MERE MAN'S CLOTHES

Relation Between the Rise of Woman and the Decline of Foppery.

Man may be "mere man" in these days and of no particular importance to woman, but even yet a uniform of almost any kind will seem to feminine eyes to cover a hero, and a matinée idol in romantic togs will cause feminine hearts to flutter. This is a well known fact in natural history which is often bitterly commented upon by masculine nobodies clad in the hopeless sobriety of modern civilian dress—that never ending vista of black, gray or brown cloth, trousers and coats, crowned by derbys.

Now, can it be that there is a connection between the skyrockety rise of woman and the decline of dress in man? He has come to rely on the power of the natural man unornamented and is usually found wanting. No woman was ever foolish enough to run such a risk as this or ever will be. Hence her supremacy to-day.

In the old days, when she was in a becoming state of subjection, her lord and master was very nearly the most gorgeous object in creation. All the magnificence of stately robes of cloth of gold and silver, of silk, satin and velvet, of rich embroideries and jewels, of costly furs was his, and he vied with his womankind in fantastic and curious fashions, in all the follies and fripperies of curls, laces and ribbons.

Indeed he frequently indulged in styles which we are pleased at this day to consider peculiarly feminine, not to say effeminate, such as flowing gowns, little beribboned petticoats, décolleté necks, ruffs, patches and the like. A critic of Richard II.'s time—the latter part of the fourteenth century when foppery reigned supreme—gives the following fetching description of a beau's costume:

"Some are in wide surcoats reaching to their heels, close before, and strutting out on the sides, so that at the back they make men seem like women, and this they call by a ridiculous name, gowne. Their hoods are little, tied under the chin, and buttoned like the women's but set with gold, silver and precious stones.

"Their lirripipes or tippets pass round the neck, and, hanging down before, reach to the heels, all jagged. They have another weed of silk which they call a *paltock*.

"Their hose are of two colors, or pied with more, which they tie to their paltocks with white latchets called *heriots*, without any breeches. Their girdles are of gold and silver, some of them worth twenty marks.

"Their shoes and *pattens* are snouted and picked more then a finger long, crooking upward, which they call *crakowes*, resembling devil's claws, and fastened to the knees with chains of gold and silver."

Chaucer lived in these glittering times, and his pilgrims were arrayed like the lilies of the field, the monk the most splendidly of all, for the clergy were not to be distinguished from the laity in dress.

Strutt says that at the close of the fifteenth century "the dress of the English was fantastical and absurd, inasmuch as it was even difficult to distinguish one sex from the other," and it would seem to be proved by a manuscript of this date called "Boke of Curtasye," wherein the chamberlain is commanded to provide against his master's uprising "a clene sherte and breche, a pettycotte, a doublette, a long cotte, a stomacher, hys hozen, hys socks, and hys schoen."

The décolleté fashion is thus described:

Charged with collars and chaines.
In golden withes, their fingers full of rings,
Their necks naked almost unto the raines,
Their sleeves blazing like unto a crane's wings.

Flowing locks were nearly always popular with the man of long ago. The Normans in the time of Stephen wore their hair so long that it hung down to their knees, and later it was curled with crisping irons and bound with ribbons, and the beaus of that period continually went abroad without caps so that the beauty of their locks might be seen and admired.

Though it is not mentioned by Pepys, one has a pleasing vision of Rochester and Charles absorbed in the innocent occupation of cutting, basting and fitting this handsome costume into shape. They were quite equal to it, and might have been worse employed.

As will be seen from the following, young gentlemen in the good old days seriously studied the effect of finery upon the girls they wished to impress. Says Hastings to Marlow:

I fancy, Charles, you're right: the first blow is half the battle. I intend opening the campaign with the white and gold.

Marlow—Yet, George, if we open the campaign too fiercely at first, we may want ammunition before it is over. I think to reserve the embroidery to secure a retreat. Don't you think the *ventre d'or* waistcoat will do with plain brown?

Hastings—I think not; brown and yellow mix but very poorly.

Marlow—The girls like finery.

And very likely Mr. Marlow had the right of it, for after masculine dress had been gradually but inexorably pared down to the very elements of stupid, ugly practicality there was a sudden outbreak of æstheticism which demanded that men should wear velvet suits with knee breeches and flowing curls, and we have Bunthorne's authority that in this costume "when he'd go out of door, of demoiselles a score, all sighing and burning and clinging and yearning, would follow him as before."

KING CHARLES AND ROCHESTER DESIGN A COSTUME.

FEMININE TOUCHES ONCE EMPLOYED TO HEIGHTEN MAN'S BEAUTY.

The waving periwig and the powdered wig of a much later period were excessively becoming and uncomfortable.

The well dressed man of past days was well versed in mysterious tailor's terms and would never have got tangledn p in trying to describe a lady's dress. He took much pleasure in devising fashions. There is the notable instance of Charles II. According to Pepys:

"The King hath yesterday, in Council, declared his resolution of setting a fashion for clothes which he will never alter. It will be a vest, I know not well how, but it is to teach the nobility thrift, and will do good."

Later he describes the costume: "A long cassocke, close to the body, of black cloth and pinked with white silk under it, and a coat over it, and the legs ruffled with black riband like a pigeon's legs, and upon the whole I wish the King may keep it, for it is a very fine and handsome garment."

SHOWING THE RELATION BETWEEN MAN'S DECLINE IN DRESS AND WOMAN'S RISE IN THE WORLD.

PEANUTS FOLLOW COTTON.

Prices Higher Than in Many Years—Peanuts From Japan.

Peanuts are higher in price than they have been in many years. Just what has caused it is uncertain.

"The boom in cotton did it," declared one of New York's largest wholesale dealers the other day. "The tremendous figures at which many of the Southerners sold their cotton last fall and this winter made peanut growers and dealers ambitious to get rich quick, too. Many dealers bought for a rise. And although the price is 'way up now, thousands are confidently holding on for still higher figures."

In ordinary years, hundreds of thousands of bushels of Virginia grown Spanish peanuts are exported to southern France, chiefly to Marseilles. There the oil is pressed out of them and is shipped back to America in large quantities under French labels as pure olive oil. This season comparatively few American peanuts have been exported, and the Marseilles pressers have had to rely chiefly on the African peanut, which is by no means so desirable as the Virginia product.

New York and other great peanut consuming centres in this country have seriously felt the effects of the high market for the domestic peanuts. The rise has been felt particularly by the pushcart venders.

There are in New York also a large number of factories given over to the manufacture of peanut brittle and peanut butter. They have been handicapped this winter by the speculation in the raw material.

An interesting bit of news in connection with the present situation is the announcement by one of the large dealers that he has recently placed an order for 1,000 bags, or about 2,500 bushels, of Japanese peanuts. These nuts are now supposed to be on their way to America. Peanut growing has in late years become quite an important industry in some parts of Japan, and the Japanese nut is declared by experts to compare very favorably with the American product, both in size and flavor.

FULL-GROWN OWL AS A PET.

Its Favorite Roost Is on the Top of a Large Clock.

From the Albany Press.

Perhaps one of the oddest pets in Albany is a full-grown owl owned by William Hill of 37 Washington avenue. Mr. Hill has a farm in the vicinity of Greenbush Heights, and last fall while gathering the apples from his orchard he captured the owl and brought it home with him.

An owl, when captured after attaining its full growth, is considered one of the hardest birds in the world to keep alive in captivity. Yet Mr. Hill's owl has never shown any signs of pining. Its favorite roost is on the top of a large clock in Mr. Hill's place of business, where it perches for hours at a time, like Poe's raven on the marble bust of Pallas. On this account it has been christened "Owl Father Time." Three or four times during the day it will fly around the room.

Mr. Hill believes that owls can see much better in the daytime than most persons suppose, for his bird has no trouble in making the circuit of the room without colliding with anything. Moreover, when a piece of fish is left on a bench the owl promptly flies to it and devours it. At other times when hungry the owl will leave his perch on the clock, fly down to the foot and take his station within about two feet of his master, where he will cock his head first on one side and then on the other in the most comical manner. When he is given something to eat he promptly returns to his perch on the clock.

IN THE GUISE OF A SERVANT

THE EXPERIENCES OF A COLLEGE WOMAN INVESTIGATOR BELOW STAIRS

There are some hotels, restaurants, boarding houses and private establishments of the rich in New York which have the distinction of having employed as cook, maid, laundress or waitress a young woman who is an M. A. of Cornell and also holds a degree of the University of Chicago and a fellowship in the College Settlement Association.

Miss Frances Keller is the heroine of these experiences. Miss Keller is a young woman with a purpose in life. Her favorite study is sociological problems, and her ambition is to solve the servant question.

When she isn't playing basketball, pulling an oar or coaching a 'varsity team, she is planning schemes by which she can ferret beneath the surface of things and learn the conditions, relations and secrets of "ladies" and "help."

Miss Keller is built like an athlete and has the easy carriage of an outdoor sportswoman. She takes life seriously, but has the saving grace of a sense of humor.

"What are some of my experiences? Why, I am filling a whole book with them," she said to a SUN reporter. "I have faced all sorts of conditions and situations, from sleeping on a dining room table and sharing half of a coal bin to mothering an eighteen months' old baby."

A hearty laugh accompanied the recollection of the last experience.

"That was one of the most embarrassing I ever had," she continued. "It was especially embarassing because I did not know anything on earth about babies. It was when I first began to investigate employment offices. I was acting the part of employer that day. There were cooks, laundresses and waitresses galore in the rooms of the bureau, waiting places. So I jumped at the only place they had no one to fill.

"'I want a nursemaid,' I explained.

"'Yes'm. How old is your baby?' she asked.

"The manager of that office was a motherly old woman. It had not occurred to me that I would have to answer a lot of questions.

"'He is 18 months old,' I told her.

"'You say the little fellow is sick,' said she. 'Maybe it's only a bad cold. Has he cut all his teeth?'

"Teeth? I didn't know anything about the teeth of babies. For all I knew at that time they might have been born with a whole set.

"'I don't know,' I gasped helplessly.

"'You don't know? Don't know whether or not your baby has cut his teeth? This must be your first!'

"And last, I promised myself, under my breath.

"But do you know, the worst part of that experience came later. The manager promised to send me a maid, and I left the office as quickly as possible. Then, as is our custom in this work, I telephoned that I had procured the servant I wanted. We try in this way to compensate as much as possible for the trouble we have given.

"Some weeks later, I was going uptown with a party of friends—some of the college crowd, and some others whom college life has not enabled to grasp the humor of a situation. We were not anywhere near our destination when a middle aged, kindly faced, businesslike woman entered the car. It was the employment office manager.

"She spied our party and made a bee line for me. Addressing me by my office name, she asked how my baby was, and if he hadn't really cut his teeth. I am still explaining things to some of my friends."

After having investigated the treatment of New York servants both in the employment bureaus and in places of service, Miss Keller says she has ceased to wonder at the cause of complaints from employers.

"In one uptown boarding house," she said, "and this is in one of the better localities of town, and in apparently a well kept establishment, another investigator and myself were engaged for work. We entered on our duties late in the evening to ascertain what accommodation was provided for the servants.

"After dinner, we were told that we could make our beds on the dining room tables. When we rebelled, we were told that all of the servants slept on the dining-room tables. The bedding was packed away in a closet in the day time. We didn't stay.

"Several days later I went to a fashionable residence for a place. I had been sent through one of the best bureaus in New York. The 'lady of the house' employed me immediately. She said she had discharged her last maid because she was not neat and clean. It didn't take me long to find out why. I accepted the place and was shown my sleeping quarters. They comprised a section in the cellar, crudely cut off from the coal bin.

"'I don't wonder your last maid was not neat and clean,' I remarked.

"'Why?' demanded the woman in astonishment.

"'How could she be, when a part of the coal bin was the only place she had to keep her things and to make her toilet in.'"

"'I don't see that that has anything to do with it,' she snapped.

"I did a little work in that house to find out how the servants were fed and spoken to, and then I left. However, I have found several establishments in New York where the servants have a hall and attractive little sleeping rooms. But these are rare and those employers are never without good servants.

"But it is not in the places of service alone that hardships are felt. Certainly there is need of a clearing house system here in New York."

Miss Keller frequently adopts the careless, tasteless attire of the average servant assumes their vernacular and spends the day in employment bureaus.

"Employers, offices and employees drove me to this," explained Miss Keller. "Employers would not tell us how they fed and housed their girls and what the hours and demands were, so we were forced to take positions and find out. Employees would not tell their troubles and demands and experiences, so this compelled me to become one of them in order to see from their point of view. Offices refused absolutely to tell me anything of their methods. Later investigation explained some of these reasons to me.

"I don't believe there are a dozen employment bureaus in New York where the place of service is ever investigated. In this assertion I except the philanthropical institutions. This is especially hazardous in the cases of young immigrant girls.

"To test one of these, I applied for six maids for a gentlemen's club in the country. I passed as the housekeeper and explained that I wanted six young maids.

"'How many gentlemen at the club?' was asked, and I began to hope that conditions were not so bad as I had feared.

"'Six gentlemen,' I explained.

"'That's a little unusual,' remarked the manager. 'I have six young girls you can take with you this morning—they're all immigrants, but that won't make any difference, will it? They speak English.'

"Of the scores of bureaus I tested with this demand there were only three who asked for any references or in any way questiond the respectability of the place. The report on this phase will be carried to a high authority.

"Another startling evil I have discovered, especially among the Jewish immigrant quarters, is one that stirs the wrath of any honest woman. The bureaus hang out their signs in foreign languages. Young immigrant women in a strange country flock to them. There they are met by women in silken gowns and extravagant finery.

"If the girls are attractive these women fasten on to them. They speak the language of the strange girl, they talk to her, take her out to luncheon, or for a walk, show her the city and—the girl's name is dropped from the employment office bureau.

"This is not always the case, of course, but it frequently is. Those well dressed women pay the offices to allow them to stay there. I have located several of these places.

"Another danger which especially confronts the French girls who come to this country and apply to some of the offices is what has become known as the exchange system. They will send the girl to some other city—Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston or some other place—pay her expenses and tell her she is going to a most desirable situation. Charitable institutions learn the pitiful stories of these unfortunate girls later. Only a little while ago we found two girls who had been sent from Philadelphia on one of these tricks. We arranged for their return to France."

Miss Keller denounces the employment offices for the difference between the treatment there of employer and employee.

"If you are a 'lady' you are accorded some measure of politeness and consideration; if you are a 'girl' you are subjected to humiliation, insult and abuse," she said. She cited the case of one applicant for work being thrown downstairs, with the result of a broken leg, simply because she demanded the return of her fee when the office had failed to find her a place.

"In some offices the girls are herded and guarded like cattle," said Miss Keller. "In one office conducted by two young men one was in the room with the employees and refused to allow them to leave unless they paid a fee or took a position. I had to assume good English and superiority to get out. Swearing at employees is a common occurrence, and the general tone of the office is 'bossing.'

"More than once," continued the possessor of several university parchments, "I have had a 'madame' lift her lorgnette and look me over point by point, as one does animals at a stock show, and comment aloud on my clothes, the condition of my hands and the size of my feet. [Miss Keller has distinctly well bred hands and wears a No. 3 shoe.] Nor is this all. I have been asked questions, not bearing on the matter of work or requirements so humiliating that I blush to remember them. There is reason to believe that a woman so publicly personal in an office would be doubly so in the privacy of her home.

"I once had a little fun with one of these. She is a woman well known in New York and whom I have met socially more than once. However, she didn't recognize me in my office make-up. One of my coworkers was with me. She was about to engage us both, when she asked: 'Where do you live?'

"'Ludlow street,' I replied, which was true—in a settlement house. I have lived in one almost constantly for two years.

"I never heard of that street," she remarked.

"I could not suppress a wicked uprising in me, and replied, 'It's off the Bowery and has a jail on it.'

"She held up her hands in horror and said we never, never would do for her house. I have been there many times since.

"One of the most significant facts I have discovered in this work, which has covered nearly two years," concluded Miss Keller, "is that a woman's attire classes her in New York. In my make-up of cheap, gaudy, or careless toilettes I have met boldness, insult and an utter lack of consideration; while dressed as I am now, the attitude of men, and women too, is entirely different, and yet my personality had not changed one iota. It is not the employees who need educating so much as the better classes."

LITTLE HATCHETS FOR ALL.

Lots of Them Sold Now or Given Away in the Week of Washington's Birthday.

One of the immortal stories of history is, of course, that of Washington and the cherry tree; and so when some years ago an inventor and manufacturer of novelties for street fakirs produced a little hatchet for sale in the streets around Washington's Birthday time, it found a ready market. The hatchet has been thus sold in New York in Washington's Birthday week ever since, with this year apparently a greater demand for it than ever.

Vendors with bags full of them slung around their necks stood in the streets in all parts of the town, and sold the little hatchets for a cent apiece, and among the buyers were foreign as well as native born, for the story of Washington and the cherry tree is of universal knowledge—like those, for instance, of Alfred and the cakes and Tell and the apple. And younger people of foreign birth who may not have heard the story in their various lands have learned it in their schooling here.

And besides those sold by the vendors there are now many little hatchets given away at this season by storekeepers, as by confectioners, who give them to purchasers of candy; and so in various ways the hatchet finds its way into many homes of all sorts.

Tea Making Simplified.

From the London Globe.

A demand is springing up among the natives of Ceylon for a new preparation of tea. It is soluble and there seems to be a question whether its popularity is due to its being more economical or to the ease with which soluble tea is turned into a beverage, as it can be made with warm water only.

THE DRINKS OF JERSEY WOMEN

Alleged to Figure on Bills as Pickles and Other Groceries.

Just now, when the New York woman's "growing appetite for drink" has been discovered by a clergyman who has preached a sermon about it, it will be with more than ordinary interest that she will learn that in all probability there are thirsty times in store for the Jersey City women. Strange to say, it is the Liquor Dealers' Association which threatens to cause this thirst. And thereby hangs a tale.

For several years past, it seems, the profits of the retail liquor stores and of some wholesale dealers have not been up to the mark. This deficit could not be accounted for on the score of a falling off in the consumption of whiskey. The association determined to probe the mystery.

This is what the members discovered: That a large proportion of the women who bought liquor got it at grocery stores in small quantities and that very many of them had it charged up under the head of tea, coffee, sardines, pickles or potatoes.

At this disclosure the investigating committeemen were shocked. The question of the hurt to the liquor dealers' pockets was lost sight of in contemplating the deteriorating effect such a state of things must have upon the community. One of the committee, who owns a wholesale liquor store, remarked:

"Why, such a condition of affairs is a menace to the women of the community. Rich women are just as much mixed up in the question as poorer ones—perhaps more so; for it is the former who on no account will be seen going into a liquor store and who most object to sending to a liquor store for whiskey.

"With a grocery store it is another matter. By making tests I found that at most of the grocers' which sell liquor a customer can get 10 cents' worth of gin, whiskey or rum in a bottle as easily as she can buy a quart; that she can buy a pint or a half pint bottle or a nightcap, which is 15 cents worth of whiskey in a quarter-pint bottle.

"Then, if she doesn't want to pay cash and is in the habit of having her purchases charged, the whiskey can go on the bill under another name. One of my woman folks tells me that lots of women stop at the grocer's before starting to New York on a shopping trip and take along with them a small bottle of whiskey.

"How are we going to stop them from selling the stuff if they pay a license? Well, it's like this:

"You see, the New Jersey law in regard to liquor selling is quite different from the New York law in some respects. For instance, over here none but the regular liquor dealers is allowed to retail the stuff in smaller quantities than a single quart. Therefore, that means that grocers and druggists who sell pints, half pints and so on are running up against the law.

"The association is going ahead to have that law enforced. To buy a quart of whiskey and to buy 10 cents worth are two very different transactions. It's not so easy to cover up an extra dollar with prunes or pickles as to hide a quarter or 10 cents; consequently when the law is enforced, women who want to buy whiskey in very small quantities will either have to go to the liquor stores or do without. Understand?

"But that is not all. I mean to see Senator—but I guess I won't tell his name until after I have broached the matter to him—who is due in town to-morrow and is a good friend of mine, about introducing a bill into the Legislature which will compel grocers who deal in liquors to keep that part of their stock in separate quarters, partitioned off from the groceries and approached from a separate entrance."

ST. LOUIS.

Not a Cosmopolitan City Like Chicago—One-fourth as Many Foreigners in It.

St. Louis has one-quarter as many foreign-born inhabitants as has Chicago, but Chicago is a cosmopolitan city and St. Louis is not. This difference is due to the circumstance that while the 600,000 foreign-born residents of Chicago are distributed among the peoples of various countries, creeds and races, the 150,000 foreign-born inhabitants of St. Louis are not so distributed.

Of the foreign-born population of St. Louis 55 per cent. is German and 18 per cent. is Irish, and the other foreign-born residents are practically unimportant, a mere handful. The single exception is that St. Louis has, relatively, a larger English colony than has Chicago, though Chicago, through its greater proximity to Canada, is much nearer the British dominions.

Where 55 per cent. of the foreign-born population of St. Louis is German, only 29 per cent. of the foreign-born population of Chicago is from that country. On the other hand, nearly 10 per cent. of the foreign-born population of Chicago is Polish, 8 per cent. Swedish, 6 per cent. Bohemian, 3 per cent. Dutch, 4 per cent. Norwegian, 5 per cent. Russian, 2 per cent. Scotch, 3 per cent. Austrian, and 6 per cent. Canadian. There are practically no Italians in St. Louis and relatively very few in Chicago.

St. Louis was settled by the French and there is still a small French colony there. It has a much larger colored population than Chicago, and it is the general rule in the United States that where the colored population is large the foreign-born population is small, and, conversely, where the foreign-born population is extensive, the colored population is small.

The number of New Yorkers visiting St. Louis this summer, whether at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, the Democratic national convention or any of the minor St. Louis conventions, of which there will be a dozen during the summer, is expected to be larger than was ever before in St. Louis.

Success Easier Than Failure.

From the Atchison Globe.

The principles that win success are very simple and few in number. They are easily remembered. Here they are: First, industry, but not overwork; second, willingness to profit by the experience of others; third, ability, coupled with modesty; fourth, simple and correct habits; fifth, honesty, politeness and fairness. Any one of ordinary ability who practises these rules cannot avoid success. Success is easier than failure.