

JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Such Jams and Crowds in the Shops as No Mortal Should Endure.

Some of the Pretty Things That Will Fill Millions of Stockings.

Marvels in Candy and Confections—But Gowns Must Not Be Omitted—Glass and Gold.

[Written for THE HELENA INDEPENDENT.] FEAR ME CHRISTMAS WILL ABOLISH itself before many years are past. This, the last full week before the holiday, has seen such jams and crowding as no sane mortal feels a call to endure.

Beyond question the Christmas trade is a mighty important factor in the year's profits. It is this flavor of commerce, though, that to me kills the savor—spoils the sweetness of the holiday. Gift-making has become stereotyped—and is oftener than not a matter of cold and of close calculation.

The good woman is the type of a very large class, which casts its bread upon the holiday waters to find it again after few or many days.

There is something though to be said on the other side. For the most part our Philistine's pocket is very warmly lined. He spends lavishly, if not always freely—and his shekels prove a reason for being to so many beautiful things.

This year of grace and plenty has been especially open handed. It is long odds that he has spent double as much money this Christmas as for any of the three years past.



TWO TREASURY WAISTS.

threw, as soon as a generous harvest was over, as if they began to plan how they could absorb it, not abolish the surplus.

For example, I strolled yesterday into a well confectioner's with intent then to fill the stocking of an out of town namesake—and found that really choice sweets were worth just \$1 a pound—then the box or basket to put them in would be from \$10 to \$20 more—and that if I was lowly minded and economical, I might buy something in a plain paper box as low as 60 cents the pound.

That sounds extortionate. It was not in the least. Ten-dollar bon-bons were of almond paste moulded into half open roses, pink or yellow, with stem and only of pale green pistache. There were tiny perfect clams, too, in almond paste, chestnuts, filberts, acorns perfectly imitated in cream candy and chocolate—candied violet rose leaves, fruit glee, and the tiny perfumed pellets known to those wise in the way of the sugar boiling Egyptians as caprice.

Best of all were the lemon and orange quarters, that had more of the flavor than even the shape of their models. In addition, of course, there were caramels, creams, nut-candies, and all the hundred sorts dear to the American palate—mighty fine to look at, but not comparable in flavor with the lemon stick or peppermint that our grandmothers doled out to us an inch at a time, when we were eight years old.

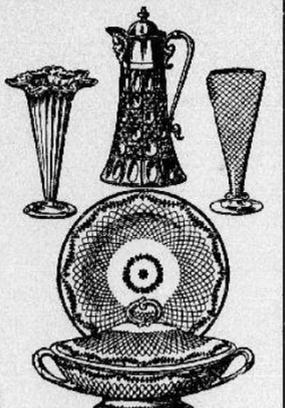
But eight-year-old eyes never saw such splendors as the Christmas bags and boxes for this appetitive candy. One that I saw in course of filling for an offshoot of the Vanderbilt race, was a basket of most exquisitely delicate china ribs, latched through with broad pale pink satin ribbon, and inside a bag of the palest blue, drawn up with a silver cord. Complete, it was worth just \$10—and your grandfather's hat would cover it completely.



DESIGNS IN HAIR DRESSING.

Some big squarish boxes, daintily hand-painted, are \$22 each, unlined. A round velvet box in shape of a bonnetiere is \$10 empty. The newest of all, though, is the purse bag for opera use. It is made of rich, late-tinted satin, with heavy gilt rings and cord-trimmed. In one end any lady's opera-glass fits snug, in the other a dainty flower set outside to show as beauty swings it across her fingers.

the half would not be told. Indeed, in writing just now one suffers the embarrassment of riches, albeit, there is very little that is new or startling to the chronicler of women's gear proper. Modisto milliner tailors tell the same old story of the princess gown, the three-quarters cape or coat-free bands, low hats, high bows, very small bonnets, rosettes, beads and feathers. The highest authorities unite in saying that the nearest approach to novelty is the coming in of the beautiful Irish poplins, and the wearing of cloth gowns as full dress evening toils. Strangely yet, some of them are trimmed with fur and lace—two or three narrow bands above a flounce. A mighty swaggar girl appeared at a reception the other night in a master cloth gown, cut princess and lapped to the left and buttoning all the way from the left hip down. The lap was edged with a narrow roll of natural beaver, and two bands of the same or beaded the ten-inch flounce of rich coffee colored lace that ran all around the



GLASS AND GOLD.

semi-trained skirt. The glove-fitted waist was exquisitely plain, except for a high collar for the fur with a torrent of lace inside, focusing up about the wearer's long white throat. She is one of those fortunate women, "divinely tall." On this occasion she was especially fortunate. Fats set her at the elbow of Mrs. Paron Stevens in a ravishing red toilet that threw out and emphasized the other's pale soft hues.

Not far from the two a statuesque blonde with the palest golden hair and an apple-blossom complexion, fitted adorably in her environment of palms and roses. Her gown was of green satin, pale but rich. Down the front of the skirt a little to one side ran a trail of big blazy poppies in scarlet velvet applique upon the satin, with deep green leaves and stems, and golden hearts. Over this fell a veiling of the finest plain black, simply hemmed at the foot, and very full over the trained plain back breadth. The waist of green satin had coat tails in the back and a bow of wide black velvet with ends reaching quite to the floor set at the top of the low corsage quite between the shoulders. From under it a loose drapery of net was drawn under the arm to the middle of the front and caught in place there with a hair wreath of poppies as red but not so big by half as those upon the skirt.

For evening the empire gown gains steadily. There are gowns and gowns though. Of one that I saw last night, one was superb—and more than superbly worn, two decently passable, five distinctly dandy, and one "most tolerable and not to be endured." This wearer had attempted to combine empire and Grecian garments, and the result was such as to appall gods and men.

Hair-dressing even more than garments recalls the epoch of Josephine and Rebecca and Tallien. The variety of styles is great enough to suit all faces, but in all the newer ones the hair is waved all over the head and drawn high to the crown. The

bang is worn very light—a mere frieze of soft curls. Back of it came either pompadour rolls, pugs or waved hair massed behind the forehead and the terminal and held in place with fancy pins, ropes of milk pearl or Lucian fillets of tortoise shell encircled with gold silver. In fact, ornaments were rarely ever so much worn in the hair. Their name is legion, their shape as varied as their uses. The illustrations show the trend of fashions in hair-dressing—which each beholder can adopt to her own taste or features or fancy.

If you have a fine feeling for nuptial the linen stores just now will make you wish for the purse of Fortunatus. There are the most exquisite things—center clothes edged about with cut work half a yard deep, fine shawl doyleys wrought with spider webs and violets and clover blossoms in white silk or wash gold. Rich white damask, too, the pattern outlined with gold thread, cheese and fruit nothings, all in shining white with delicate patterns of flower and leaf. Truly it is possible to look upon dining as a fine art.

A great novelty is the gold lace used for cracker boxes, fruit dishes and so on. It is of gold filigree as fine and shiny and floriated as real lace. Inside the gold course a movable disk of plain, clear glass, to which the gold is accurately fitted. The handsomest and costliest table glass is pure white flint glass cut to a plain surface and overlaid with golden flowers, leaves and scrolls. Tall tower holders like those pictured, are set sparingly about and filled, not crowded, with big long stemmed flowers—oftener than not American—beauty roses three feet from tip to tip.

Sometimes the holder is all glass. Sometimes it rises out of a golden base, upheld by golden arms. Sometimes, too, it is of the richest Venetian red. In all forms it costs a pretty penny—and has been bought several thousand times over for fortune's spoiled and favorite children.

The thing of all others, though, that I most did covet was a loving cup of clear glass with three gold handles and golden scrolls on its three sides. Next to it I rank a dear, delightful china thimble, thin as an egg shell, faintly tinted, yet warranted to serve you well if only you do not let it fall and break. Much finer, but not half so full of homely pleasure, is the intaglio ware now just introduced. It is a fine pale cream tint, finished without glaze. The figures are carved before it is baked and are wonderfully spirited and graceful. Their creator, a younger woman with gifted finger tips, is thought to have a fortune in them.

The blouses are—blouses warranted new and fashionable. No room to say more while Christmas things abound. ELLIS OSBORN. Copyright.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO CUT TIMBER upon public lands. In accordance with the provisions of section 8 of the act of congress, passed March 3, 1891, and the rules and regulations issued thereunder by the honorable secretary of the interior and the honorable commissioner of the general land office, May 5, 1891, Henry Longmaid, whose postoffice address is Hanksville City, Feathered country, Montana, hereby gives notice that at the expiration of twenty-one days from the first publication of this notice, he will make application in writing to the honorable secretary of the interior for authority to cut and remove all the merchantable saw logs, pine and fir timber, on the following described unsurveyed public lands, to-wit: Commencing at a point where Buffalo creek, a left hand fork of Grasshopper creek, enters into a canyon in what is known locally as the West side range and distant from the town of Hanksville in Beaverhead county, Montana, about ten miles in a southwesterly direction extending thence up the said Buffalo creek and parallel to its course for a distance of two miles more or less, and for half a mile on the right or easterly bank, and a mile on the westerly or left bank of said creek, being a parcel of ground, about two miles in length and a mile and a half in width, containing about two thousand acres. The estimated amount of each kind of timber is about 25,000 feet of fir and 250,000 feet of pine, more or less. The character of the land upon which said timber is growing is generally and mountainous, except a small strip, which is swampy and wet. The timber thereon is rough and scrubby, the greater portion of it being fir. The purpose for which the timber is to be cut is for the erection of workmen's dwellings, storehouses, reduction works, underground work and all mining purposes for the development of the Golden Leaf mining properties. J. HENRY LONGMAID.

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