



A 5 O'CLOCK TEA GOWN OF LEAF GREEN SATIN FACED CLOTH WITH VEST OF TURQUOISE BLUE SATIN, BAND AROUND FOOT OF STICED BLUE VE CLOTH.

The Beatrice Fashion Letter

How to Give an Afternoon Tea and What to Wear.

The five o'clock tea. I think as I write or seeing those words in English in a French newspaper. It was a rainy, sleepy day in Paris in January—that worst and darkest of all Paris months. The daily papers, brought me by a frowsy haired man, conveyed no cheer and little intelligence. Languidly I picked them out and glanced over the columns, too gloomy to translate. When, suddenly from out the pages, like a ray of sun on a cloudy day, appeared the page and kissed the words, then I laughed aloud with delight. It was like meeting a dear friend in a strange land.

The French people have picked up as many of our words as we have picked up of theirs. You would be surprised to know how they quote us and our language. And our dress and our customs, too. I well remember reading in a Paris paper, in French, last September: "The first New York girl living in Paris." Paris again—"we have our set of friends; and though we cannot entertain elaborately or lavishly, we give a 5 o'clock tea three days a week."

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, who is one of the finest ladies in society, if you count the ability and the means to do things in the right way, gave a very pretty 5 o'clock tea just before she took her sad, sudden and unexpected departure for London last week. Mrs. Astor had invited a large company to a New Year's reception on Sunday evening. Suddenly, without the slightest warning, she recalled all invitations, and, instead, gave a very quiet tea; next day she sailed for London. At the tea it was whispered that she went to cheer her daughter, the duchess, whose husband, the Duke of Marlborough, had suddenly volunteered for the Transvaal.

PRETTY CLOTHES.

Be that as it may; and be the gloom deep as it was; it did not prevent the guests—and the hostess for that matter—wearing some very pretty clothes.

Mrs. John Astor wore a lovely suit in tobacco brown cloth. Her toque was of sable with the crown of fur. Around the edge were accordeon plaits of pink chiffon. At one side stood a bow of pink velvet caught down by a buckle of steel. It was a very neat little affair. Next day Mrs. Astor herself sailed for the other side to take her little invalid son to the Mediterranean to spend the winter. But that evening all was gay enough.

Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., who is out again, wore a very pretty costume of pale lavender such as used to be worn

with the narrow bands of black fur put on in irregular rows, curving upward in the back. The skirt had a box plait in the back and was quite plain. The bodice was a basque, pointed in front and edged with the narrow row of black fur. It was quite old fashioned, this basque, or would have been but for the very elaborate yoke of paillettes of cut steel. Underneath the paillettes was handsome lace upon which the steel shone like frozen rain drops in the snow. Very glistening are the gowns with their little brilliant



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pieces suggesting armor and a coat of mail.

The hostess herself wore a foulard. Not an expensive fabric for a lady who boasts a cloth-of-gold at \$50 per yard. Yet the foulards hold their own very well. They are adapted to all stations, being always genteel and lady-like, sometimes even dressy. Mrs. Belmont's gown was a deep shade of blue with a Princess tunic falling over a skirt, on the foot of which were deep flounces of the foulard.

The bodice was trimmed with a lace arrangement which in modern parlance is called a Marie Antoinette tuck. It was fully five yards long; and when off, must have been an awkward thing to handle. Made of the lightest finest chiffon in a shade of pearl white, it was edged with a chiffon ruffling of white, tipped with pink and black velvet put on in the thinnest rows. The whole affair was brought around the shoulders, draping them well, and tying in front, below the bust. Here it was caught with a handsome diamond arrow. It fell from the arrow point to the floor. Quite an elegant article to wear. But easily duplicated I should say in cheaper and simpler materials.

CHIFFON RUFFLING.

My seamstress who calls herself a modiste, says that there are cheap grades of chiffon which are very serviceable. They wear until they become soiled and a chiffon can be expected to do more than that. This cheap grade, she says, differs from the other only in that it may be slightly streaked or cloudy where a coarser or darker weave interrupts the crystal whiteness of the better material. But this does not injure the ornamental qualities of the thin goods which in its five years of rulership has had no rival. The slight delicate edge do no found upon the more expensive chiffon ruffling can be placed upon the cheaper grades by running the ruffles through the sewing machine threaded with the finest colored silk which will carry; and of course need will carry almost a cord.

Black silk is becoming so fashionable. Nay, the word is badly chosen—has become fashionable would be better. In the days when black silk were worn, Mrs. William Astor, the leader of the New York society, then, as now, told Mrs. Ward McAllister, who was then the "power behind the throne," that she numbered her black silks. "Black silk No. 1" was the oldest of the series, then came "Black silk No. 2," followed by "Black silk No. 3" and she sometimes got as high as "No. 8." The dresses were all made from one piece of silk, or from one grade. But they differed from each other in newness and in make and fashion and pattern and trimming.

But owing to the adaptability of the material, they looked so different that as a whole wardrobe they were eminently satisfactory. A black silk looks well upon anybody. For a slim person it is capable of treatment to produce shape, such as full fronts, epaulettes, yokes, vests and puffers. For fleshier people it seems the best of all materials; and for embonpoint there is no argument. Nothing but black should be worn.

A woman dressmaker of New York city who makes her living, not in making gowns, but in designing the small things of the toilette, has been known to take one well made black silk and from it to achieve one dozen gowns. Her various successes cannot all be mentioned, but the greatest was accomplished with a black silk skirt trimmed around the foot with one deep flounce. The waist and overskirt were made together in a Princess tunic, long all around and opening invisibly in the front.

VELVET BELT.

With many a clever pin and hook she arranged a velvet belt of amethyst color so that the waist and overskirt seemed separate. The belt was high in the front and very low and pointed in the back with the same velvet she arranged a yoke, overlaid with lace. In the center of each hole of the lace she tacked a silver sequin. Over the sleeves she slipped chiffon sleeves of white, all shirt-

ed and neatly finished; and at the shoulder she fastened rosettes of the amethyst velvet to match the belt and yoke. The overdress was covered with a chiffon overdress of the nicest cut, with a ruffle of chiffon around it. The whole was not at all expensive and could be transferred to another gown at any time, leaving the black silk free for future experiments.

The tea table these days is very pretty. The fashionable New-Year and birthday gift in Gotham is a starter for the tea table. If your friend has no 5 o'clock tea table, you start her out in life, as it were, by presenting her with a tea cloth. Maybe some one will bequeath her a table, or in lieu of that a Cairo stand, which answers the purpose of the cup of tea helping it along. Another a teapot, a third a plate and so the table is made up of souvenirs. At the first tea the whole may not be complete, but so much the better.

The English way of giving a 5 o'clock tea is the best. They have the right of it in many things over there—and we are coming to see it, if the Boers are not. The hostess has her tea table always ready at 5; ready three days a week. You call and remove a wrap if you desire, and the tea comes along as a matter of course. It is not the objective point of the call by any means, but the means to an end, the end being a social afternoon. The hostess need not scold herself making the tea. It was really ludicrous last week to observe a poor little debutante with a tea ball. She had clasped the tea leaves in the silver thing and her maid poured the tea. Then she had sugared it and drawn out the ball. But how was she to get the leaves out to make a fresh cup. A servant came to her rescue, but I noticed that the little debutante was holding her finger for some time after that.

Let the tea walk in, like the guest, ready to cheer you. Let the plate of cakes set handy. Have all underneath the table on a tray, or on top if you prefer. The top is the prettiest way after all. Let the guests have some freedom in selection—and above all do not make too much fuss pouring the tea.

Don't wear a loose gown at a tea. The hostess dresses in a snug house gown which may be a simple afternoon dress. It could do for calling, even. Remember that a tea gown, so called, is a morning wrapper, never a gown to be worn at a 5 o'clock tea. Remember also that your guests may bring their husbands and brothers and sweethearts; and let your gown be modish and dignified.

THE BEET SUGAR FACTORY.

Black Bass by the Wagon Load From Potomac Creek. FREDERICKSBURG, VA., Jan. 12.—Special.—The leading citizens have become thoroughly aroused to the importance of the establishment of the proposed sugar beet factory here. At a general meeting of the business men, which was largely attended, a resolution endorsing the project and advising the farmers to sign the contracts to raise beets, was unanimously adopted. A committee composed of Colonel E. D. Cole, Hon. H. F. Crisp, Hon. H. H. Wallace, Captain M. B. Rowe and G. W. Shepherd was appointed to prepare an address fully explaining the facts bearing on the enterprise. This address will be sent out to all the prominent farmers of this section. The prospects are bright for the establishment here of this important industry. The lands are unquestionably suited to the raising of beets and the location is admirable in every respect.

The week of prayer services every night this week, held at a different church each night and participated in by all the congregations of the city, have been largely attended and the able discourses by the different ministers of the city were much enjoyed by the eager listeners. The last service was held to-night at the Baptist church.

Some of the farmers are still holding their wheat for higher prices. Mr. J. P. Wright, of Orange county, brought in a lot this week, which he sold at seventy-one cents per bushel.

A large deer was killed a few days ago near Penola, in Caroline county. Deer are quite numerous in the wilderness and other parts of Spotsylvania county this season, but they rarely range so far down in the lower country as Penola.

Captain J. R. Purcell, of Prince William county, made a public speech at Caroline county on politics. He says he will speak against British regulars that has completely surprised every one.

In fact, it is openly acknowledged that were it a struggle of equal numbers on both sides, the Dutch cause would win; for however bold they be against the empire, they are handicapped by the assumption of the Boers, tactics, even to the adoption of their uniforms, so that everything is new to them and quite different from what they have been taught on their part of the world, and on the plains of the Soudan or the hills of India.

As a result the English forces have not been able to hold their own against almost equal forces of the Boers, and have fallen back upon Ladysmith, New Castle and the whole of northern Natal an English army over twenty thousand strong have had to fall back upon Ladysmith, which is now being fortified. Even here the English found their long-range artillery inferior to that of the Boers' French and German made modern siege guns, which poured their shells into the town from their positions six miles away.

The English brought up their 91-pounders from the first-class cruisers, the powerful and Terrible, which were in the harbor at Durban. The English then were more than able to hold the town in the artillery duels, which have been daily occurrences for weeks around Ladysmith.

MONSTER NAVAL GUNS.

I was fortunate in getting a look at these monsters of naval guns as they were being put on the cars at Durban and to witness them in action against the Dutch in Ladysmith the day before the Boers surrounded the town and cut off railway and telegraphic communication with Durban.

On the fourth day after the Dutch had surrounded Ladysmith the English forces under General White made a "sortie in force," in which a division of the English army, mounted on artillery, was cut off from reinforcements and cut to pieces and captured. After that the town was completely invested by the Dutch and for three weeks they have held out with a few stragglers of the English army. The great diamond mining centre, has also been under siege for almost a month. Fortunately for the town and inhabitants, the De Beers Diamond mine had on hand enormous supplies of food and arms and necessities of life with which to arm and equip their employees and the town to withstand a siege by the Dutch forces, which fact is not remarkable when you consider that the De Beers diamond mine was discovered at the rate of \$15 fifteen dollars a minute all the year round, and the huge fortunes it has made for its owners, Wehner, Breit and Rhodes, run into many millions. Then, too, stored away in the strong room of De Beers Ltd. offices are barrels of glittering, sparkling diamonds, which have from year to year been garnered; for the diamond market, unlike the gold market, can be glutted; and only by glutting the supply the demand has C. J. Rhodes supplemented his millions.

The Dutch are said to be a hundred years behind their time, and if such be the case it is not to be wondered at that they read of their strenuous efforts to capture Kimberley; for I dare say the Spaniards or the French would have been as eager a hundred years ago to have the finger of those who were of Kimberley, come close up to the 24 of Feb-

THE BRIDGE AT WALKERTON.

Opens Up New Life in the Vicinity. Advantages of the Village. WALKERTON, VA., Jan. 12.—Special.—Walkerton is situated 20 miles from West Point and has a daily mail via Lester Manor to Richmond, a steamer connecting with the Baltimore boats twice a week. First-class hotel and livery stable, corn and wheat mill, graded public school, four stores, one church, 11 artisan workmen. There are one hundred white and twenty-five colored inhabitants.

An adjacent farm was recently sold for \$30 an acre. There is no better truck land to be found, nor a better place for a cannery, for since the bridge is completed vegetables can be gotten to market at very low cost.

The bridge has been rented for the present year and toll is put down to nearly half to what it used to be.

This is the greatest benefit the country has ever known.

There were four double and one single vehicle crossing at one time a few days ago.

More than 100 passengers have crossed the river during the past ten days. No one knows what the bridge means but

these who have the ferry to contend with.

The rental pays about ten per cent. on cost of bridge. A northern man who was caught in the county by the river being frozen over, said he would not give 2 acres of land in the moon for the whole of King and Queen county. Now he would think differently, with W. H. Walker's stage line to Lester Manor, making connection with all of the trains.

Mr. Walker will ever be remembered with gratitude by the traveling fraternity, for he has done more for their comfort and convenience than any other man in the community.

THE VIEWS OF A NON-COMBATANT

The War in Africa as Seen by a Virginian Now There.

THE UNTOLD WEALTH OF GOLD.

Not Hard to Understand the Wish of Territory Whose Wealth Would Pay Her National Debt.

The following article was written by Mr. J. B. Carper, who before the commencement of hostilities in South Africa, was chief engineer of the Ferris Deep (LAD) mine on the Rand. Owing to the discontinuance of operations there he is in the employment of the Rand Mines (LAD) as inspector of their machinery, now being landed at Cape Town, East London, Delagoa Bay and other African ports.

Mr. Carper is a Virginian and proud of it, as all Virginians are, and a graduate of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute of the class of 1895.

The article was written, as may be seen before the Boer victories over veteran English generals had astonished the world.

We are in the midst of all the excitement and changes and suffering and toil of modern warfare, as it is being waged between the army corps of Great Britain and the commanders of the South African and Orange Free State Republics. The Dutch forces invaded British colonial territory in the early part of October, and from that time civil war has been raging. Thousands of the Natal and colonial Dutch have joined both sides, which entails brother fighting against brother and father against son.

With a few exceptions the Dutch forces have been victorious in their aggressive movements. Up to the twenty-fourth of November they had completely invested Mafeking, a stronghold on the western borders of the Transvaal, and swept the English forces from the whole of the upper part of Cape Colony back upon Queenstown; and in Natal they have fought with a stubbornness and courage against British regulars that has completely surprised every one.

In fact, it is openly acknowledged that were it a struggle of equal numbers on both sides, the Dutch cause would win; for however bold they be against the empire, they are handicapped by the assumption of the Boers, tactics, even to the adoption of their uniforms, so that everything is new to them and quite different from what they have been taught on their part of the world, and on the plains of the Soudan or the hills of India.

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ember, the Dutch forces had been decidedly victorious. They had captured seventeen towns, and overrun the provinces of the Northern Natal and Cape Colony, had declared the annexation of this territory to the flag of the United South Africa, and issued a proclamation calling all of the Dutch inhabitants, who were British subjects, to take up arms in support of the Dutch cause.

BECAME TRAITORS.

According to the English side of the question these subjects became traitors upon taking up arms; but to supplement their annexation of the territory the Dutch began commandeering (forcibly pressing into service) all males between 14 and 60 years of age. According to the best reports, between ten and twelve thousand men have in this way been added to the Dutch forces.

However, at this point the success of the Dutch had reached its zenith, and the side possessing the greatest number of battalions commenced to get in its deadly work of death and destruction. For there are close to thirty thousand English regulars marching to the relief of Ladysmith under the command of General Sir Buller, commander-in-chief of the mounted forces, and General Buller, who is now beginning his advance from Queenstown to reach the rear of General Joubert's forces around Ladysmith, after occupying the main passes leading into the Free State and on to Bloemfontein, the capital.

A third force of twelve thousand men, under General Lord Methuen, are hurrying to the relief of Kimberley, and on to the Rand and Johannesburg.

HELIOGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

Already this column is within heliographic communication with Kimberley. They fought their first battle on 24th of November, 60 miles from Kimberley, where the out-dranked and out-numbered the Boers, putting them in retreat, and capturing their supplies, small arms, ammunition and provisions. However, the Dutch carried off their artillery.

Another battle was fought with this same column of Dutch on 28th instant, when the Dutch gave way in retreat.

Troop ships are almost daily landing thousands of troops and supplies at Cape Town, East London and Durban, where they are rapidly entrained and carried to the front with all possible dispatch.

Many who know the English strength and the resources of the Boers, predict that in six weeks to two months the Dutch forces will be conquered, and the two Republics added to the British Empire by occupation of their soldiers.

Such may be the case, but thousands of brave and courageous men, on both sides, will first have shed their life's blood.

The Dutch army has been well deployed throughout the invasion of Natal and General Joubert, their commander-in-chief, has proven their "General of the day." He certainly holds the full confidence of his men; and as I heard a wounded English soldier say: "The Dutch are like demons when Joubert is commanding them." And yet in their occupation of positions of strength and use of artillery supported by infantry, one sees the educated and skilled influence of good military tacticians of the world—that of the German officers; and there are several hundred German officers commanding in the Dutch forces.

UNTOLD WEALTH.

When one considers the almost untold mineral wealth of the territory England is struggling for, it is easy to conceive why she wishes to add it to her expanding empire.

It sounds like romance to say that the English are fighting on fields of gold, yet it is sober reality. There is gold enough in the mines now discovered and working to pay off the national debt of the British Empire; and what is more, what the future may bring forth. It is quite within the bounds of possibility that at any moment a diamond or gold mine may be discovered which will in value eclipse any Transvaal mine. The fact is, the wealth in gold never dreamt of. Already the famous mines of the Witwatersrand employ between 70,000 and 80,000 men and these mines, almost the richest in the world, are in a gold basin which extends for 120 miles, and in a dozen miles of this reef it is estimated that there is gold worth \$400,000,000, or two billion dollars.

How long will these mines last? This is a question of questions, but should we be successful in the experiments of "stage winding" on the third and fourth row of Deep Lane mines, where the reef is 8,000 and 7,000 feet below the surface it is certain that the mining industry will flourish for the next century.

Besides, there are other minerals, such as copper, silver, iron and coal in abundance.

HER ROSE.

How can it live, the rose thou wearest, glowing

Never before was seen a flower growing

On a volcano's crest!

Madeline Bridges in New York Home Journal.

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