LE BON TON.

A Critical Glance at the Fall Fashions.

FURBELOWS AND FEATHERS.

"There is No Lock But a Golden Key Will Open It."

IL FAUT DE L'ARGENT.

It is most difficult to realize that the "heated term" has burned itself out, and that the dainty garments of muslin, cambric and linen that were so comfortable and pretty during the summer are now to be laid aside, and those in dark, heavy material brought forward.

Spring was lovely with her delicate tints, pale green on her leaves and flowers just blushing a promise of stronger hues, which came in the warm summer days; but the richest of Nature's dyes are reserved for autumn, and Art, not to be excelled by her fair sister, brings forth her royal colorings for the children of fashion.

The imported materials of this season introduce green and bronze, oak and gold, red and brown, yellow and black and all popular colors. Then there are a great variety of materials in solid colors, but in almost all the fabrics it is found that the solid grounds are covered with stripes or figures.

AUTUMN DRESS MATERIAL.

The same dark colors which have prevailed are again presented, and although new shades are introduced, these are similar in character. In texture, also, the new materials are still soft, clinging and many of them loosely woven. Damasse fabrics of all kinds, silk, silk and wool, and all wool, to say nothing of cheaper varieties, are once more shown, and will be received with as great favor as they have ever been, and it may be easily predicted that so long as they are regarded as fashionable, "combination" costumes will retain prestige; since the union of plain and figured materials has been productive of such excellent effects, they will be relinquished only with reluctance.

"Camel's hair cloths" are again introduced, but are considerably modified in effect by the greater than usual thickness of the white hair sprinkled over the surface. The texture is soft, pliable and as delightful to the touch as silk floss.

"KNICKERBOCKER CLOTHS."

Drap de neige, drap de Spitzberge and knickerbocker cloth are the clotted and rough-faced tissues, brought out some seasons ago. They are somewhat finer in quality, with a plain, soft twilled body, thickly splotched all over with knots of camels' hair or silk, of self or a contrasting color, and the effect is novel and pleasing. What names these materials will bear in the future cannot be learned at this early period of the season.

Before going further, it may be well to bring into notice the favor accorded to the bronze shades, which will lead not only in ordinary dress materials but will be fashionably worn in silks, perhaps, from the fact that they combine so effectively with the gold colors now in vogue. Be that as it may, the bronze shades greet us everywhere, and not a few of the handsomest combinations are gold and greenish yellow colors, on groundworks of bronze shades more or less deep in turn

Other styles of dress materials show plush-like intermixtures and combinations, and here, as elsewhere, the changes are rung upon differences brought about in skilful adaptations of texture, both heavy and light, and varieties of color. The general name of *bourette* is applied, or *bourette peluche* where plush is apparent, and *neigeuse* where fleecy intermingling are so prominent as to cover the material with a snowy finish.

Another class of goods is woven in imitation of moss, and of one color throughout, the threads standing up in thick loopings; this is called *bourette mousse.*

All the above goods come in both single and double width, and range in price from $1 per yard upward.

CASHMERES.

Cashmeres in all the dark cloth shades are introduced as largely as they have ever been, and may be recommended for persons of quiet tastes who always select something unobtrusive. Black cashmere can be worn upon almost every occasion. The "grand opera" is considered by those of experience as of superior quality and beauty, and recommended by the merchants as the best make in this class of goods. There is a vast difference in black dress goods. Often the dye rots the fabric, and one of the most provoking things to woman is, after having a dress handsomely made and trimmed, to discover it dropping to pieces when but a few times worn.

NEW SILKS—A REVIVAL OF OLD COLORS.

The old "Maria Louise" blue, clear and bright, is once more in favor. A new silk of this shade is scarcely more than a close netting, but its exquisite color will render it a decided favorite. Grisaille silks are shown in mottled, blended and chene varieties, which may be used alone or combined with plain silks.

Handsome silk woven throughout with very rough surface, the threads standing in loops thickly crowded together, is shown in dark and pale shades, and also in white, and is called broderie mousse. Armure and mosaic silks, shot with colors in bourette style, are called bourette faconnie; and broderie peluche is a new and rich style. Prices range from $3 50 to $7 per yard.

Even handsome material so roughly finished is heavy looking and shaggy in appearance, and "toning down" becomes a necessity. Imagine, for a moment, the effect of an entire costume composed of such a fabric; the picture is grotesque, and therefore it seems to follow, as a matter of course, that something must be introduced to produce a more softening effect. For this reason it is that plainly woven goods are an essential component, and in consequence combination costumes are obligatory where bourette materials are selected; plain materials are, therefore, brought out to match.

RICH WINTER SILKS.

The velvet brocade is rich and elegant, and will, perhaps, be the most conspicuous. The most attractive patterns are upon grounds of the heaviest satin, and brocade and damassé silks are again seeking favor. Tissu de matelasse will survive at least for a period of six months, and it is hinted that floral patterns will receive greater attention by the ladies than for two years past.

EVENING DRESS NOVELTIES.

A beautiful fabric called "stalactite," has been introduced. It is quite thin in texture, but on the semi-transparent foundation heavy figures, resembling frost work in stalactite form appear. It is brought out in white and pale shades; price $7 per yard. Peluche grenadine is another handsome material for evening wear. This is an intermixture of plush on a semi-transparent surface. These novelties are very striking in character.

FASHIONABLE COLORS.

Color claims a place of quite as decided importance in dress as in art, and much attention is paid to this just now. Not only will the bronze colors be prominent, but all the different shadings of brownish yellows, greenish yellows, yellowish greens, to say nothing of the pure yellows, both light and dark. All the mosses, ferns and other vegetable tints are promised, and out of the abundance of this greenery both blonde and brunette must be suited.

There must, however, be variety, and seal brown will be fashionable, also dark blue, as well as dark gray, plum and purple. Mastic is a light shade, and takes its name from a resemblance in color to putty after it has dried and been exposed for some time to the action of the atmosphere. Soufre—sulphur—in a number of shades, is very fashionable.

In browns there are several shades in chestnut browns; then there is seal brown, wood brown, leaf brown and carmelite (a grayish brown)

Dark gray is always in demand, and by its sober attractions commends itself to a large class of persons. The souris—mouse gray, and chinchilla, comparatively a light shade—will find favor. Argent is a silver gray.

Dark blue is too handsome a color to be relinquished, and holds its own through every caprice of the hour. Royal purple is to be reinstated. Encre—ink—is a dark shade, and foyense is a brighter shade of dark purple.

Pale blue is employed with charming effect both for evening and in millinery. Ecru shades are also seen. Magenta will be prominent in millinery.

MILLINERY.

Very little can be said as regards hats and bonnets at present. A few hints are given, but they are too faint to be reliable.

Although flowers are still a fashionable garniture feathers are creeping more and more into use. The marabouts and bird of paradise will be worn, and Fashion seems determined that our poor little songsters shall suffer, for we cannot help knowing—judging from past experience—that all little birds with pretty plumage will be mercilessly sacrificed to gratify public taste. Little humming birds will be used and "pompous" are combined with long, narrow leaves in gilt or silver.

The chief novelty of the season is the clair de lune jet, which is introduced almost everywhere. Some leaves are entirely covered with it; it sparkles on fancy braids, ornaments, buckles, hangs in fringes and appears in petals on flowers. Aigrettes bristle with it and clusters of "maiden's hair" fern, in velvet and other flowers, are spangled over with metallic effect. Description becomes difficult, as the colors change with each changing light. Bronze jet is also used in millinery, and is sometimes combined with the clair de lune.

ARTIFICIAL FRUIT.

Berries of all kinds are popular—black, red and brown currants, grapes, &c.—and the strawberries made of red velvet, with yellow stitches, remind one of an emery. The strawberry leaves and white open blossoms are very pretty. Another fanciful novelty is the display of little red apples, made in velvet.

"Feather coiffures" for evening wear are very beautiful. They are composed entirely of ostrich feathers in white or pale shades, and are arranged in a coronet band coming around the head and finished at the back with ostrich tips to match.

AND WHAT OF NEW TOILETS?

A struggle is engaged in between the princess dress and the dress with cuirass waist and draped skirt, between the long and the short skirt.

Many such rivalships occur in fashion, but will end as they often do in ordinary life; there will be no decisive fall or victory, and the enemies will find some way of living together and letting each other live. In a word, each lady will vote for the shape of garment which best becomes her. The princess dress is the most becoming of all for chastely moulding the figure, but then, again, it is far too trying for many figures, and so it is fortunate the princess dress is not exclusively patronized by fashion and that other patterns are admitted to select from.

WALKING COSTUMES.

Notwithstanding there is a marked tendency toward the adoption of an independent outer garment, the full "costume" has by no means been discarded. They are seldom made of one material, but of two or three combined, and trimmings are arranged to correspond.

The tendency in style is toward an "elegant simplicity;" rich goods with simple and appropriate trimmings, rather than any *bizarre* or *prononcé* effect. Breton still holds a favored position, subject to numerous modifications, however; the latest being the use of the "Suisse" plaited plastron in place of the chemisette peculiar to the Breton suit. This plastron is made of the same material as the dress, if the costume is composed of one material, and if of two it corresponds with the trimming.

Polonaises are still fashionable for street wear, the costume to be completed for cold weather by the addition of a wrap of some kind.

STYLISH POLONAISES.

The Alexina polonaise is a favorite style. It is of the princess form, slightly double breasted and having the fronts closed part way down by buttons and joined below by bands of ribbon and bows. It is draped at the sides and the back, a little below the waist line; has an addition of two plaited flounces in which the plaits are laid flat and closely confined down their entire length. The design is tight-fitting, cut with side forms, carried to the shoulder seams and has a seam down the middle of the back.

"MALITA" POLONAISE.

This attractive and stylish design represents a long "princesse" polonaise, double breasted and slightly draped in front, and arranged in the back with a deep, burnous plait, falling from under long, coat-shaped tabs.

CZARINA POLONAISE.

This garment is entirely new and quite different from any of the late styles. The waist part, both back and front, is partially shirred and confined in a deep square yoke. These shirrs are repeated below the waist line, where they are held by a belt, which is passed under the side forms, and fastened at the side. The skirt is fully draped low across the front, and, falling long in the middle of the back, is looped at each side and ornamented on the left by a large bow. Bands, graduated in length, connect the side forms over the back breadth and confine its fulness.

For costumes to be used entirely for street wear the short round skirt will be adopted. The "plaited" skirt will be found especially stylish for this purpose. It is arranged in kilt-plaits all the way round and down its entire length. All necessity for an overskirt is dispensed with; a scarf or sash tied low around the figure forms the only trimming, and a graceful and convenient street dress is completed by the use of a long, partially loose jacket.

It is not considered "good style" for a lady to allow her dress to sweep the sidewalk; and when one is not provided with a distinct "walking" costume, the easiest method of lifting the dress is that afforded by attaching a ribbon loop on the lower part of the skirt and slipping it over the hand.

A stylish and practical house dress is made in fancy woollen goods of a light quality. The skirt made in nirgeus trimmed with narrow bias flounces bound with silk, and the "princesse" overskirt, and plain round waist made of damasse goods, the sleeves and belt of silk. The overskirt is without fulness at the top, and when worn with the round waist produces the effect of a polonaise.

Another innovation to mention is the return in the domain of fashion of round waists. Last year this style was attempted, but it will this season, probably, be confirmed.

DRESSES EN TRAIN.

A number of striking and graceful styles in train dresses were exhibited at the first grand opening of fall fashions by America's Queen Fashionist last week. The Corinia train is exceedingly effective in design, the underskirt fitting the form without the fulness in the front and on the hips and laid in a double box plait in the back. Scarfs laid in folds and tied loosely at one side ornament the front of the skirt, and the drapery at the back is attached to the belt in a triple box plait.

THE "CLOTHILDE" TRAIN.

A very graceful skirt, having a square train laid in plaits and attached under a large bow, half way down the back. Revers at the sides extend the entire length of the skirt. Two wide sashes folded lengthwise in plaits, and trimmed on one side with rich fringe, cross the front diagonally. The train is without trimming, but a ruching extends across the front.

THE KEY OF THE MYSTERY.

Byron, who of all poets was most keenly susceptible to the power of female beauty, neglects not this potent element when he says—

She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies.

To give ease of carriage and shapeliness there is no adjunct of such importance as a well fitting corset. It should fit easily but at the same time afford to the body that gentle support which a woman's form demands. A very eminent writer says:—"It is the duty of every woman to render herself as agreeable as possible in the eyes of others. The effect, morally, will be good. Let us encourage the beautiful for the useful encourages itself." A perfectly contrived corset contributes to both the useful and the beautiful. The latest novelty in this class of goods is the "cork corset," the novelty consisting in the use of cork in place of bone or horn, which makes it firm yet flexible; in fact, unbreakable. It moulds and adapts itself to every movement of the body with such perfect ease as to insure the greatest comfort to the wearer. The Cooley cork corset has been long and favorably known in Europe as the most healthful corset in use, and the aim of the inventor was to produce a corset free from pressure on the lower part of the body. In shape it is perfect, giving a roundness to the figure which no other corset can approach.

FASHION IN SHOES.

Chaussure is an item to which particular attention should be paid. All the pleasure of a visit or promenade is often marred by a tight or ill-fitting boot. The least suffering of this kind renders walking painful, and it is apt to jar upon the temper and spirits. One becomes a burden to others, spoiling their own pleasure as well.

Among the most stylish and beautiful shoes made is the Hapgood Spanish arched instep. The shape is perfect, and it seems almost incredible that large feet can find room in such small looking shoes, much less to be easy and comfortable in walking. Yet such is the fact. The fit and style of the shoe are equally perfect in ladies' and gentlemen's sizes, and the new cut and make for fall wear are exceedingly attractive. For ladies those presented in cloth are handsome and stylish. Some are shown in dark blue, others of a pretty ribbed black cloth, or they can be made of any color matching the suit, as this will be the fashionable chaussure. Very fine dark, invisible checks will also be used for the uppers of walking boots, as well as black silk velvet.

Foxings of fine French morocco or Indian goat will take the lead; the very latest style has a strap stitched at the top of the foxing, giving the shape of a gentleman's "pump," and tied on the top with a narrow ribbon.

Round "box" or square toes slightly rounded off the corners will be the leading shapes for dress or promenade boots; heavy single soles, or light double ones, being preferred to the wide, projecting sole that found such favor a few seasons past.

Every conceivable style of sandal for house wear is in vogue, some being made with a succession of straps around the ankle that look very much like the bangles that are popular for ladies' wrists. The ankle bangles, however, are either of black velvet or the same material as the sandal, and are attached to the sandal either at the back or front and fastened under a bow of black velvet or silk. All sandals have the high French heels.

FASHIONABLE TRIMMINGS.

The styles of trimmings are so varied that one is puzzled where to begin describing their beauties.

Galloons vie so closely with fringes that it is difficult to say which meets with most favor. Jacquard galloons, two inches wide, show designs in branches and leaves representing all autumn-leaf tints from sombre green to purplish tinges, and the galloons are finely woven.

Very beautiful galloons for trimming evening dresses, as well as for goods of a dark color, representing roses of all bright hues, have the edges cut out so as to define the shape of the flowers, and form striking and effective garniture. Black mohair galloons come in three widths, from one to three inches in width, woven to represent matelasse patterns. Either width can be used as the entire trimming, but the three widths combine very prettily.

Fine black silk grenadine bands are embroidered in white, gray or solid black; and bands of ladies' cloth cut in square slashes and embroidered with silk are called "felt" trimmings. Black silk galloons are of plain grounds, with tufts, tassels, rosettes, Milan balls, loops of silk or chenille and beads.

A very pretty trimming is made to resemble moss with dew drops on it. It is composed of silk galloon, having a crimped silk tufted loosely over the surface, and on this clair de lune beads are strung, thus producing a moss-like effect.

Beads of all kinds are in the new trimmings—jet, steel, amber, bronze, garnet, clair de lune (for moonlight. These are made of glass colored to represent the different substances from which they take their names.

Woollen fringes will be much used on woollen fabrics and are sometimes mixed with silk. The designs are varied and beautiful, but are not unlike those worn last season. They cost from fifty cents per yard upward.

All the newest fringes are more or less intermixed with beads, and some contain two or more colors. Prices range from $1 to $15 per yard, and they measure from two and a half to five inches deep. Fringes made entirely of beads are very effective.

NOVELTY IN BUTTONS.

Buttons of all kinds are used. Pearl buttons, French horn highly polished, and crocheted buttons in black and colors will be popular.

The greatest novelty is a pearl button with a carved rim and setting or studding of hand riveted steel in the centre. This steel is cut in small facets to correspond with the beaded trimmings, and is of three colors—clair de lune, steel and bronze. The larger size cost $15 per dozen, the smaller, $5 50. They are almost as handsome as diamonds, and glisten in all the colors of the rainbow.

EMBROIDERIES.

The taste for embroideries has continued to increase until now exquisite patterns are brought out and the edges cut out for immediate use. This is quite an item for the ladies, as the most tedious part of making underclothing is in preparing the trimming. The edges are warranted firm.

FASHIONABLE LINGERIE.

American ladies are too much averse to low collars for them to become popular, and the high, flaring, rolled collar is still the favorite. The points are not worn as close together in front as formerly, and the corners are either round or square, as pleases the taste of the wearer.

Cuffs are many of them flared, some with rounded corners, others are cut away, and others still are simply a straight, deep piece of linen with two buttonholes in each end.

Hemstitched designs, with a single row or many rows forming tasteful patterns, are made in sets. There is a great difference between the French and American manufacture of these sets, the favor being in the latter. There is a strength and firmness in the stitch of those made here that the French cannot get. Very few are made in this country, however, it being particular work, requiring deft fingers, and the small sum paid for the manufacture, considering the retail price, could not pay to make them. But one house in this city makes them, and ladies that are "posted" give their orders from one season to the next.

Charles Blanc says:—"The embellishment of the human figure, beyond all other decorations, is the most interesting, pleasing and noble, because it bears on the sympathy of minds and the interchange of soul." And Mme. Demorest says:—"Never was there a greater mistake than that made by those who use no effort to render plainness attractive, when a little thought and finesse of arrangement would confer, if not absolute beauty, a pleasing impression of grace and harmony."

CLOUDS OF BATS.

A MISSOURI FARMER'S WAR WITH THE WINGED MICE—AN ASTOUNDING STORY.

[From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Sept. 3.]

A curious story comes from Dog Prairie, St. Charles county, concerning the manner in which the house of Mr. T. J. McAtee has recently become infested with bats. McAtee lives in a double log house, the outside of which is weather-boarded. About two weeks ago he noticed a large number of bats flying in the direction of his house and concealing themselves in the corners of the windows and under the weather boarding. He immediately began an onslaught on them and in a few minutes had killed seventy, this number being all that he could reach with such weapons as he then had at hand. Next morning none were to be seen, but at twilight they returned in such vast numbers as to appal him. His attention was first directed to the neighborhood of his front gate, at which point he heard innumerable flitting noises like a storm in the distance. Looking that way he saw what at first he took to be a black cloud approaching, but as it got nearer he realized that it was a horde of bats. As the swarm neared the house it lowered, as if making ready to alight, and McAtee instinctively retreated from the formidable enemy, rushed through the front door, closed the shutter and lowered the window sashes. By some means a considerable number found entrance into the room, and McAtee and a hired man succeeded with brooms in killing about one hundred. On the outside could be heard a tremendous commotion, as if the bats were swarming and fighting among themselves. After the bats that had gotten into the room had been disposed of McAtee went through the back door into the back yard and around to the south side of the house, where the horde had congregated. The scene at the window is described by him to have been of the most extraordinary character. The air was filled with myriads of bats, flying and circling about in all directions and darting against each other with audible force. A huge and writhing mass had settled on the window sill, and the entire frame, as well as the wooden part of the sash, was covered with them. The weather boarding for at least five feet on each side of the window and from the lower logs to the top of the house was covered with the black throng. A bright light shone through the window panes and everything on the outside was plainly visible. Though the greater part of the invaders showed a preference for this window, a general inspection showed that they were distributed over the entire premises. Hearing a great uproar in his henhouse Mr. McAtee rushed in that direction and found his entire fowl yard, in which were 150 fowls, including chickens, turkeys and guineas, in the most extraordinary state of perturbation. An army of bats had made their way through the crevices, and were indulging in such desperate demonstrations of flitting and circling that every feathered inhabitant had been frightened from its roost, and the disturbed chanticleer, the cackling hen and the shrill guinea made night hideous with their notes of alarm. Every outhouse on the place was either invaded or surrounded. In the stable, where three horses were munching their evening oats, there was a dread pawing and whinnying, and an examination revealed the fact that every stall and trough was infested with bats, and McAtee deemed it a matter of prudence to turn the horses loose in the pasture. The dogs—of which there were six on the place—went around howling in dismay at the strange spectacle. As McAtee walked through the yard the air was thick with bats, and he had to keep up a continuous fighting with his hands and arms to keep them from striking him in the face.

Overcome and confused by this phenomenal visitation McAtee at first did not know what to do, but finally conceived a plan which resulted in the capture and death of at least a very large number of them. An hour had passed away, and the pests were as numerous at the south window as they were at first. He proposed to his hired man that they raise the sash and let the bats in, then close the window shutters from the outside, and having thus trapped the game proceed to despatch it in the most expeditious manner. This plan was at once put into execution. As soon as the window sash was raised thousands rushed in, and in five minutes there was not a vacant spot on ceiling, wall, floor, table, bedpost, bureau or chair. The window was closed and McAtee and his hired man began the work of destruction. Some of the bats seemed to realize the dire fate to which they were doomed, and made desperate efforts to find egress through the window panes. Others made war on the assaulting party, and the hired man was bitten once on his face and twice on his left hand. The two men were armed with ax helves, and they made fearful havoc among the foe. The slaughter continued an hour and a half, many of the bats being perched at points of the ceiling difficult to reach. The result, by actual count, was 4,103 dead bats, and their carcasses filled a large barrel which holds over five bushels. Though this onslaught greatly diminished the number of invaders there were still hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of them left, though, owing to the darkness, it was found impracticable to make further war on them. Next morning when McAtee awoke not a bat was to be seen, all the survivors having disappeared as mysteriously as they came.

It seems, however, that the bats were determined to make McAtee's house their haunt, and the following night they swarmed as formidably as on their first visit, and over three thousand were killed. They still persist in coming, and up to this time there have been upward of seventeen thousand slain, and, though there is a visible and gratifying falling off in the number of invaders, they yet infest the premises in sufficient numbers to be very troublesome. Where they come from and why they have selected that particular place as a resort are two mysteries which have not yet been fathomed. It is believed that they come from an immense thicket about ten miles up the Missouri River, where they breed in countless quantities. It is known that this thicket or swamp is thickly infested with them, and still hunters have often found them so numerous in certain spots that they could not make headway without great annoyance. McAtee considers the visitation a serious calamity and is carrying on a relentless war of extermination. The invading bat is of the common insectivorous species, quadrupedal and with a body much like that of a mouse. The story is certainly an extraordinary one, and its truth is vouched for by several reliable witnesses.

MURDER ON SHIPBOARD.

[From the San Francisco Post, August 28.]

Captain Hayes, of the schooner yacht Lotus, which sailed from this port October 9, 1876, for the Samoan Islands, was murdered in March last by the cook, a Dutchman, who shipped in Samoa as cook and seaman. The Lotus left Bonham Island, one of the Marshall group, bound for Aborn, one of the same group, about 120 miles southwest. Six days afterward she came back, and the following information was obtained from the man acting as mate:—The second day out the captain spoke to the man at the wheel, who was cook and seaman, about his steering. Some altercation followed, when the captain went below. When he came up the companion way some time after the man let go the tiller and struck Captain Hayes on the head with the crutch belonging to the main boom. He fell and expired immediately. No firearms of any kind were found on him. The acting mate at that time was below sleeping. The vessel returned to Bonham Island as soon as possible. The captain was buried at sea. The Maggie Johnston arrived at Bonham the latter part of March. The matter was explained to Captains Bliven and Henry, and it was found that the mate, not having signed any articles or papers of agreement of any kind to bind himself to the vessel, had no control over her at all. Rumors about her going away to other islands in other hands got about, which induced Messrs. Cupelle & Co., a large German firm there, to ask Captains Bliven and Henry, as American citizens, to do something in regard to the matter. The only thing they could do was to deliver the vessel's papers to Cupelle & Co. for safe keeping until her owners in San Francisco could communicate instructions.

The acting mate was left in charge and did everything possible to fix things up. An inventory of all goods on board was taken and all were stored in Cupelle & Co.'s warehouse. The vessel was to be moored to a 1,600 pound anchor, sails unbent and put ashore in the warehouse. All was not completed when the Maggie Johnston left on May 15, but it was expected that everything would be fixed on that day.

Captain Hayes will be remembered by the readers of the *Post* as the gentleman whose strange life and adventures were published in October last under the caption of "A South Sea Pirate." He had many friends, who contend that his errors were those of the head and not of the heart, and it is said of him, even by his enemies, that he was a man who never counted the cost when he could render assistance to a fellow sailor in distress. He was equally well known in San Francisco, Melbourne, Sydney and the groups of the South Pacific where years of his life had been spent.

NEWPORT.

Literary, Art and Mortuary Attractions—Synagogue and Park.

THE TOURO AND BELMONT GIFTS.

Rare Wines and an Extra Dish at a Jew's Dinner Party.

THE REDWOOD LIBRARY DEBT.

NEWPORT, R. I., Sept. 8, 1877.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

At the recent annual meeting of the Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations at St. George's Hall in Philadelphia it was represented that the oldest congregation of Jews in the United States is Shearith Israel, of New York, and it was stated that a very old synagogue existed in Newport, R. I., of which no record was received. It may prove interesting, then, at this time, to make some note of this edifice in connection with the men and times that created it. It is called the Synagogue Yeshuat Israel, and was built 115 years ago. At that period the most opulent and influential citizens of Newport were Jews, and nearly eighty families of that order resided in the place, which may be said to have been at one time the home of the Jews in America, but at the present day it can not boast of a permanent Jewish inhabitant.

The most prominent Jews have been the Touros, a name that has long been associated with many local institutions, including not only synagogue, but also park, cemetery, library, street, hotel and chapel. Isaac Touro was noted for his erudition. He was a native of Holland, and, emigrating to the West Indies, removed thence to Newport. The synagogue was dedicated in 1763, and Mr. Touro became its officiating clergyman. The revolution found Newport a rival of New York. In Europe it had been regarded by many as the most flourishing community in the New World, and letters would come from abroad addressed to "New York, near Newport, R. I." The Jews had contributed pre-eminently to this thrift, and when the war "broke out" the congregation of the synagogue embraced the most patriotic citizens. Newport now met with its downfall as a place of commercial importance, and the Jews were dispersed. Mr. Touro with his family sought a new home in Kingston, Jamaica. The duties of his sacred calling had been performed with that grace and loveliness of manner which the pure in heart alone can exercise. For sixty years the synagogue remained closed, and how easily can the imagination shape its darkened altar throughout that long period into a silent sentinel patiently keeping watch within the holy temple!

While in Newport Rev. Mr. Touro married a daughter of Michael Moses Hays, a Boston merchant, and the intimate friend of Harrison Gray Otis. In 1783 the Jewish clergyman died in Jamaica, and through the misfortunes of war his widow and three children were left destitute; but they succeeded in returning to the United States, where they were affectionately received by Mrs Touro's brother, who lived in affluence. He educated the children—two sons, named Abraham and Judah, and a daughter, who afterward married a Mr. Lopez. Abraham was born in Newport in 1774, and became a successful merchant in Boston. He died in 1822, and left a large fortune, principally to charitable institutions. He gave $20,000 to the authorities of Newport, the interest to be applied toward keeping the synagogue, Touro street (named for him), and the cemetery in repair. Mrs. Lopez died in 1833, and the mother having departed this life in 1787, Judah was left alone. He was born in Newport in 1776 and became one of the greatest of American merchants. He died in New Orleans in 1854. In the latter city he accumulated an immense property, and gave largely to the poor throughout the country. The iron and granite fence enclosing the Jews' cemetery in Newport was erected by him at a cost of $12,000. The gates to this little village of the dead are seldom set ajar, save to those whose mission and pleasure it is to keep the place in order. Upon the trees within unmolested birds sing requiems over the graves of "the sheeted dead," while throughout the grounds beautiful flowers may be seen blooming in profusion from early spring time until the mellowed days of autumn. In winter the snow gently falls upon this hallowed spot, where it remains in its emblematical purity until removed by the operations of nature. Among the distinguished Jews buried here may be mentioned Abraham Rivieri. He was for a while the foremost merchant of Newport, and at one time was regarded as the leading merchant of America. He won the distinction of being known as "the honest man," and this may account for his having failed in business. He assigned his property, and, giving up his last cent, recommenced mercantile pursuits and was again successful. Newport, in those days, was the seat of culture and refinement, and Mr. Rivieri dispensed an elegant hospitality. At one of his dinner parties the wines were particularly rare and choice; but the "mind predominated over the body." One of the courses was a dish seldom, if ever before, served. The guests were his old creditors, and under each plate was a check to cover his "ancient debts," with the interest added in full to date.

The possessions of Aaron Lopez were enormous. Some of his office effects, including a frame of pigeon holes, marked with the names of some of his ships, have remained in Newport until the present year. He had nearly forty vessels engaged in foreign commerce and a large fleet trading along the coast. Moses Lopez, also buried in this cemetery, was a man of much importance, and belonged to that immortal galaxy of Jews which added lustre to the fame of Newport. He was the last resident of the number.

When Judah Touro died his family name became extinct. It was soon after his death that his remains were brought to Newport for burial, when the portals of the Synagogue were again thrown open and the sentinel altar reached out its phantom arms to embrace a sacred relic. His grave is partly filled with earth brought from the Holy Land. "Monumental alabaster" is erected in the cemetery to the memory of every member of the Touro family. The Touro House was named for this family. It was a fashionable summer hotel, and was totally destroyed by fire about twenty years ago. The night of its destruction was intensely cold and the streets almost impassable from the effects of a snow storm. The firemen were heroic in their efforts to save the property, and the elements of weather alone defeated their efforts. The colored Methodist church has recently been christened Touro Chapel, and this circumstance is in evidence that the lapse of time does not diminish the popularity of the name in the community. This congregation has been the recipient of substantial money donations from several summer visitors during the present season.

It may be said that the decline of the Jewish reign in Newport began with the "exile" of Isaac Touro. It ended with the departure of Moses Lopez, and its vital influence ceased with the death of Judah Touro; but its fruits belong to the best legacies bequeathed to mankind and are imperishable.

Among other gifts of Judah Touro to Newport was one of $10,000 for the purchase of a lot of land, now known as Touro Park, and upon which stands a bronze and granite statue of Commodore Matthew Perry and the "old stone mill." The statue was presented to the city by Mr. August Belmont, of New York, who married a daughter of Perry. It commemorates the Commodore's negotiation of the treaty between the United States and Japan, his heroism in the war with Mexico and his exploits on the coast of Africa. One of the most imposing monuments in the Island Cemetery was erected by the State of Rhode Island to the memory of Commodore Oliver H. Perry, the hero of Lake Erie and a brother of Matthew. The old mansion of the Perry family is situated on Touro street, and was built before the Revolution by a prominent Jew.

The "old stone mill" is situated near the centre of the park. It is sometimes called "the Round Tower" or "the Newport Ruin." Its origin and the uses for which it was constructed have been matters of such continued dispute that the fascinations of its romance have gained ascendancy over the uninviting facts of its history, and in public estimation the mill now holds a relative position to Topsey—seeming never to have had any origin or to have "growed." There should be no doubt, however, in the minds of historians and antiquarians that it was originally the property of Governor Benedict Arnold and that he built it for a windmill. He speaks of it in his will as "my stone-built windmill," evidently in contradistinction to the wooden ones then in general use and which were also round towers in shape. He simply built it to gratify those tastes and pleasures which his means had encouraged. Had he purchased or inherited it he would merely have said, "My stone windmill." His painstaken expression, clearly enough, means that it was a stone mill of his own build. The will dated in 1741, and made by his son-in-law, Edward Pelham, affords all the additional proof that should be required to establish this theory.

Another link in the chain of Judah's remembrance of Newport is what he did and did not do for the Redwood Library. In 1843 he learned that the library steps were in a dilapidated condition, and, at a cost of $1,000, caused new ones to be constructed. It was his express wish that granite steps should be substituted for the redstone ones, but he was particular in desiring that the same style of architecture should be preserved. Those persons, however, who had the matter in charge used the original kind of stone. Mr. Isaac Gould, who died in 1853, and who was in friendly and lifelong correspondence with the philanthropist, warned them against the course they pursued, and intimated to them that it was Mr. Touro's ultimate intention to take down the entire wooden building and replace it in granite on an enlarged scale, after the old model; but the appeal was without avail, and, although Mr. Touro was annoyed and felt aggrieved at such treatment, he ordered the bill to be paid. It undoubtedly cost the company a magnificent granite structure and a permanent fund of no small proportions. The Jew, however, entertained no feelings of revenge, for in his will he bequeathed $5,000 to the library. Mr. Touro's entire donations, charities and rewards throughout the United States and abroad amounted to several millions of dollars, and had it not been for such ungraceful acts Newport, undoubtedly, would have realized very largely from his generosity. On another occasion he offered $6,000, a high price for the times, for an estate near the Synagogue. His purpose was to make of it a public pleasure ground. The terms were accepted and a check signed, but at the last moment the owners demanded an additional $3,000, when Touro withdrew and the city was deprived of a benefaction. The true story of how the stone mill lot became Touro Park may be briefly told. One of the owners being in New Orleans offered it to the Jew for $10,000, provided he would convert it into a public park. Touro soon after died, but left the required sum in his will for that purpose, when the price was immediately increased to the extent of several thousand dollars, and the difference was subscribed by public spirited citizens.

Mr. Touro never returned to the North after having left it while in early manhood. He entertained an affectionate regard for his correspondent Mr. Gould and left a legacy to each of his two sons, one of whom, Mr. David J. Gould, is still residing in Newport. He had never seen either of the three. It was the habit of this remarkable man to dictate his letters and mail them in the handwriting of his private secretaries. His only autograph letter known to be in existence is in the possession of Mr. Gould, who, although a Christian, holds the keys to the Synagogue and cemetery. Judah also laid the substantial sidewalk leading from the corner of Kay street to the library, and to the "Touro fund," left by his brother Abraham, he added a small sum, which constituted his final gift to the "Queen of Aquidneck."

Newspapers, on quite a number of occasions, have (curiously) represented Abraham Redwood to have been a Jew. He was a wealthy Quaker, and was born at Antigua, where he inherited the Cassada Garden plantations. He was educated in Philadelphia, and, marrying a fair daughter of Newport before he was twenty years of age, removed to her home and made the town his permanent residence. He is regarded as having been the founder of the Redwood Library, and upon this his fame most prominently rests; but those who are thoroughly informed must know that such cannot be strictly true, and any statement of facts in this connection will not detract from his memory, for, whatever may be said, his life belonged to greatness.

Abraham Redwood was but one of the founders of the library which bears his name, and others are entitled to equal credit in the premises. This famous depository of literature and art is the outgrowth of what was known as the "Society for the Promotion of Knowledge and Virtue," organized in 1730, and through this channel Bishop Berkeley was the "remote, not the proximate, cause" of the library. A number of books having accumulated as the property of the society Mr. Redwood, in 1747, proposed the formation of a public library and offered £500 for the purchase of literary works, provided, however, that a sufficient amount should be given by others for the erection of a building. Henry Collins then gave his lot of land called Bowling Green, and soon after £5,000 were subscribed by various citizens. In the following year the present building, partaking largely of the Roman Doric order, was commenced, and, with enlarged proportions, it still stands upon the original site. Mr. Collins was a merchant prince of Newport, and owned what was probably the finest gallery of paintings in America. The library was named for Redwood, and he was its first president; his donation to this institution was but a small part of his munificence, which partook of such a wide character as to have very justly ranked him in public estimation with the Harvards and the Yales.

It is probable that the Redwood Library has received benefactions from more and a greater variety of sources than any corporation of the kind in the United States. During the war of the Revolution General Prescott courteously protected it, causing the British troops that were pillaging it to desist from their depredations. Rev. Ezra Styles was its friend, and within its doors wrote, in Latin or Hebrew, his "learned, not controversial, letters" addressed to Jewish rabbies, Jesuit colleges and other societies. James Ogilvie, of Scotland, delivered a course of lectures in its behalf. Solomon Southwick, of Albany, presented it with a deed for 120 acres of New York State land. Charles B. King, of Washington, D. C., permanently graced its walls with his valuable collection of paintings and portraits of distinguished persons, and Edward King, of Newport, added to its art department a magnificent group of marble statuary. Hon. William Hunter rendered it a great service through his personal efforts and the use of his pen, while King George IV.; Baron Hottinguer, of France; Abraham Redwood, of Dorset place, England, and a long list of other names belong to that notable galaxy, now held by crumbling tombs, that has substantially promoted its prosperity. Its living benefactors are also numerous, and several large sums of money have been donated to the institution, and yet it is to-day burdened with debt. A meeting of shareholders was recently called to devise plans for the extinguishment of this debt. It was voted to open a subscription book to the public, and an appeal is now before the people. The memory of the library's noble friends of the past should alone be sufficient to inspire prompt action, and the book should not be closed until at least $15,000 are raised, an amount which will be sufficient to restore the institution to its former condition of prosperity. At the gathering of the absent sons and daughters of Newport, at Newport, on the 23d day of August, 1859, more than one thousand persons, born on the Island, returned to the scenes of their early days. They came from all parts of the country and from foreign lands. In his speech, delivered at the banquet given on this memorable occasion, Hon. Robert C. Pitman, of New Bedford, said:—

"The mention of Channing recalls to my mind, as one of his favorite haunts, the Redwood Library; and I allude to this venerable institution for the purpose of making a practical suggestion. As returned sons, the desire would seem to arise spontaneously in all our hearts to erect some acknowledgment of the city's bountiful hospitality—some memorial of our happy home visit. Some rich deposit of love should the sons of Newport leave behind as the returning tide bears us again away. What worthier offering could we pay than to enrich and adorn with some new treasure the youthful study of Channing?"

These words seem to have had the effect which their eloquence was calculated to produce, and at a later date Mr. George Gibbs, of California, sent to the home of his youth a check for $10,000, to which $10,000 was added by