THE WAYS OF FAIR WOMAN

They are Past Finding Out but Always Interesting.

HER GARTERS GIVE HER TROUBLE

They are Treacherous Creations and they Snap at the Wrong Instant.

The Latest Apparatus in Use—Straps that Hitch from the Waist and are Reasonably Secure—The Kind our Grandmothers Wore—A Chapter on Womanly Women—Why Should Woman's Letters be Made Public?—Woman Suffrage in Wyoming.

"Honi soit qui mal y pense," said the gallant English monarch Edward III. as he picked up a silken band of blue, clasped with silver, which the beautiful Countess of Salisbury lost as she stepped a stately measure with his Majesty at the great court ball more than 500 years ago. "Honi soit qui mal y pense," and he clasped the ribbon about his left leg just below the knee, thus creating himself the first knight of the Order of the Garter, whose emblem, a dark blue, gold-bordered band with a buckle and pendant of silver, bearing the old motto, has been and is still worn by all the great knights and famous men in England.

A woman's garter seems indeed trivial and unworthy for a symbol and seal of chivalry and nobility, and the modest woman is inclined to be horrified at the idea of dragging from behind the veil of silence the useful but unmentionable little article upon which so much of her comfort and happiness depends, but it must be remembered that in those days garters were not so hidden and sacred. But now the garter must be delicately shrouded in mystery, shielded by common consent in the secret realms of womanhood, where it is the most important as well as most thoroughly depraved and treacherous bit of the gearing wherewith modern woman secures the complicated toggery which conventionality compels her to harness herself into.

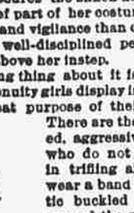
MAN'S WAY.

There is a certain unwritten law in the woman's code which counts the wearing of a wrinkled stocking as among the unpardonable vices. Men judge a woman's neatness by the buttons on her shoes and the tidiness of her gloves. Women have a surer test—the trimness and tidiness of her hose and an inherent pride in the tasty dressing of her ankles seems to be among the traditions handed down unconsciously from mothers to daughters. The tiniest little maiden will stop in the midst of the merriest game to straighten and smooth the twisted stocking that a little boy would never notice, and the premiere danseuse of the ballet smoothes on and secures the silken garments which form the chief part of her costume with little more caution and vigilance than does the stately lady whose well-disciplined petticoats never dare flutter above her instep.

WOMAN'S WAY.

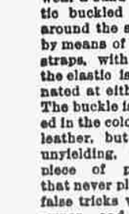
But the interesting thing about it is the individuality and ingenuity girls display in bringing about this great purpose of their lives. There are the decided, aggressive girls, who do not believe in trifling and who wear a band of elastic buckled tightly around the stocking by means of leather straps, with which the elastic is terminated at either end. The buckle is finished in the color of the leather, but is an unyielding, reliable piece of property that never plays any false tricks with its owner and never shirks its duty. The elastic must match or harmonize with the color of the costume worn, or life is not worth living to its wearer. Now, this garter, like the knitted ones worn by our grandmothers, and wound round and round the leg tightly, is a wicked little bit of torture, which hinders the circulation and really disfigures the limb it is supposed to adorn. Consequently the æsthetic maiden smooths her stocking up over the knee, and fastens it there with an octupus arrangement of straps and buckles which encircles the waist and sends down somebisected antennæ to grapple the hem of the stocking and hold it firmly in place. The belt at the waist must be in the shape of a yoke, or extended on the side, that the weight be adjusted to the hip, or the effect is said to be injurious as well as uncomfortable. Little girls who are not supposed to have any waist fasten themselves into a kind of harness that goes over the shoulder, with enough straps and bands to fasten an unbroken colt to a cart, and hold up their stockings with their collar bones. Short-waisted girls fasten the hose straps to the corsets with a double purpose—to hold down the ambitious waist and hold up the stocking. Now one would think nothing could be more reliable and absolutely to be depended upon than these complicated affairs, which is no stress of circumstances could be induced to do anything so unconventional and bad form as the Countess's garter did so long ago.

AN UNTIDY WAY.



THE LITTLE GIRL'S WAY.

The romance is all taken out of these evoluted garters, but the depravity isn't. Don't they turn and twist at most inconvenient times as servants leave on moving day? Doesn't some wicked little buckle slip its moorings and go clicking down against ones shoe buttons, while the stocking, seemingly inoculated with its immorality, wrinkles down and down like a Bernhardt glove just as one walks up the aisle at church? and doesn't some strap dissolve partnership with its associates just as one is climbing on top of a coach or mounting ones horse? They are innocent, dainty, demure little inventions with satin girdle, silver clasps and silken straps in exquisitely faint colors, but their tendencies are vicious, their motives most mischievous. One lady endeavors to get the better of them by wearing a fancy garter below the knee and the straps above, but even then at times they elude her. And the only real happy girl who can quite have a soul above her stockings is the luxurious girl who can afford to buy the exquisite silken woven stockings that smooth on from the feet upward over the body as tight and close as a glove to tie at last securely around the shoulders with a tiny ribbon. If all girls could wear stockings that fasten around the neck this way there would be fewer wrinkles, less gray hairs, and not so many queries about the worthlessness of living. No tra-sharous buckles to unclasp at a critical moment, no unscrupulous catches to give out with malice prepense, no false-hearted buttons to loosen their moorings in the midst of a delightful waltz or polka. Why, can't you see how one's faith in the stability of all things, one's confidence and trust in humanity, one's very hope of a hereafter, would be increased by all this?



OUR GRANDMOTHER'S WAY.

Another fashionable way of gartering one's stockings is to strap them about the waist tightly. The stockings in this case are divided at the feet, but one in purpose at the waist, and remind one vaguely of tulle and tinsel and the charm of "woven paces and waving hands," but our conventional proper young women are wearing them if they can afford it, all the same, with the finest, sheerest, and daintiest of muslin trunks over them, edged with frills of filmy lace.

Now that most people have adopted the side strans because a congress of doctors decided that the old-fashioned round garter was injurious, along comes another congress of doctors arguing that the side elastics are harmful and only a spiral wire affair should be worn, clasped above the knee, not below it. Probably about five women in fifty could keep those squirming, wiggling garters on, and perhaps one out of the five could keep her stockings up with them, and she would be a woman of great deliberation of purpose and motion, and as thin as a New England schoolma'am.

But the yellow garter is the garter par excellence now—the yellow garter with its true lover's knot of soft ribbon. The girls are all wearing them. Just one, you know, above the left knee. "Some are in rags and some are in shags" because they've been worn ever since last Easter, but we can't take them off until the next Easter eve, lest the mystic charm be broken. We must wear two, we mustn't lose the lover's knot, and we must have them given to us by some unknown friend if we would wear a symbolic ring on the left hand in the near future, and then if there is as much as a shred left of them and a grain of humanity in our make up, we must twist them about our bridal flowers and give them to our best girl friend to don the day of the wedding.

THE WHIMS OF FAIR WOMEN.

A most unique and comprehensive scheme for the advantageous employment of a class of women workers who usually experience difficulty in obtaining congenial work is that devised by Miss Edith Davis of London and known as the "Lady Guide Association." The premises of the association are in a convenient and central locality and combine the advantages of a club, with reading and reception rooms, and a restaurant with the larger convenience of a hotel, sleeping accommodations being arranged for a limited number of guests at reasonable rates.

The guides themselves are ladies of culture and education, as well as thorough familiarity with the city's interesting sights, its history, and fashionable customs. Not only do these ladies escort tourists by most enjoyable routes to all places they wish to visit, but also direct them to others equally desirable, secure seats for them to all amusements, buy their railway tickets by most convenient routes to other cities, secure steam passages and conveyances; engage rooms at hotels, and accompany travellers thither; arrange for apartments in London, seaside, or country places; meet parties at railway stations to assist with baggage or take charge of children, but also engage special teachers if required, provide dinners, suppers, musicians, professional artists, &c., at regular rates for all who would entertain fashionably. They execute all kinds of shopping, and accompany ladies or men on shopping expeditions to places where they can buy most reasonably, and assist them by their taste and trained judgment in the selections made; and one special department is the conducting of parties of children to places of historical interest, and teaching as well as caring for them during the journey.

No fee is taken from the gentlewomen employed by the society, but they are subjected to a most rigid examination before determining to what special apartment they shall be assigned, and a lady speaking one or more foreign languages receives the highest certificate. This society has a double purpose which is most admirably accomplished; first, in the securing of desirable employment to women in need of remunerative work, and to whom, by reason of their refinement, ordinary methods are distasteful; and, secondly, to extend a welcome and hospitality to strangers and make their London sojourn as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

The fashionable woman finds it a little difficult, at this time of the year, to keep clean, and it is by no means as inexpensive an operation as it is usually supposed. She walks out in her blue coat, with its heavy trimming of black fur, and comes home with a broad black band around her throat that soap and water will not remove even if prayer accompanies it. The finer your skin the more difficult is this mark to get off, and it is usually best done as they recommend at the Turkish bath—by the use of a lemon; just halve it and rub the raw part around your throat as exactly as if it were a piece of soap. You are determined not to get rheumatism, and so you wear black silk underwear. No matter how expensive it is, no matter how many times it has been washed, wherever your stays or a belt band press against it you are marked—not necessarily for life, but until you get somebody to scrub you off with a small brush. Half the women go to the Russian bath to get these marks off them, because the gentle vapor and the hard rubbing will soon cause them to disappear. Half the women in New York would ask if their dropped dead on the street that their clothes might not be taken off them, and the reason canbe understood.

Haven't you always envied a man the way he carries a roll of bills in his trousers pocket? He never seems to lose them, and yet he thinks nothing more of hauling out the various matchboxes, coins, and pencils that abide therein than if the bills weighed a hundred pounds instead of being light and airy trifles. However, you can carry your filthy lucre (it is filthy, isn't it?) in the same way if you want to, for the very smartest of silver clasps comes to hold these bills together and to weight them down so they will be quite safe in an ulster pocket.

When the new American play, "The Charity Ball," was produced the other night, a man said: "I like Georgia Cayvan, she is such a womanly woman!" Now, it seems quite time that men should define what that word means, so, though unlike Japheth, I am not in search of a father, still I am on knowledge bent, and these are the answers I got:

"A womanly woman is one who is considerate, sympathetic, forgiving, and gentle; who can feel for those who suffer in mind or body; who knows how to make such a home that her husband and children are happy in it and love her as the ruling power."

Another was: "A womanly woman is one who in physique is shaped like a woman. She is not womanly who is as flat as a shingle. She must be rounded in body and in mind. There must be no angles in her temper nor her figure. She must know the power of a loving word, and of the soft answer that turneth away wrath."

From a married man came this: "She must be a woman who doesn't contradict a man."

From a young artist, who has evidently given some study to madonnas and cherubs, was this: "She the one who knows how to hold a baby in the easiest way for herself and the most comfortable for it."

From a cynical old bachelor this: "She is not masculine. She gives love and invites it. She knows how to forgive, and doesn't make a favor of this forgiveness. She is fond of clothes, but doesn't think her salvation or happiness depend upon them. She is what your mother was and what mine was—a gentlewoman." Is she described?

Still on inquiry bent, I asked, "Who is a womanly woman?" Naturally, of course, women who are well known, have to be selected. Mrs. Kendal led by a large majority; in fact, she was unanimously elected as the most womanly. Then came Georgia Cayvan, Mary Moore of the Wyndham company, Maude Harrison, Mme. Modjeska, Lillian Russell, Jane Hading, and Mary Eastlake. The naya found on their list Ellen Terry, Ada Rehan, and Sarah Bernhardt. Evidently the being womanly is a something that can only be understood or explained by a man. It is the little leaven which makes the whole lump attractive, and without which it were better to have been born a boy.

A maid used to be considered a luxury. Now she is the torment of the fashionable woman's life. If she is English her manners are very good for a while—she does her duty and is well behaved. But six months in this enlightened country and her quiet manners become insolent; she can't dress you without referring to the duchesses and countesses upon whom she has waited before; she scorns your table and reads your letters, and knows exactly how much money you have in your pocketbook. If you should object to any of her weaknesses and summon up courage enough to discharge her, you had better have her trunks examined before she leaves, and you will be wise if you tell your husband all about her, for the chances are that, pretending to know something about you, she will attempt a little scheme of blackmail immediately after she has left.

If she is French, she stays just long enough to get acquainted with American habits, and then she leaves you in a great hurry either to marry the cook and open a small restaurant, or to go into the hair dressing business. The Irish or Scotch maids are usually honest, usually impertinent, usually know very little, but are as faithful as dogs, so that because of their virtues you forgive them the rest. There are women in New York who do not dare to discharge maids—who live in deadly terror of what they are going to do next; who have been foolish enough to let them find out something, it may be a very little something, that they do not want either mother or husband to know, and so the maid levies tribute, gets frocks that have only been worn once, has her wages paid to her in advance, and is worse than any skeleton at a feast, because she is with you near by all the time. Not long ago, at a very smart luncheon served by a gorgeous butler and three footmen, a woman said: "Oh, dear, I think I shall go crazy if they put in it a paragraph about me." The reference was made to a very personal paper. The hostess looked a silence at her guest, and, after the servants had left the room, said: "My dear, why in the world did you say that before the servants; you evidently do not know the English one—my butler is perfectly capable of writing you a letter demanding a certain sum of money, or threatening just such a paragraph as you dread. The English servant has no more idea of honor than a cannibal, and not as much, for a cannibal eats you out and out, and does not make life horrible by spinning out the agony."

When it is thought what an easy life a good maid has, it seems strange that more women, by learning hair dressing and by learning to be systematic, do not apply for such positions. She is seldom asked to eat with the rest of the household; she has much time to go out, and her work is always easily done and not dirty. A good maid is far beyond rubies when it comes to a question of value to her mistress, and rather than stand all day long behind a counter, get small wages and poor food to eat, and no time to call my own, except when I was so tired I could not enjoy it, I would study the art of dressing people, saving them steps, of doing their hair, of keeping their wardrobes in order, in short, of being a perfect treasure of a maid, and a perfect treasure of a maid can get $50 a month, a pleasant room, a great deal of time to herself, and a number of presents. The perfect maid like the perfect woman is hard to find.

"I should like to know," said a bright woman the other day, "what right, when a man dies, as did that man who was shot on the street the other day, the law has to go into his pockets and hand a private letter to a reporter that it may be published in every newspaper. As a people we are continually talking about our freedom, and yet there is no country in the world where the individual has so few rights. I am not an ardent believer in murder, but if the man talked about women he deserved to be shot. That, however, gives nobody any right to take his private letters and publish them. The newspapers are continually moaning that we are not a nation of homes, that we are not home makers, that we live too much before the public. How can it be helped when such things as this are allowed to be done? Suppose to-morrow you drop dead, and in your pocket is a letter that is perfectly innocent, but which, when read by strangers, might have a different construction put upon it. You are not here to explain it, and the woman who is nearest and dearest to you suffers because she thinks of what that must mean. It is the most abominable custom imaginable, and if there are no homes, if there are no home makers, it is because the public is getting the knowledge of affairs that does not concern it. One lesson to be learned from that letter is to keep nothing written that one would prevent publishing. The man of the world never does."

Another signal victory for women has been scored, another great university has opened its doors and extended to her presence a cordial welcome. The Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, after a long session and elaborate discussion of the question which has for some time been agitating students and faculty alike, adopted the following report of the Committee on Philosophy, which has has had this matter under consideration:

Whereas, The University of Pennsylvania has always been interested in the higher education of women and in favor of extending to them all facilities which seem practical; and

Whereas, The Provost has communicated the generous offer of Mr. Joseph M. Bennett, conveyed in the accompanying letter, to donate the adjoining properties at the southeast corner of Thirty-fourth and Walnut streets for a college for women in connection with the University of Pennsylvania; it is

Resolved, That Col. Bennett's offer be accepted, and that the thanks of the Board be properly conveyed to him for the same, and that the duty of reporting upon the proper composition of the Board of Managers of said college for women and upon a general plan for its administration be referred to a committee composed of the Provost and the Chairmen of all the standing committees of the Board.

The letter referred to in the resolution is as follows:

1,112 GIRARD STREET, PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 2, 1888.

To William Pepper, Esq., M. D., Provost of the University of Pennsylvania:

DEAR SIR: I hereby donate to the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania the two adjoining properties at the southeast corner of Thirty-fourth and Walnut streets, clear of encumbrance, to be occupied for the purpose of a college for women, in connection with said university, the said college to be under the direction of a Board of Managers to be appointed by the trustees. I do this because I am desirous of promoting the higher education of women and yet recognize the difficulties connected with complete co-education. Yours truly,

JOSEPH M. BENNETT.

The policy which will be pursued by the managers of the new institution has not as yet been definitely formulated, but it is apparent from the tenor of the discussion that the system will probably be much closer than that pursued at Harvard or Columbia. It is to differ essentially from the annex, for it is certain that in some branches of study the two sexes will recite together, and girls entering for degrees will be subject to exactly the same conditions as the boys. It is not yet determined whether the girls will have a separate faculty even or whether the executive head of the institution will be a woman or a man.

The ungallant students who so strenuously objected to sharing their university life with girls have been pacified by the assurance that though the girls will receive all the advantages of the university they will receive them for the most part separately. The buildings so generously given by Mr. Bennett are valued at about $30,000, and will accommodate eighty students. They must be altered, furnished and arranged for their new purpose, equipped with necessary furnishing and apparatus, and an endowment is needed to pay for the instruction given. It is expected that friends of co-education will supplement Mr. Bennett's generous gift with the amount necessary to render it practicable. The Board of Managers will be composed of members of the present Board of Trustees, together with distinguished educators, both men and women, selected from the community, and the new college will open for students next September.

Despite the glowing prophecies of suffrage agitators that woman's elevation, education, and prosperity are to be brought about only through her power to wield the elective franchise, it has been clearly proved in Wyoming by practical experiment, according to the report of a correspondent for the Philadelphia *Press*, that quite the reverse results ensue. In the first place, notwithstanding her right to vote, woman's influence is of little weight at the polls. Men go to the primaries, men make up the tickets, and men furnish the ballots to the women voters, who go to the polls in cabs, deposit their votes, and are quietly driven home again. After the first excitement and novelty were over, women manifested little interest in voting, and their disenfranchisement would be met with passivity and little or no opposition on their part. Worse still, the votes of disreputable women can be purchased quite as readily and as cheaply as those of men. A new dress, a pair of shoes, or a few dollars suffice to persuade a woman to vote contrary to her declared principles. In western Wyoming, where Mormonism prevails, the Bishop, by private settlement, influences men and women alike.

Women jurors were extremely unsuccessful and unsatisfactory. At the first murder trial one of the fair jurors fainted repeatedly, and during the long argument of a disagreeing jury (of course, women wouldn't agree) a weeping young mother sobbed in anxious fear for her baby, who "had never been away from her all night before, and would fret himself to death."

Wyoming's first and only woman Justice is a unique figure in the history of the Territory. She says the papers printed marvellous and ridiculous accounts of her, but she went on calmly washing her dishes three times a day and throwing the dishwater out the back door just the same. She was a wise and worthy Judge, however, whose decisions were always approved and affirmed by the higher court if appealed. It is said that at a reception in California, when a man shouted, "What did your husband think of it?" she answered quickly, "The biscuits I baked afterward were just as good as the biscuits I baked before, and he didn't see any difference." This sensible and intelligent woman refutes the notion that suffrage improves the condition of women. "After twenty years' actual experience," she says, "the law is a failure; it has not elevated women, has not made them free agents. Unless we are going to be better than the men there is no use in our voting. We have not been better than the men. We have not done anything."

Woman's property acts are no better in Wyoming than in the adjoining States, and only two employments are open to them—teaching and domestic service. Girls in stores are not viewed with favor, and are seldom found. Women bookkeepers, typewriters, or physicians are almost unknown; women do not command equal wages with men; self-supporting women are not recognized by social leaders; and all this in this Territory where the rights of equal rights for men and women alike. The anti-gambling bill for which women worked so ardently last year was shelved by the Governor because men were opposed to it, and it is believed that once this Territory becomes a fully organized State this privilege of women will be taken away.

FASHION NOTES.

Velvet Sleeves on Tartan Gowns Are the Fancy of the Month.

Moorish jackets cannot be worn to advantage by plump girls.

The most shot gauzes for the ball gowns of this season come in all the loveliest medium shades of evening colors, as well as in pure reds, pinks, blues, greens, and yellows.

The lean and lithe girl is favored by the styles of dress now in vogue.

They say that Astrakan is going out of favor in Paris. But it is not in New York.

The Vigaro jacket is a thing of the past. The Celtic and the Moorish jackets have taken its place.

Surplice draperies, sash belts and buckles have developed into proportions too immense for fat girls.

Both high and low coiffures are worn, but the most fashionable girls dress their locks low and band them with fillets of ribbon, or silver or gold, à la Grecque.

The red hunting coat opening over a white or gray corduroy waistcoat, and worn with any kind of skirt, blue, gray, green, or black is the correct hunt habit.

The red jockey cap is the correct headgear for the girl who follows the hounds in a hunt habit made up of a scarlet coat, a dark skirt, and a corduroy waistcoat.

Minerver or fine gray squirrel fur is again worn fashionably in Paris. But the gray hairs are all slightly tipped with ruddy brown, which makes this old favorite of forty years ago a very becoming fur.

In the art needlework stores are found fine and artistic embroidery patterns on articles suitable for Christmas presents the work partly done to show the purchaser the stitches and materials and how to use the same in finishing the piece.

Blackfish net makes an excellent underskirt, for a black tulle ball gown, composed of many skirts of black tulle falling one over the other, the topmost one illuminated with silver or steel tinsel, or with gold or copper tinsel if the wearer is a dark brunette.

Letters with wings form the legend, "Angels Guard Thy Slumbers," embroidered on the star and crescent decorated ground of some very pretty baby afghans or blankets, seen among the baby articles offered for Christmas gifts.

"A Save Nine" needle book in celluloid, decorated with a hand-painted design of a kitten playing with the threads from two spools, and three balls of cotton and a pincushion in the background, has for its motto, running in old English letter script through the picture, the time-honored legend, "A Stitch in Time."

Celluloid card receivers decorated with flowers and grasses painted on their ivory-tinted surfaces and a heart shaped piece of amber, pale blue or rose antique satin in the centre, which is held in place by three obovoid-angled triangle of celluloid are tied bows of narrow satin ribbon to match, are among the pretty holiday novelties seen in the art needlework and fancy goods stores.

One of the prettiest fads in fancy needlework articles is a butterfly pin-cushion of brown pongee silk embroidered with yellow, black, and gold arrusene; thread and cord to imitate the rings and body of the gorgeous insect. The antennæ are made of two silver pins bent into the required shape, the eyes of two black or red or yellow glass headed pins.

The Directory dress, "pure and simple," consists of the plain skirt long enough to touch the ground, sometimes slightly trailing in the back, the full bodice sometimes crossed in a surplice and fastened down under a wide sash at the waist, and sleeves very much puffed out at the shoulders, but plain and clinging from thence to the wrists. But a great many modifications are introduced into this extreme of simplicity.

The decoration for chairs to take the place of the gear and old-fashioned tidy is a small, flat cushion or head rest, attached by straps of ribbon to another still smaller, which balances the first, as one cushion hangs in front and the other behind the back of the chair. These head rests and shoulder rolls are made of silk, plush, and many art fabrics, and the hand painting and embroidery outpoise of them are exquisite. Some are tasselled, some fringed, and others trimmed with lace, and others again are untrimmed and undecorated, save with the fabric or flower forms on the silken or art fabrics of which they are made.

All the best and prettiest fads in the way of decorations for rooms, table scarfs, cushions, head rests, and slumber rolls for chairs and sofas, hand-painted chamois, and plush and bolting cloth, and China silk sachets, wall pockets, key bags, jewel bags, *pottes mouchoirs*, gloves, and lace cases and toilet sets that have been sought out by the decorative-art people and the several woman's exchanges are already found in "the shops," as the art and exchange people call the great fancy and dry goods stores, for the quick-witted merchants and the deft-fingered manufacturers bought up samples of "all the best things" as soon as they came out and they have already reproduced the same for "the trade." Of course, the trade can afford to sell the manufactured articles cheaper than any one can buy the hand-made, hand-decorated, painted or embroidered articles.

WINTER FASHIONS ABROAD.

LONDON.

Short coats will be very much worn, and the smartest of these will be a judicious combination of astrakhan and sealskin. These are made with collars, which will either stand up at the back or lie closely down, faced with astrakhan. The fronts, which are loose, are also faced with astrakhan, and under them is a tightly fitting vest of sealskin. The glossy blackness of the one fur contrasts with the soft, rich darkness of the other in a way so fascinating that to it is owed the sudden jump into fashionable favor which will make this combination quite a feature of the coming months. Other short coats have the sleeves of astrakhan as well as the deep collar and facings, and others still, perhaps the prettiest of all, are made entirely of the finest curled black fur with seal collar and facings. A wonderful driving coat, worn by one of the tallest of youthful English duchesses, is entirely of the jettiest of astrakhan, long enough to cover her dress completely. It fits "like a glove" of the good old country kind that were in vogue when the proverb obtained. The huge collar and lapels, looking warm enough to defy Siberian frosts, are of dark beaver fur, and there is the smartest thing in toques to match, to say nothing of a pair of gauntleted gloves, backed with fur all close and curly.

Muffs are to be very large indeed. They are called "grandmother's muffs," probably because they are so ample, and the ladies of a bygone age would so thoroughly have scorned the tiny trifles introduced by milliners to match bonnets, and which are for quite two winters. In bushy furs, such as bear and skunk, they look almost too much of a burden, although in reality light, to be pretty for walking, but for use in driving they are perfect.

An imposing looking evening wrap is a Russian cloak made of cloth of gold, in which the bullion much exceeds the cloth, and lined with the long, silky, wavy, white fur of the Mongolian goat. There is a deep collar, which stands up in in Medici style when required, and broad lapels of the white fur, which are most becoming to a fair complexion, and which make a tall, slight wearer, with a good poise of head, look absolutely regal. A new notion is a sable collar, made of one entire animal. The head forms the fastening, the body the collar, and the tail hangs down under the head. If slightly eerie, having a whole little beast coiled round the neck, it is very becoming. For the coldest of our days, and for journeys by train, there is a fur-lined sack into which the traveller puts her feet, and then uses the upper portion as a knee rug. A very luxurious specimen of this combination is a natural beaver on a vicuna-fringed shawl, which subtly catches the golden color of the fur. So much for the coats, wraps, jackets, and muffs of the warmest kind, in which are certainly embodied comfort and easiness combined with smartness and style.

Dresses for the street are of the roughest and woolliest materials, which are yet warm and light. The favorite design is tartan, but not such as is known of the clans. A dress of gray Siberian cloth has a tartan design in brown and darker gray. It is made up with smoke-gray velvet, of which material the skirt is entirely composed. Long straight pieces of cloth fall over this at the back and sides, the velvet showing in front. The bodice has the back piece and the vest of pleated velvet. The sides are cloth, and the full sleeves are velvet to the elbow, where they are caught under perfectly tight long cuffs of cloth. This, worn with a little "Puritan cap" bonnet of velvet, untrimmed save for a simple bordering of gold braid, looked quiet and lady-like in the extreme. Over it was a coat of great length and width, made of silver-gray faced cloth, and lined with pink brocade. Its high collar and facings were of chinchilla, and its cut as perfect as such things may be when they are the outcome of a lifetime's study.

The Duchess of Westminster's quiet taste in a complete costume of dark reseda-green embroidered cloth and velvet is also a profitable example. The bodice was made with a vest of velvet bordered on either side by broad bands of embroidery, raised from the surface of the cloth, in silk and chenille. The skirt was done with long tapering points of the same embroidery, a broad band of velvet showing at the hem. The sleeves were puffed and of embroidered cloth caught into cuffs of velvet. The short coat of the the same cloth was bordered, and the high collar and facings, made of sea otter, which harmonized with the tone of the dark green background.

For dinner gowns magnificent materials and finely wrought embroideries are requisite. A lovely one, made with all the very latest details approved in English social life, is of black Duchess satin. The train is wide, and up the middle a breadth of pansy violet velvet is inserted. When it reaches the ground it is tightly caught across by true-lovers' knots wrought in jet; for spreading trains are declared out of date and done with, so that they will be seen either very narrow or made to appear so by means of bows tying the fulness up. The front of this gown was a mass of hand-worked embroidery on black net, panies and chrysanthemums, in shaded tones of purple and violet, raised in silk from the surface of the net, which was also beautifully embroidered with jet. The bodice was all of pansy-colored velvet, with a high collar of embroidered and jetted net.

Another gown is of mirror-gray satin. The front is embroidered in a curving, spiral design of ostrich feathers raised from the satin in dark and pale chenille. The dark feather fronds are outlined in steel beads, and the paler ones in silver chain stitch, and at intervals they are tied up with true-lovers' knots, executed in the same embroidery. At one side there is a broad panel of velvet, and a narrow one of satin, this being reversed at the other side. The train and bodice are of silver and mirror-gray brocade, and the train has an introduction of embroidery up the centre.

An evening dress of which Londoners will see much is quite in the style of those worn in Charles II.'s time. There are all the adaptations to make it in accordance with modern ideas, but the picturesque effect connects it closely with the period of the Merry Monarch. The first worn in London, which had a decided success, was of poplin, satin, and lace, in two shades of mauve orchid color. There was a curved tablier of poplin, the deeper shade, bordered with passementerie of crystal and chenille the same tone, and with a beautiful corner executed in the same way. Panels of paler-hued satin showed at either side hemmed with thick ruches of loops. The bodice and train were of the paler color piped with the darker. This had the effect of radiating the train off into sections and giving the bodice a becoming appearance of convergence to the waist. There were exceedingly wide loose sleeves to the elbow of very delicate orchid lin-colored lisse. A rolled and ample berthe of this was all around the shoulders, and over it fell a frill of the loveliest and mellowest old Brussels lace.

Russian net, a wide-meshed material which hangs exquisitely, is much in favor for girls' ball gowns. This is in silk. It is copied in cotton, but the glossiness and soft hanging qualities being the great reason of its success the cotton copy is in no demand except for the festivities of "young persons." White silk Russian net, with a triple insertion of moiré ribbon round the hem and graduated ends of the same down each side, looks wonderfully well over a "slip" of white satin, the skirt finished with a narrow but ample flounce. A walking gown of black-faced cloth, made in princess style and bordered round the hem with black fox fur, looked, if sombre, exceedingly stylish. That favorite color vieux rose is the smartest thing as well for rough tweed gowns as for Siberian cloth mantles.

Fur coats, whether they be long or short, tightly fitting or loose, are lined, not with quilted satin, but with the most expensive and exquisitely designed striped brocht. A woman with a reputation for good dressing to keep up devotes quite as much time and taste to the choice of the lining as of the coat itself.

Bonnets can hardly be too small or too close to the hair. In the matter of hats there is a wide margin allowed if only the crown be flat and the width of brim in front. Toques to match costumes in cloth and fur are, perhaps, the most approved style of headgear.

PARIS.

Boas are to be seen both short and long—that is to say, reaching half way down the skirt to the hem of the gown, and made of a variety of different sorts of fur as well as plumage. The long-haired furs and light down-like plumage have the preference, lynx, gray, and silver fox, real or imitation, hold first rank; and next to them come all kinds of shaggy, whitey-brown skins, owing their curious mottled appearance as much to art as nature. Parisians, however, are careful not to wear fancy feather boas with costumes or cloaks trimmed with fur of another sort. Sealskin and Astrakhan are the only skins that can be tolerated as a contrast. Muffs are made to match the boas.

Microscopic millinery is the order of the day, and the bonnets look all the smaller that they are so sparingly trimmed. If the bonnets are over small the hats are often a few degrees too large; they will measure the same width as the shoulders, whereas the bonnet is very far from covering the top of the head. Meeting a woman wearing one of these diminutive chants and the left-fingered manufacturers bought up samples of "all the best things" as soon as they came out and they have already reproduced the same for "the trade." Of course, the trade can afford to sell the manufactured articles cheaper than any one can buy the hand-made, hand-decorated, painted or embroidered articles.

WINTER FASHIONS ABROAD.

LONDON.

Short coats will be very much worn, and the smartest of these will be a judicious combination of astrakhan and sealskin. These are made with collars, which will either stand up at the back or lie closely down, faced with astrakhan. The fronts, which are loose, are also faced with astrakhan, and under them is a tightly fitting vest of sealskin. The glossy blackness of the one fur contrasts with the soft, rich darkness of the other in a way so fascinating that to it is owed the sudden jump into fashionable favor which will make this combination quite a feature of the coming months. Other short coats have the sleeves of astrakhan as well as the deep collar and facings, and others still, perhaps the prettiest of all, are made entirely of the finest curled black fur with seal collar and facings. A wonderful driving coat, worn by one of the tallest of youthful English duchesses, is entirely of the jettiest of astrakhan, long enough to cover her dress completely. It fits "like a glove" of the good old country kind that were in vogue when the proverb obtained. The huge collar and lapels, looking warm enough to defy Siberian frosts, are of dark beaver fur, and there is the smartest thing in toques to match, to say nothing of a pair of gauntleted gloves, backed with fur all close and curly.

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Toques are frequently made double-breasted, with one side of the skirt lapping over the other. Jackets are with open fur collars, showing a cloth plastron beneath, or perhaps bordered or hemmed with Astrakhan, and fastened by moiré or brandebourgs. The sleeves are almost close-fitting, and the basques short. Sealskin and plush jackets are most only adjusté at the back, but those in Astrakhan are quite tight. There is a great fancy for the skin of the Persian lamb and the imitations thereof in woven mohair, even sealskin holding a secondary place.

The Empire gown is still fashionable, though reserved more especially for evening dresses. Made in soft silk or satin, it is trimmed round the hem with embroidery—straight garlands of laurel or olive branches executed in gold and silver, or with a cordon of roses set close together and without foliage, or with a band of dark fur or feathered trimming. Velvet fourreaux are trimmed in the same way—imperial red, bright golden yellow, pistachio, and other medium shades of green, worked with metallic threads or hemmed with fur. Often the satin Empire skirt serves as a foundation for an upper dress of gauze or tulle. The gauze is used single the tulle double, but in either case the satin slip is visible through the gauze.

For woollen and other gowns worn in the daytime a very pretty style has just come in. The bodice is pleated in the centre and the skirt in a corresponding way, rather closely so, so as to make the first breadths quite full. The two are divided by a belt, and, though having the appearance of being cut in the same pieces, are not so in reality, the pleats of the bodice being much more shallow than those of the skirt, yet corresponding with them exactly. At the back the bodice is plain, the breadths of the skirt being gathered in a separate band. Finally, the pleats are tucked up slightly below the hips in the way described above, so as to show a few inches of the underskirt, Damask woollens—the novelties in this line having arabesque or Renaissance patterns—suit this species of gown; or else under skirts of plain woollen, velvet, or velveteen. Beige-colored cloths made up in this way over a brown watered silk petticoat, in which are sewn several rows of gold braid. More simple costumes are composed of dark green, crimson, or blue cloth and watered silk to match, trimmed up with green, crimson, or blue velvet, or perhaps Astrakhan.

Some neat twilled colored woollens have appeared, with borderings composed of several rows of laurel or oak garlands woven in black. These are combined with black moiré or black velvet petticoats. The pleats of the bodice, running from the shoulder to the waist, have a plain V-shaped plastron in the centre, which may be of the same material, or recall the color and material of the under skirts. For luncheon parties the simple velvet or fine cloth gown bordered with fur is a favorite with Parisians, who are wearing rather light colors at such "functions;" pearl-gray, stone color, different shades of heliotrope and old rose and a curious tint, a sort of dull orange, which looks particularly well in cloth and as a contrast for the black of Astrakhan.

Dressmaking at home—a thing unknown till quite recently among French ladies of *ton*—is now becoming quite an institution, even in the most fashionable French families. Not that the ladies undertake the confection of their toilettes themselves, though they sometimes assist the "grande faiseuse à domicile" whom they employ for the purpose. She is usually a perfectly qualified artist who has occupied a leading position in one of the great Parisian establishments, but who prefers earning a roving living for her own account. She is ready to start at a moment's notice for any part of France or of Europe, town or country, where her services may be required, bringing her staff of assistants with her according to the needs of the case. Her pay is at the rate of £40 a month and everything found, and she expects to be treated by her employers with all the consideration due to a lady. Some of the best-dressed ladies in Paris are known to employ the domiciliary faiseuse, and it is said that a large portion of the trousseau of the Duchess of Sparta was produced under her auspices and inspiration.

Ball dresses are being made of fancy gauze, crêpe de chine, lace, and net. The fish, net dresses seem to increase in popularity, and are brought out in many designs, with spots and cubes introduced at intervals. They are made with full round skirts, raised on one side to show an underskirt edged with velvet. Jetted nets are most fashionable patterns in jet, being used for the front and sides of gowns; others have a pattern running all over the net and used for the whole gown. Another novelty is a panel or front of the skirt, thickly sown over with blossoms. Another novelty consists of net, through which is run several rows of ribbon in groups, silk slip of another color, and the skirt edged in front with a rushing of flowers. Skirts, when not made with a train, should always rest on the ground. The bodices are low and draped, the drapery often caught up on the shoulder with bows of ribbon. Black, and black combined with white or color, is worn; the lace, embroidered with sprigs or spots, is mounted over a black silk underskirt, and black velvet is also popular, plain or trimmed with jet or gold embroidery. Black and white shoes are the latest novelty for evening—the sides are black the toes will be white; or, the sides white and the toes black. Queen Anne shoes are also favorites, with pointed toes, broad insteps, and low heels; small paste or silver buckles. Kid gloves will be more worn than Suède this winter