is velvet lamé, or with linsel groundwork, showing brilliant lines and dashes of color amid the rich black pile. There are dashes and dots of gilt, silver, or cardinal red, of pale blue, and of green, brightening the black velvet very effectively, without giving the tawdry appearance these products when used in large masses. The old-time underkerchiefs will figure this fall in modish toilets. This neat bit of dress adornment consists of white linen, mull and swiss, placed in forms of a surprise around the throat, and extending about twelve inches over the neck and bust. This style of dress is designed exclusively for the house, yet it may be seen on our promenades during early autumn.

Red is the prevailing color in millinery goods, and is shown in various shades. The Jacqueminé is the most effective, and has more of the Majenta shades than that worn last season; next comes Thiers red, which is darker, and the Bordeaux or claret red, dark or still. The green, or garnet, is a familiar shade, and cardinal has more scarlet tints than formerly, resembling the dull Egyptian and Pompeian red. The new blues have peacock shades, and are dull, like turquoise. These are called garnet, garnet blue, and differ from the clear nautique and sapphire shades. The stylish green is so dark that it is mistaken for black. The brown shades are red hazel, seal and fell-color, which is rich.

Broadened velvet has quaint irregular figures, partly of cut and partly of uncut velvet, showing the satin groundwork in the spaces between. This is imported to white for dress bonnets, pale blue and in Jacqueminé. Still another novelty is the corduroy velvet with curled pile in the stripes. This, like all others mentioned, has the lustrous satin back, which is now preferred to the silk-back velvet so long in use. This is called satin plush by the dealers. For trimming bonnets a novelty is bourette velvet with an irregular fleecy and occasional knotted threads. A great deal of plain plush is shown for covering the frames of bonnets. This will be stylish in black, with a gold or also Jacqueminot trimmings.

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LILLIAN CHURCH.

An Extraordinary Girl Whom I Met With in France.

From Chamber's Journal. About thirty years ago I was finishing my education in a French pension, where there were three other English girls, mostly qualifying themselves for teaching French. I was the eldest of the set, and was then about 17, and beginning to think with joy of getting home again, and away from French fare and fashions.

One day, to my surprise, there came a summons from madame, and it was with some trepidation I obeyed it; but I need not have feared. "My dear," she said, looking at a letter in her hand, "I hear to-day that I am to expect a young lady named Lillian Church, one of our countrywomen, not actually a scholar, but a boarder, though she will join some of your studies. She is 18, and is betrothed; but her doctor judges well that in the meantime she should have a perfect change of scene. To you, as the eldest, I must look to show her what kindness you can; for I must tell you there are peculiarities about her, and you must prevent your companions noticing them—at least to herself."

Here was a piece of excitement for us, in the midst of the usual school-life monotony! It may be imagined how we four girls discussed the matter, and wondered what there was peculiar in our new school elbow. We shared a common bedroom, where we expected to have another bed introduced, as there was ample space. What, on the contrary, was our surprise to find that Miss Church was to have a small separate room opposite ours, and our greater surprise, a workman made her appearance, who put strong iron bars on the windows and a padlock on the door. Here was romance indeed. Evidently Miss Church must have made an attempt to elope; nothing else could account for such strict surveillance. We could scarcely settle down to anything the day she was expected, and awaited her appearance with the greatest eagerness. One of the girls, Francis Grey, had just reported to us that the gentleman who had come with Miss Church had driven away, when a message came to say madams wanted us all. As we entered the room all our eight eyes turned to the new comer before madame had time to introduce her and hand her over to our care.

She was perfectly different from what we had expected, bearing not a trace of English birth about her. She was very fully developed, and of medium height, with a face rather broad, but with handsome features. Her hair, of which she had great masses, was jet black, and she had large dark eyes with a most peculiar and weird expression. In short, it was a thoroughly Italian face, and we found out afterwards that Mr. Church, her so-called uncle and guardian, had picked her up in Italy. He was struck with the picturesque beauty of the child, who was playing on the doorstep, and ascertaining that she was a foundling, and that her foster parents could ill afford to support her, had adopted her himself.

After a few commonplace sentences had passed, madame asked me if I would go and assist Miss Church to arrange her things, which I accordingly did, she in the meantime sitting by and looking on. We were thus occupied when, looking at her, I saw her face suddenly assume the most curious expression; all light seemed have died out of her eyes; her form became somewhat rigid, and she began speaking in a low tone, but rapidly and fluently, in French. I was much alarmed; but at that moment madame entered to see how we were getting on. On catching sight of Lillian's face, she murmured to me, "Hush! Don't notice it. She's a somnambulist, and falls into these trances at times. I suppose she has the dread of us foreigners on her mind. Whatever you do, do not rouse her; it might be fatal."

"But madame, her eyes are open." "Yes, my dear; they always are in such a case." And then madame, thinking it best to let me know the real state of the case, though warning me not to let Lillian know about it, told me the circumstances under which this young girl was sent to school. For many months the peace of Mr. Church's house had been greatly disturbed by a suspicion that there was a thief among the servants. The things which disappeared were of no great value, and all belonged to Miss Church—pincushions, brushes, articles of clothing; but though safe at night, in the morning no trace was to be found of them. At last the mystery was solved. Miss Church, who slept at the top of the house, had a friend a few doors off who slept on the same floor. One night this friend was roused by a tapping at her window. With wonderful presence of mind she opened it gently, and in climbed Lillian Church. She had clambered all along the ledge at the top of the house; but how she had escaped death no one knew. Of course, after this her window was secured, and she was watched; and it was discovered that she had herself got rid of her things by going down at night in her sleep and burying them in the garden.

Upon the further discovery of her peculiarity, an eminent doctor was consulted, who prescribed perfect change of air and scene and the society of young companions. I doubt whether madame had any idea of the task she was undertaking. Certainly, she hoped to keep Lillian's condition a secret confined to two or three, she was disappointed, for this strange girl used to fall into these trances at all hours of the day. The most remarkable part of the case was that, although she was downright stupid, and deficient in intelligence when awake, as soon as she fell into these sleeps she became quite remarkably clever. After having heard her fluent conversation in the bed-room I was greatly surprised to find that she could hardly speak at all when she had been roused from that trance and we had gone down to the refectoire for supper. Her French was of the very blindest English school girl possible. Happening, however, to fall asleep some days later over a French lesson, to the astonishment of our teacher she began to speak with ease. In one of those trances one of the girls noticed that the top of her thumbs—or rather, not quite the top, but the part just opposite the nail—was black. She took hold of her hand, and touching it, said, "What's the matter with your hand, Lillian?"

Lillian snatched away her hand, crying, "Oh don't; you hurt my eyes!" We noticed after this that all reading, whilst in these trances was conducted by means of the thumbs; her eyes fixed on vacancy, she would sit passing her thumbs from line to line of the book. The lessons thus learned were never remembered in her waking moments, but always came back in any succeeding trance. This peculiarity has seemed incredible to most people who have heard it, and indeed is incomprehensible; but it is in all respects nevertheless true. She used sometimes to play the piano in these trances; and although when awake she could not play better than a child of eight or ten years of age, she performed very fairly in her sleep; indeed had it not been for the thumb difficulty, she would have played very well; but she had to twist her thumbs in a peculiar manner, to prevent touching the black spot through which she seemed to see. Still more extraordinary were her drawing powers when asleep. I have still a portrait of herself done in one of these trances, and one night she drew in crayons on her door an exquisite figure of an angel. Although when awake she could not remember the events which had taken place during her trance, in her trances she solved the difficulties of her waking moments. One night she was much provoked at the appearance of a bonnet sent by her milliner, as far too small for the fashion of those days. When she woke the next day, she found that she had got up in her sleep and altered the bonnet most skillfully by letting in some cardboard covered with black silk.

It was quite a common thing for her to go to bed with her masses of raven black hair down her back and to find it most elaborately plaited on waking in the morning; and I have known her to alter articles of wearing apparel in her sleep. She also seemed to have a gift of second-sight. In one of these trances she was obliged to be in very low spirits and at last to burst into tears. On being asked the cause of her tears, she said she could see her betrothed in London flirting with another girl. Shortly after came a letter from her guardian with such accounts of the young man's behavior, with the girl of whom Lillian had been anxious, that the engagement was broken off. She told most of our fortunes in her sleep; but in my case, I am bound to confess, without success. Whether she preferred to be in very low spirits and at last to burst into tears. On being asked the cause of her tears, she said she could see her betrothed in London flirting with another girl. 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