# HOME AND SOCIETY.

## CHAT OF THE SEASON.

MARRYING NOBLEMEN—FASHIONS FOR SPRING—AN EMPRESS'S ALBUM—BRIDAL COSTUMES.

How spirited, beautiful, attractive American women can submit to be made the objects of barter and sordid calculation is one of the wonders of this fin-de-siecle civilization! And yet there have been several instances known where girls have been subjected to the mortifying indignity of being actually jilted for no other reason than that their prospective incomes were not as large as their noble (?) suitors supposed them to be when they committed themselves so far as to offer their hearts and their titles to an American heiress. So the recreant knights ride away to fresh fields and pastures new, leaving the deserted maidens to wear the willow and face the comments of a pitying or jeering world. Such a position is simply intolerable, and it is no wonder that health and spirits fail and that lives are spoiled in consequence. The hardest part of it all, moreover, is that girls are apt to really love these titled suitors, who are often attractive men of the world, surrounded with all the glamour of fashion and position which sheds such a rosy tint over ordinary mortals; and so it is not only the misery of thwarted ambition that they are compelled to suffer, but the actual wretchedness of misplaced affection. Surely parents should not allow their young daughters to be exposed to such insults.

Some one suggested the other evening that since it is virtually conceded that titles are to be bought and sold, how much better it would be if a fashionable bureau of information were established where the noble earls and dukes might obtain trustworthy information and thus prevent these unfortunate mistakes which are constantly recurring.

To be a cowboy on a Western ranch and a "masher" in Piccadilly would seem to be the two extremes of existence. Nevertheless the younger son of a well-known English family, who is an Oxford man, an athlete and "an all-round good fellow," contrives to reconcile these diametrically opposite careers apparently very successfully. This dual existence is not altogether as impossible as it would seem. At certain seasons, for months at a time, there is practically nothing to do on a ranch, and if the proprietor has the money to spend there is no reason why he should not be in England instead of in America, or anywhere else in Europe. An interesting novel or play might be made with such material and a thoroughgoing knowledge of the two conditions.

That we should never trust to appearance we all know full well; nevertheless it is a truth that is very hard to inculcate, especially with young people, and many a funny and sometimes a mortifying experience is the result of an acquaintance made casually while travelling. "On our last crossing," relates a girl in society, whose people spend much of their time abroad, "there was a particularly nice-looking man who, some way or other, always seemed to be on hand to do little thoughtful things for mamma and me; and as he was reserved and rather melancholy-looking, and quite irreproachable in his general get up and manners, we found him most interesting, and before the voyage was over we all became quite intimate and 'chummy.' It was quite the accepted thing that he should be our daily escort on deck, where he made himself simply invaluable by the thousand and one 'petits soins' which are so comforting on board ship.

About himself, however, and his own affairs he was most reticent, and I noticed that when he spoke of meeting on terra firma and of our future intercourse he evaded the question with a sigh and a look of such deep sadness that I was almost wild with curiosity. I told mamma that I was sure that there was some mystery about him. She quite agreed with me, and we made many attempts to obtain his confidence; but it was always in vain, until finally for some perfectly preposterous reason we decided that he was an Anarchist and was vowed to commit some dreadful deed. We would not have been at all surprised to have heard afterward that he had done something desperate; but we were hardly prepared for the real denouement, when, a few weeks afterward, in one of the mammoth New-York shops where one can get everything that can be thought of, I heard a familiar voice behind me call 'Cash.' Turning, I saw our melancholy hero, whose sad fate was simply to be a floor walker at —'s."

At a very smart dinner the other evening one woman only among all those present wore a sleeveless bodice, and she certainly looked very odd among the extended berthas and ruffles and balloon-shaped sleeves which exaggerated the shoulder width of all the other dames.

Praise and approval are far more potent reformers than blame and fault-finding; and if a little of the flattery that is so freely bestowed in society was used in the home circle, how much pleasanter life would become to every member of the family! It is a very strange thing, however, that while it is an easy matter for many people to be suave and amiable to strangers for whom they care nothing, among their own people whom they really dearly love they are cross and unkind. "It doesn't mean anything," is the usual excuse for the very reprehensible habit of "nagging" and fault-finding among the various members of a family; and that is the saddest part of it all. It really doesn't mean anything in the beginning. It is simply a little snapping, snarling habit, that can easily be controlled, and yet it also means so much that it produces coldness and lack of affection between brothers and sisters, a want of sympathy between parents and children, and a miserable, unrestful home atmosphere that is infinitely depressing. If at this season of good resolutions each member of the family would resolve to treat the others with the same consideration and would give to their possessions and qualifications the same liberal praise that they bestow upon those of their acquaintances, it might be a more salutary Lenten discipline than most, and have better and more enduring results.

The jewels worn by the German Empress at the last "subscription ball," which took place in the Berlin Royal Opera House a few days ago, excited the envy and admiration of all the women present. Among her most conspicuous ornaments were the star of the Order of the Black Eagle, set in diamonds; a magnificent brooch with exceedingly large stones, to which hung strings of smaller diamonds; two beautiful diamond stars and a necklace which cost a princely fortune. A great diadem of brilliants was on Her Majesty's head, while on her shapely arms were strings of diamonds. The Empress also wore the famous hat buckle of Napoleon I, which was discovered by a Prussian regiment in the conqueror's carriage after the battle of Waterloo. Tradition says that the Emperor used the buckle on the day of his coronation in Notre Dame, December 2, 1804. The treasure was added to the Prussian crown jewels by Frederick William III. The King had an estimate made of the value of the stones in the buckle, and paid the money to members of the regiment which owned it. Since then it has been one of the principal treasures of the Prussian crown. Its various parts are used at different times by the Empress, sometimes in one way and sometimes in another. The late Empress Augusta wore the stones of the famous hat buckle with especial delight. The present Empress, however, is a much handsomer woman and shows off the Prussian crown jewels to great advantage. The Emperor was delighted with her appearance at the ball, to the great pleasure of Her Majesty, who several years ago was not spoiled by the attentions and compliments of her Imperial consort.

In the spring, when the system is apt to be run down by the confinement in the heated atmosphere of winter houses, and by a lack of the good, green vegetables which do so much to tone up the system, it is well to call attention to the value of salt bathing.

Almost all intelligent nurses now recommend the salt bath, especially for nervous persons or individuals whose systems have become enervated by lack of abundant outdoor exercise. Where a person is in individually good health and is accustomed to a cold bath, a cup of rock-salt may always be used to advantage, dissolved in the bathing water. But this saline bath must be rinsed off afterward with clear water, and the body then rubbed vigorously with heavy crash towels. But in the case of a little child or a delicate person, authorities recommend the warm salt-water bath, taken at night just before retiring. The soothing effect of such a bath as this can hardly be appreciated by a person who has never tried it. A nervous little child will often fall into a refreshing slumber after such a bath as this, when every other expedient fails.

Souvenir albums are once more becoming quite the rage in Paris. They contain sketches by celebrated artists, poetry, sonnets, autographs, are gorgeously bound, and form a charming as well as a valuable item in any lady's boudoir. Princess Waldemar of Denmark—who never forgets her French nationality—is having prepared for her own delectation a charming memento of the country she loves above all others. It is an album, choicely bound and illustrated by all the most famous artists in Paris. Detaille and Madeleine Lemaire, and painters of their calibre, are engaged upon its pages. Massenet has written a delightful little piece of music for it; and in fact, when complete, it will be as fitting a souvenir of Parisian art as the heart of a French princess could desire and the purse of a wealthy one could well afford to purchase.

The souvenir album of Empress Frederick of Germany is celebrated throughout the world, for since her wedding the Royal lady has made a point of asking every celebrity presented to her to contribute some lines to this interesting volume, which is filled with delightful sketches of all kinds of water-colors, poems and quotations, signed by great savants, crowned heads and famous actors.

Another pretty idea for anybody interested in amateur photography is to arrange a collection of photographs on a curtain, and to photograph the entire curtain, thus obtaining a negative no bigger than a magazine cover whereon the whole collection in miniature rejoices the eye.

## GOWNS FOR STREET AND HOUSE

### FEW CHANGES IN CUT.

No startling changes in fashion beyond those which have been introduced this winter are likely to be found this spring, as has been said before. One thing is certain; that all walking dresses will clear the pavement. Some of our most exclusive dressmakers believe that the width of dress-skirts has reached its limit; yet those who have just arrived from Paris declare that the dress-skirts for spring are even wider than those which have been worn here, and Worth himself is said to have boasted that he has recently used as much as fifty yards in a single gown, a matter which would be more conclusive if he had given the width of the goods. It would not be a difficult matter, for example, to put fifty yards of Japanese crape, which measures but ten inches in width, in any gown. But it would be impossible, even in the most extreme width of skirt, to put more than eight or ten yards of double width material. It is likely that from eighteen to twenty yards of silk will be fully sufficient to meet all the needs of fashion. Some dressmakers go so far as to insist that it will cost more to make a dress now, as they handle more materials, but their intelligent customers will probably recall the fact that they did not reduce their prices when they began to make scanty dresses. It is not probable that our best dressmakers will attempt any such extortion.

All dressmakers who have returned from Paris are agreed that crinoline is impossible. While they insist on an enormous width of skirt, they are united in declaring that wires are most inelegant and unnecessary. "Oh, no," said Mme. ——, who had just arrived from Paris. "It is impossible. If ladies persist in wearing these wide skirts in heavy materials next fall something must be devised to hold them out; but it will not be crinoline. The summer materials are too light to require any support, but the winter ones will." Already there is a bengaline made of silk, stiffened by horsehair run through the rep of the goods. Such a skirt is recommended where it is necessary to use a slight support for the spring skirt.

This visiting costume is of orchid satin brocade in purple and gold. The skirt is plain. Watteau pleats escape from a small corselet of purple velvet draped

and fixed under a large rosette; and the velvet sleeves open over a second sleeve of orchid-colored satin. The bonnet is in shades of velvet to match.

This youthful morning gown is of dark navy-blue faced cloth, with a dull surface. The flaring skirt measures four and a half yards around, but is fitted quite smoothly in front and over the hips, giving it the fashionable sweep which is the distinguishing feature of the "chic" gown of spring. It is gathered to the belt at the back by close gathers. Three

bands of blood-red woollen, each trimmed with rows of dark blue soutache braid, finish the skirt. The Eton jacket is of navy blue with large revers of red, trimmed with braid like the skirt. The large gigot sleeves are simply faced with red at the bottom and turned back to show the facing. A full blouse of red wool or silk, with an extremely high stock, formed of folds of the red wool, and a belt which is trimmed with braid, completes the costume.

The silk velvet blouse, either shaded, shot or plain, with a woollen skirt, is the latest freak of fashion up to date in Paris. For the throat ruffles of satin, cut on the cross and narrowly edged with fur, are among the newest and prettiest conceits to be noticed in the establishments of the principal couturiers in Paris. They tie in front with a bow and long ends of three-inch satin ribbon, the length of the streamers depending entirely on the taste of the wearer.

Taffetas and bengaline will be the favorite silk materials this spring. There is no saying which is the color most in vogue, for the fashionable style is a combination of several shades in glace silks. These are exquisite mixtures of the most lovely tints, producing effects of the greatest novelty. Over some of these beautiful shot silks there are fine streaks or "pekin" stripes of satin. Pompadour stripes with pretty floral patterns over a moire ground are also very fashionable. For the street the cloth costume is of course always the most ladylike. Gray or a mixture of seal-brown and beige are favorite shades, but navy blue, both dark and light, is still the elegant tint par excellence for plain street dresses. A light, dull-green "vert artichaux" (artichoke green) is the fashionable color of the moment. Plush of this color is in great vogue for trimmings and various accessories of the costume, for of course the whole toilet is not made entirely green. Green felt hats are also much in favor; gloves, stockings and slippers appear in the same shade; and what in Paris, is thought to be very "chic" note-paper and envelopes, are now made in the same green hue. They are either plain or with initials and crest or a motto in dead gold in a corner of the sheet of paper and the envelope.

A dainty ball dress for a young lady is of pale pink brocade. The skirt is in the new bell or "godet" shape, with a high flounce of silk muslin headed by a pink velvet torsade around the skirt. The corsage, cut square, is ornamented with a fichu

of pale pink chiffon edged with Venice point, which forms a broad flounce over the voluminous sleeves. The latter are finished at the elbow with a row of Venice entredeux. The fichu droops at the waist over a rather broad black satin ribbon finished with a rhinestone buckle. These glittering ornaments are very much in vogue, and on dresses, bonnets and hats make a very effective finish.

## A GALLANT AMBASSADOR.

HERR VON BRANDT GIVES UP HIS POST TO LEAD MISS HEARD TO THE ALTAR.

The refusal of the Emperor of Germany to permit Herr von Brandt, the Ambassador of the Empire in China, to marry Miss Heard, the daughter of Augustine Heard, of Massachusetts, the American Minister Resident and Consul-General at Seoul, Corea, has had no deterring influence upon the determination of that distinguished diplomatist to lead his bride home. German official papers announce that Herr von Brandt—naturally—preferred the honor of wedding the pretty daughter of the Republic to representing longer His Majesty at the capital of the Flowery Kingdom. When the decision of the Emperor arrived at Pekin His Excellency promptly forwarded his resignation to his chief, to take effect on April 1. His successor, in the person of Baron von Schenck, at present German Minister to Persia, and formerly the representative of his country in Chili, has already been appointed. After his marriage the Ambassador intends to return with his wife to Europe and pass the rest of his days on his estates in Germany.

Herr von Brandt is, so far as is known, the first German to surrender an Ambassador's post to link his fortunes with those of an American woman. His post as representative in China is one of the most important in the foreign service of the Empire. No European country pays its foreign representatives larger salaries than Germany. According to the regulations of the Foreign Office, service in the far East "counts double," so that Herr von Brandt, long German representative in the Orient, enjoys the peculiar distinction of having had more years of service than years of life. His Excellency, however, is not a young man, having passed his sixtieth birthday a short time ago.

Miss Heard by her marriage will become related to some of the most distinguished families of the Fatherland. Herr von Brandt is the son of General von Brandt, of the Prussian Infantry, who died in 1868, and whose memoirs, published after his death, called forth much discussion. Like his father, he began active life as an army officer. His diplomatic career began in 1860, when he accompanied Count Eulenberg on his Asiatic mission. Since then he has lived without interruption in the Orient, except for an occasional leave of absence.

For years Herr von Brandt has been the dean of the diplomatic corps in Pekin, and as such, spokesman on all important occasions. Owing to his long residence and intimate knowledge of Chinese affairs his influence is greater with the Government than that of any other representative. He has been an invaluable aid to German merchants, and the Emperor probably will have reason to regret his loss. His collections of works of Chinese art and industry are famous in Europe, and many of the great museums owe to him some of their most valuable treasures.

Many Americans have enjoyed the Ambassador's hospitality in the far East, as he has long been a friend of this country and its people. Regularly every Christmas the whole diplomatic corps and the foreign visitors of note have assembled at his palace to celebrate the day. It should be said that Emperor William's refusal to sanction the marriage of the Ambassador and Miss Heard was not due to the fact that the lady is an American. His action shows no discrimination against the daughters of the United States. The Baron's request would have met the same fate had his future wife belonged to any other than his own nationality. It is an unwritten law of the German Foreign Office that its representatives shall only marry German women. No one was more rigorous in his enforcement of the regulation than Prince Bismarck when in power. Exceptions have been made, but they are rare. The wives of Ministers and Ambassadors naturally play an important part and are intrusted with many State and political secrets. Bismarck believed that foreign wives could not feel the same interest in Germany's success as women of the Teutonic race, especially should their husbands happen to be accredited to their native countries. No rule of Bismarck has been more rigidly upheld by the present Emperor than this one regarding the wives of the foreign representatives. But Herr von Brandt, rather than be subject to it, will give up his post.

## WEDDING GOWNS.

### COLOR SCHEME OF BRIDAL GROUPS.

Fashionable dressmakers are already occupied with orders for April weddings. The chief material used for wedding gowns is rich, lustrous satin, with the traditional trimmings of orange blossoms and embroideries of pearls. At the recent royal weddings abroad the brides were married in gowns made with low necks. This fashion, however, does not now find favor in this country. The bridal dress is always made high in the throat and the demi-sleeves extend to the elbow.

The custom of arranging all the gowns of the bridal group on a color scheme so that they shall form a harmonious whole gives a most charming effect to our church weddings. For a wedding which will take place early in April the colors chosen for the bridesmaids' dresses are mauve and white, and the flowers to be carried will be purple cattleyas and white roses. The bride will carry a bouquet of white orchids sprayed with orange blossoms. The bridal dress is of the richest quality of lustrous satin. The trained skirt over which falls the long veil is simply finished with a full box-pleated ruche on the edge. The dress is made to flare slightly on the sides, and is interlined with the lightest quality of crinoline, next in weight to tarleton. The round bodice is finished with a belt embroidered with pearls, and huge balloon-like sleeves of the satin, caught in at intervals with sprays of orange blossoms. A flaring notched rever of large size, wired to keep it in shape, and embroidered with pearls, shows the soft front of tulle, wrought delicately with pearls and trimmed with a spray of orange flowers and leaves. The bridesmaids' dresses are made alternately of white bengaline and of pale mauve bengaline. The short Empire bodices are fitted with the two seams under the arms, making the front of the bodice fall in wrinkled folds across the bottom. The neck of the bodice is cut round at the shoulders in 1830 style, and finished with a nine-inch frill of point applique lace. The huge puffed sleeves reach to the elbow, where they meet the gloves. The short flaring 1830 skirts are finished with narrow ruffles graduated in size. A soft guimpe of white or of mauve chiffon to match the gown is worn in the neck of these dresses, and large picture hats will complete the graceful costumes.

The mother of the bride will wear a dress of rich brocade in a waving, banded pattern of mauve and pale blue. This gown is made with a flaring skirt and a demi-train, and trimmed with panels of yellow thread lace, caught down by bows of the material at the foot of the gown. The high bodice is cut with a plain French back, and large, drooping leg-o'-mutton sleeves. The front is finished with 1830 revers of yellow lace, surrounding the sleeves and falling over the top. The soft front of the bodice is of pale mauve crape and is finished on either side by bands of pale gold embroidery, covered with spangles of mauve tinted metal.

Other wedding groups are made up in yellow and white, pale rose and white, or in any fashionable color which will combine daintily with the white of the bride's gown.

## MARZIPAN.

Marzipan, the famous German confection, is found in many of our shops, and is becoming almost as much of a holiday dainty here as in the old German towns. A tested recipe for this calls for a pound of sweet almonds, a pound of powdered sugar and a tablespoonful of orange-flower water. Blanch the almonds, dry them and pound them to a paste. Mix them with the sugar, and stir over a fire in a saucepan until it ceases to stick to the pan. Then sprinkle a little powdered sugar over the pastry board and roll the almond paste out, using a rolling pin of German earthen ware. Dredge it with fine powdered sugar as you do so. Knead it and roll it as you would puff paste. Cut it out into round cakes or make large marzipan the size of a pie. Decorate with candied cherries, slices of candied limes, bits of angelica, lobes of crystallized oranges and candied grapes. Let it dry in a moderately warm place till it is quite white. It is better to put the crystallized fruit on it after it is dry.

## TO COOK POTATOES.

### HOW TO TREAT THEM IN SPRING.

At this season of the year, when potatoes have become somewhat rank and old, it is always best to soak them for about three or four hours in cold water before peeling them. After this scrub them thoroughly with a brush kept for this purpose, throw them into clear, cold water, and peel off a piece of skin about three-quarters of an inch wide entirely around the potato. Do not peel them entirely, but dig out any deep eyes. Put them in a saucepan in cold water—never in boiling water at this season of the year—and bring them slowly to the boiling point. Cook them from 35 to 40 minutes after they have begun to boil. Then drain them.

After they are thoroughly drained from all water, shake them briskly in a current of cold air. This process assists to make them mealy. Cover them at once with a coarse kitchen towel, not putting on the cover of the saucepan, and place for five or six minutes at the back of the range. Then peel them and serve them at once. Cold potatoes which have been boiled in this way may be served again in a number of delightful ways which have not palled upon the taste because of their frequent repetition.

For potatoes a la Lyonnaise chop an onion fine, fry it brown in a tablespoonful of butter, add another tablespoonful to the iron spider after the frying and let the butter become very hot. Then cut six whole boiled potatoes into even slices and lay them in the spider, which should be ample enough to hold them without their lapping over one another. Let them fry brown on both sides, tossing them occasionally to prevent their burning. Sprinkle a tablespoonful of parsley over them, and serve them at once. They should be very hot when brought on the table.

A dainty way of hashing potatoes is as follows: Put a tablespoonful and a half of butter in a frying-pan. Chop up six cold boiled potatoes, season them with salt and pepper and moisten them with about six tablespoonfuls of cream. Spread the moistened potatoes in the frying pan as soon as the butter is thoroughly heated. Draw the saucepan toward the back of the stove, where the potatoes will slowly brown. In half an hour examine them and if they are fully browned, fold them over like an omelet and serve them. Another way is to prepare the potatoes as we have just described, and spread them in a mound on a small meat platter instead of in a spider. Two tablespoonfuls of Parmesan cheese, and the same amount of fine soft breadcrumbs are then sprinkled over them with bits of butter, and they are then browned in the oven until they are a fine golden color.

## FAIRY-LIKE GARMENTS.

### WHAT A FASHIONABLE WOMAN WEARS.

Charming peignoirs, or bath robes, are now made of pale blue, pale pink or cream-white silk flannel. They are very loose, of course, the sleeves are wide and open at the wrist in the old pagoda shape, and

are trimmed with bands of Russian embroidery in light floss silks. These gowns are extremely comfortable and useful as well as dainty looking.

Nothing could be daintier or altogether loveller than the lingerie of a modern fashionable woman who has plenty of money to spend; and a peep into milady's drawers is a veritable aesthetic pleasure. Just at this season she is affecting violet, and her ribbons and sachets are all of the same shade of color. Every drawer is fitted with a sachet lining of violet silk, perfumed with Florentine orris; and each pile of underclothing is tied with violet

ribbon, while all the baby-ribbons on her chemisettes, night robes, etc., are of the same shade. Next month it may be pink, and the next yellow, and so on; but whatever the prevailing tint may be, everything must be in accord.

As for the garments themselves they are altogether lovely in design, texture and exquisite needlework. The most radical changes of late years in underwear have been in night-dresses and petticoats, both of which are as elaborate now as any ball dress. The one conventional pattern for the former by which all gowns, whether much trimmed or plain, were guided has given place to any variety of shapes and fancies. These robes de luxe may be made of either wash silk or the finest cambric; delicate shades of pink, blue, and yellow are sometimes worn, although white is generally considered more refined. "As for the petticoats this spring, they are simply dreams," decreed an enthusiastic young woman; and truly the combinations of silk, ribbon and lace are wonderful to behold and seem almost too dainty to wear under a heavy skirt.

## TOAST AND CHEESE.

### DISHES FOR SUPPER AND LUNCHEON.

Toast and cheese is an old English course, which ordinarily appears on our bills of fare under the name of Welsh rarebit. This dish dates back over one hundred years, and probably much earlier, for toasted cheese is a very early English dainty, in use in the times of Charles II, with which the thoroughbred gourmand of that day used to spur up his jaded appetite. The cheese for the purpose of toasting should be rich and mellow. The English use a Cheshire cheese, which is about equivalent to a rich, well-ripened American dairy cheese, made with full of cream, a cheese that is very often sold in these days as English dairy. It is a great mistake, however, to use cheese which is too old, and all specks in the cheese must be carefully cut out.

For a genuine Welsh rarebit, take a pound of this "fat and crumbly" cheese, cut it in bits and put it in a shallow saucepan at the back part of the stove. Add a tablespoonful of butter and a gill of rich milk, and set the saucepan in a pan of boiling water and stir the cheese gradually until it melts, and a smooth, thick mixture is formed. Have ready two slices of bread, from which the crusts have been trimmed and which have been toasted a delicate brown. For this purpose the toast should be soft, not crisp. Moisten the toast with a little boiled milk, then spread the mixture thickly over it. If you wish a golden back you must add a poached egg on top of each slice of toast.

The greatest mistake which amateurs make is to serve this preparation of cheese on crisp tard toast, when it loses all its delicacy. The bread must be soft and the cheese must be rich and mellow, and, above all, it must be served very hot. Some cooks add a bit of cayenne, a mere pinch, but this is not a part of the original English preparation. Toasted cheese, which consists of thin cheese fitted into a dainty little man with a long handle, which bears the name of cheese-toaster, is seldom seen. The cheese toaster is a rare family utensil at present, but in olden times it was a part of the regular dining-room outfit, for to be in perfection cheese must be toasted before your very eyes by the dining-room fire. It was a custom to always serve a "cobbler" with every slice of toasted cheese, and a cobbler in old household parlance was only a slice of bread, browned on one side.

Another simple dish, which is very appetizing to serve on the supper-table, is buttered toast and cheese. For this dish the toast must be cut rather thin and toasted lightly over a rather quick fire. It is a good plan to fan the fire a little with the toaster in order to keep the bread from burning or hardening, and yet secure a delicate, brown crust on the outside. Butter each slice of bread as it comes from the toaster, and cover it with grated cheese to about the thickness of the slice. Keep the toast near the fire in a covered muffiner till it is ready for the table.

## PRINCESS MARIE LOUISE.

### THE NEW BOURBON BRIDE.

The coming marriage of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria and the Princess Marie Louise of Bourbon excites much interest abroad. The Princess, who in all probability will be a queen some day, recently celebrated the twenty-third anniversary of her birth. She is the eldest daughter of the Duke of Parma, who, with his family, has lived at Schloss Schwarzau, in Lower Austria, for the last four years. The Princess is noted among her relatives and friends for her striking resemblance to the famous Duchess of Berry, the mother of the Count de Chambord. A portrait of the Duchess in her youth, preserved at Frohsdorf,

could well pass for that of the young bride were it not for the difference in costume. She has the same great blue eyes and the characteristic Bourbon nose which was a prominent feature of the Duchess.

Princess Marie is a clever young woman and takes an active interest in all that happens in the worlds of literature, science, politics and art. She is an artist of no mean talent; is a linguist, commanding a half-dozen languages; is witty, and a good and entertaining talker. She is proud of her voice, which is lovely and soft in speaking and of good soprano quality in singing.

For many years the Princess has been in charge of an English governess, Miss Mary Fraser, who has become with the passage of years so popular with the members of the family that she has been promoted to the rank of lady-in-waiting. The Princess is so attached to her that she will probably take her to Sofia when she goes there to share the throne of Bulgaria.

The bride has been brought up in a simple fashion, as her parents are averse to undue pomp and formality. She will win the hearts, it is firmly believed, of the gallant Bulgarians, who longed, when Prince Alexander was their ruler, to see a princess at his side.

## TAKE CARE OF THE OVEN.

### IT MUST BE KEPT CLEAN.

The condition of the average stove oven in which food and pastry are baked is not such as to inspire admiration. In fact, a perfunctory sort of sweeping is about all the cleaning our stove ovens ever receive. In a great many cases remnants of dishes which have boiled over remain for months charred on the oven bottom.

Now all this negligence in the care of the oven undoubtedly affects the food cooked in it. In some parts of England where brick ovens are used the walls of them are whitewashed. This purifies them, as common whitewash, it is well known, is an excellent disinfectant. Of course, it would not be possible to treat an ordinary iron stove oven in this way, as the lime would corrode the oven. In some parts of Europe, the ovens are tiled and these may be easily washed clean. There is no possible objection to washing out the oven of an iron range. If this is done systematically at least once a week from the beginning, the oven will never get in the black sooty condition in which it is so frequently found.

When anything boils over in the oven, it should be allowed to burn to a char, as it then may be easily scraped off and brushed out. After this the oven should be thoroughly aired. It is a great mistake to bake a delicate dessert or cake or pie in the same oven with a a dish of meat which has been flavored with onions or strong spices. The flavor of the meat will invariably affect the more delicate dishes. The shallow closet under the baking oven, commonly called the heating closet, where dishes may be temporarily kept warm after they are cooked, should be kept as clean as the stove oven. It is certainly a very disagreeable and a hard job to clean a stove which has been neglected, but it is a small matter to keep a stove clean, if you begin at the beginning and never allow it to become clogged with soot and dust and the debris of food. The flues of every oven should be cleaned out once a month.

## THE "MARQUIS" HAT.

### BONNETS GROWING SMALLER.

Poke bonnets have had their size somewhat curtailed and are consequently less hideous than when they first came on the scene. Though violets are not the most becoming flowers to wear, the violet-trimmed hats are certainly charming, especially those having tiny buttonhole sized bunches under the brim. The French bonnets and hats are often an extraordinary jumble of colors, four different shades sometimes appearing side by side; yet there is one new shape now very fashionable in Paris and which is extraordinarily becoming. It is called the "Marquis" hat and is the most "chic" thing worn this season. This cut shows a "Marquis" made of dark clerical violet cloth

trimmed with ribbed velvet ribbon of a somewhat lighter shade, and with an aigrette and two clusters of Russian violets and narcissus. Princess bonnets are growing smaller and beautifully less, and by the time spring is with us they will have disappeared altogether, if they continue to decrease in size as they have hitherto been doing. A tiny "calotte" of jet or gold embroidery, with a tuft of feathers or flowers, a flounce of lace or an edging of curly plume, and the bonnet is ready for outdoor wear. Wings, however, bats' wings and birds' wings in jet, or charming green stones, like light-toned emeralds, are the novelty of the day, and for theatre or matinee wear exceptionally brilliant green is a very prevalent and fashionable color. Green dresses, in fact, are likely to be a leading feature of the spring season.

## DEVOTION TO FASHION.

"The London Spectator" utters a despairing wail on the subject of woman's devotion to fashion. "We have even heard of cases," it says, "where the wives' expenditure upon dress absorbed more than three-fourths of their husbands' incomes; and we have no doubt that these same helpmates were not infrequently loud in their complaints of male extravagance in the matter of cigars and other male delights. It would be no exaggeration, we believe, to say that, with rare exceptions, every woman of the middle or upper class whose income is restricted suffers the pinch of poverty chiefly by reason of the large proportion of her income which she devotes to her clothes; or, at least, feels far more personal discomfort from her enforced economy in that one particular than in any other.

"For thousands of years one-half of the world has grumbled at the other half's love of finery. Still, to-day that love of finery has less excuse than it ever had before, for it is no longer 'superfluous bravery' of which we complain, but vulgar ostentation. The chief offenders are women who do not seek to adorn their own charms, but simply to prove that they can spend more money upon their clothes than others. It is such a pitiful show of snobbish pride that there is some reasonable hope that a revulsion of good feeling will put a stop to it. With this end in view, we would like to make a humble suggestion to this effect: That no bride who respected herself should, for the future, publish the whole list of her trousseau for the envy and admiration of the outside world. Let her try to imagine that the catalogue of her frocks and undergarments, interesting as it is to herself and her sisters, can have no interest for the rest of womankind. And also we might suggest that great ladies, de par le monde, should consider that the public description and appraisement of their attire is somewhat derogatory to the dignity which they wish to support. If only a decent reticence in these matters could be made fashionable, the shoddy world might cease from taking a shoddy pride in its apparel."

## SPRING FASHIONS.

### NOTES ON NEW MATERIALS.

In Paris changeable woollens are in special favor. These are trimmed with changeable satin in harmonizing effect, or with bands of black satin in direct contrast with milliner's folds, and ruffles, headed by bands of satin. The characteristic of all trimming of the season is to separate it into spaces, and thus extend the effect of the trimming from the edge of the skirt to within a quarter of a yard of the belt. Black satin is in special demand for trimming black wool dresses, and at least one serviceable dress of this kind will be found in almost every woman's wardrobe. Black satin ribbon as well as folds of black satin is used to trim the new skirts. Some of these are trimmed with graduated folds, ranging in width from three to four inches up to a narrow, half-inch width, and separated with wide spaces, so that seven or eight rows extend from the edge of the skirt to within nine inches of the belt. Still other street dresses are trimmed with clusters of folds in several groups separated by wide spaces. The group on the bottom of the dress contains seven folds, each about two inches wide; the next group, just below the knee, has five folds of a little narrower width; and the group between the waist and the knee has but three folds, not over an inch wide. Some of the new skirts are trimmed with ruffles, graduated in width from five inches to an inch and a half, and separated by spaces equal to their width. These extend from the bottom of the skirt to a short distance below the waist. The satin is hemmed on the outside with the old-fashioned rolled hems and the ruffles are bias to give them the proper flare, and are applied to the skirt without a heading. Some of the new ruffles are made double in the way they were about a score of years ago, and they are then applied to the skirt by bands of satin, or a group of three milliner's folds about an inch wide, separated by spaces.

Some of the pretty changeable hop-sackings have been made up with a single ruffle of wool about five inches wide, lengthened at the top and bottom by a strip of dark satin in harmony with the wool. This satin is hemmed on the outside with the old-fashioned rolled hem, and is shirred on to the dress in a narrow puff. Thus the satin appears at the top in the ruffled heading and tiny puff, and at the bottom in the effect of a band. The dark satin is again introduced in the lower part of the sleeves and in the full front of the dress.

The new bodices are usually round at the waist, though sometimes they are slightly pointed at the back and front. They are finished with a belt of narrow folds and high, full sleeves of various kinds. A great many of the new bodices will be made with jacket effects this spring, as they have been during the winter. Full fronts of crape are again used on silk dresses, but wool dresses have a front of some of the various French novelty goods, wherein a black or dark pile of silk partially covers a gay ground, which is also heightened by tinsel. There are also many other novelty goods in fancy silk weaves which will be used for trimming the hop-sackings, melange twills, and wool poplins, which are imported for spring wear. Some of the new bodices are finished with deep collars, which cover the shoulder-seams and give the sloping effect to the shoulders now esteemed elegant. These collars may be made of a wide sash-ribbon of satin, shirred into shape at the neck and finished by several standing ruffles of narrow satin ribbon around the collar, or they may be made of satin "by the piece."

The new cloths for spring and summer suitings, which were described in The Tribune when they were first imported, are now shown in abundance on the retail counters. The light, loosely woven wools, which are known by the general name of hop-sackings, are especially sought for serviceable street gowns for early spring and for travelling gowns later in the season. These will be made up in simple tailor style but with trimmings of satin or of satin ribbons. The plain hop-sacking ranges in price from $1 up to $2, and is generally found in two-toned effects. Thus the rep of the goods will be a violet-tinted gray, and the woof a dull pink; or the mixture will be a gray-blue and dull yellow; or mauve and dull green will be combined in the same way. An advantage which these goods possess is that they are somewhat wiry and do not crease easily. A variation of the plain hop-sacking is the basket-cloth, a two-toned woollen woven in rough basket weave. The basket goods range from $1 50 to $2 a yard. The new Scotch cheviots of the season are woven in herring-bone style, in mixed effects in a variety of light colors, which are mixed to form a harmonious whole, and are heavily flecked by raised threads of knotted wool. These cheviots are no longer made up in the severe style of the English tailor, but are often trimmed with heavy ecru laces and usually with velvet. They range in price from $2 25 to $2 50 a yard. There are also fine Scotch checks in blue, brown and white, to which are given the familiar herring-bone effect by a diagonal weave. They are also found in various other mixtures of color like violet, fawn and green, and pale gray, rose and yellow. There are also fine French cheviots, which are found at from 75 cents to $1 50 a yard in simple melanges, and in melanges striped and seeded with color. These goods make excellent dresses for simple morning wear.

The wool poplins, which are imported with gloon selvages in color, are recommended as durable and handsome goods which will require very little trimming, except the selvage. This selvage is woven in a variety of colored stripes. Thus a blue-gray poplin is finished with half-inch selvage of darker gray, striped with lines of pale mauve and pale yellow. Various other combinations of color are shown in these goods. Persian effects are found in a variety of crinkled cloths, figured in a medley of cashmere colors, with dotted palm leaves and other oriental designs. There are also pretty canvas wools in tan and other light colors, which are figured with a waving silk stripe, which is raised upon the ground like the figures of the crepon wools of last season. These stripes are in dull, delicate shades of color, like mauve, pale turquoise or faded green. A quaint material which will make up into picturesque 1830 gowns with trimmings of black lace shows a groundwork like a black lace grenadine over pale rose or some other delicate color, with plain figures in the color of the ground.

The new wool bareges repeat a fabric which has not been familiar in our markets since the departure of the hoop. These goods are figured with silk in bayardere effect, illuminated velvet stripes crossing the wool, and mottled lines in a melange of color striping it. These goods are $5 a yard, and may be made up into the quaint, full styles of 1830 with a trimming of plain or changeable satin in harmonizing tones. There are many silk and wool goods with raised pile, through which the under surface of the goods is shown in a contrasting color. Thus an "eminence" purple barege is figured in a mossy effect with black silk and shot with pale blue, empire green, or some other color in contrast, giving the changeable effect of the velours of the winter. Sometimes a material with a loose velvet pile, through which a gay under surface shows in contrast, is figured in black in the pattern of a watered silk. Thus a dark heliotrope has an under surface of pale blue, and is figured with irregular black stripes in this watered effect. Such novelties are used by our best dressmakers for trimming gowns of rich wool, a portion of the novelty goods being shown at the vest in the full bolleon puffs of the sleeves; or sometimes in the wide Anne of Austria collar, which covers the sloping shoulder-seams; or in the huge 1830 revers.

Trimmings of Hercules braid in widths varying from half an inch to an inch and a quarter are largely used on Scotch cheviot dresses. They are put on in straight lines, and in curving bands. The latter is so difficult for the dressmaker to accomplish successfully that the braid may now be found in many of