

How Gay Paris Has Grown Grave

By Mme. Catulle Mendes

The Distinguished Parisian Poetess and Feminist Leader.

ONE year of the greatest war in history, and we see a Parisian life that no stranger who knew it only before the war would recognize.

The gayest of cities, the community of pleasure-seekers and pleasure-makers, has been transformed into a community of earnest men and women, of Sisters of Mercy, of wounded soldiers, and of solemn citizens, weighed down with their responsibilities.

The calm and grave attitude of Paris since the war has astonished many foreigners. All they knew of Paris was an exterior of luxury and pleasure, theatres, restaurants, cabarets, cafes-concerts, the hill of Montmartre ornamented with the sails of its Moulin Rouge and its short-skirted dancers.

Such people cannot understand how all that could disappear at a stroke and how another Paris has replaced the Paris which they supposed to be only a city of feasting, a place of joy, where people came to amuse themselves from all ends of the earth.

In other wars, such a transformation was not seen. Even in the cruel siege of 1870, much gaiety was maintained and many a noted Parisian wit made merry over his scanty banquet of horse meat. Paris was never before extinguished, never ceased altogether to laugh or to dance. That is because all other wars were different from this.

Every Parisian

Has Lost Someone.

To-day there is not a human being in Paris or in all France who is exempt from the effects of the war. Every man is a soldier from 20 to 46 years of age, and there is practically no one who has not close relatives in the war. Moreover, the present war is so terrible that hardly any one returns unhurt, either from actual wounds or from injury to his health. The dangers and the suffering to which they are exposed are so atrocious that it is not possible for one who has not seen them even to imagine them.

What human being, then, however Parisian he or she might be, could have the heart to amuse himself when he knew that the soldiers of his country, all the men of France, are exposed not only to shells, to bullets, and to hand grenades, to savage hand-to-hand fights with the bayonet and the knife, but to the horrors of asphyxiating gases, which corrode the eyes and the lungs, and of flaming liquids, which burn men up alive! Even the elements have been more terrible, for never has war been pursued with such a complete disregard to the suffering caused by the cold, frost, snow and the floods. Among those who came back to Paris untouched this Spring by bullets, many had their feet frozen off from prolonged exposure to cold in the trenches, while perhaps as many will go mad from unrelieved exposure to the sun in Summer.

You ask me what has become of all those who whirled in the gay luxurious life of Paris now transformed, still beautiful, but in another fashion, in its gravity, so poetic under the moonlight that no artificial radiance disturbs or so mysterious in the cloak of its nocturnal mists?

As far as the women of society are concerned, the answer is simple. They are all nurses or hospital workers, or enrolled in some patriotic organization. We may state that, thanks to them, the laboring population of Paris, suddenly deprived of work, has, up to the present, not suffered from misery.

Our women have founded societies to relieve those about to become mothers, to take care of the babies and to help families too large to be supported by poor parents. If there had not been a terrible influx into Paris of refugees from Belgium and the invaded parts of France, the foresight and the devotion of Parisian society women, acting in co-operation with the government officials, would have been sufficient to prevent all distress in the city.

As for the "artistes," their duty was distinctly marked out from the beginning. They gave their help to patriotic matinees, organized for the benefit of patriotic societies, or they went to the quarters of the convalescent soldiers, to sing or recite patriotic poems before the wounded, who listened to them with en-

chantment.

How do these "artistes" live during the war? They are for the most part, both men and women, in a very distressed condition. But they bear their poverty nobly. We have organized many societies to help them privately, for they are too proud to be the objects of public charity. Performances, which bring in very little, are given for their benefit. They content themselves with the existence of the proverbial grasshopper and never complain. Many a former ornament of the Paris stage is to-day cheerfully consuming a dinner worth ten sous.

And, then, you may ask, what has become of the women who are not really "artistes," but only what we playfully call "foolish virgins"? That is a question about which I have not thought much. We women have thought above all of preserving the French race, which is in danger—the men who fight, the women who produce children, the children who are the future of the country. But we must not, after all, neglect any of the good seed even if it has fallen among tares. The "foolish virgins" themselves have indeed given many examples of devotion to the fatherland.

How a Flighty Girl

Became a Fine Nurse.

I had a touching proof of this one day when I visited a public nursery of children. It was 8 o'clock in the morning, and I was going to the Necker Hospital, where I was on duty, and where we had many dangerously wounded men. As I was crossing the Rue de Sevres I saw a poor woman with a sick baby in her arms and two others hanging onto her skirt. She appeared to be uncertain about her way. I asked her what she was looking for. She answered that she wished to go to the Hospice for Sick Children, which happened to be just alongside the hospital to which I was going.

What was my astonishment to find in her a former chambermaid, who had been in my service, a very pretty girl, who had left me to lead an erratic life, in vain I had remonstrated with her at the time. All my arguments had been useless. She blushed when she saw who I was, but I tried to relieve her embarrassment and asked her what she was doing now. She told me she was connected with the "Hospice," a large children's nursery, established during the war. Feeling a great interest in the change in her ways of living, I accompanied her to the nursery. All the children stretched out their arms to her when she entered and she was received among them like a true mother of a family.

posters. One of these pictures in particular displayed a favorite Parisian star of that truly Parisian spectacle, a "revue"—we call her a "commerce de revue"—with a dress excessively décollete, both at the top and at the bottom. It did not please the people of Paris, but they did not become angry, for that is rarely their custom. Every day the passersby treated the poster to a new form of ridicule. One day they wrote in large letters across the poster, "Hide your legs." The next day they adorned the head of the singer with a well-executed picture of a Prussian helmet belonging to the notorious "Death's Head Hussars." Still another day they spoiled the poster by disfiguring it with an enormous exploding bomb. At the same time practically everybody avoided the performance, so that the establishment was obliged to close in less than a week.

A Skittish Actress's Splendid Devotion.

I have witnessed myself more than one striking example of this. I knew about ten years ago a very pretty young woman named Helena, who had played a small part in a piece by my husband. She was very young, altogether wild, and her life, in short, was a scandal. I had not heard of her for years until a few months ago, when she called on me and asked to speak to me privately. I received her. She brought me twelve hospital shirts, which we call "plastrons," for my wounded soldiers. She handed them to me, timidly, saying:

"Madame, mix them with the others. Then they will not know that they come from me." I could only answer, "Come with me." I took her to my "Vestiaire," a sort of hospital and clothing bureau, where there were a great many wounded, and I said to her: "Distribute your 'plastrons' yourself." The poor girl could hardly recover from the happiness which this caused her. She handed out her "plastrons" to the soldiers and kissed their hands as she did so, which astonished them very much. She wept and said to me repeatedly:

"Oh, I do not deserve this." I answered, "Yes, you do; but go on working, and we shall think even better of you."

In the course of the Winter she sewed for me no less than eleven hundred "plastrons" for the wounded.

So you see how even the most frivolous Parisian element has raised itself up, has shown a "grave and silent heart."

The favorite actor of Paris, a true spoiled child of the public, M. Sacha Guitry himself, could not succeed. He wrote a piece in the style of those who have brought him tremendous success for several years past. He played it himself. Before the curtain rose he came forward and made a witty speech, explaining that Paris, in spite of the war, should not lose its gaiety, that its dash and its joy were themselves a form of courage. People listened to him politely. They even applauded him because they liked him, but his work could not touch the soul of the Parisian public in its present state, and after a very few representations it left the theatre empty.

Yes, Paris is and will remain grave and calm. In this attitude it finds the accomplishment of its duty. It gives a supreme lesson to those who calumniate it. But what will it be in the future? Let no one be uneasy about that. It will become again joyous, full of dancing, and feasting, and laughter, but we hope that no one will be deceived about us again, that they will understand henceforth that under its garb of gaiety Paris carries a great heart, sublimely human, whose strength and dignity are invincible.

Robertson Bros. Co.

SECOND FLOOR

500 New Summer Dresses

On Sale--
Tomorrow
at 1.50 and 1.95



These dresses were sent us by our New York representative with this comment:

"They will not last a day if you mark them at \$1.50 and \$1.95."

That's what we have done.

These Dresses are made of dainty Sheer Tissue Mulls, Woven Colored Stripes with trimmings of dainty laces and embroideries; skirts are beautifully made with 3 and 4 inch hems and full flare. All sizes to 44.

We advise you to come early in the morning to get your pick of these money saving dresses. They certainly won't last through the day.

Summer Corset Sale Tomorrow
at 79c and \$1.25

We received some good bargains and some first-class meats and are gladly sharing with our many customers the reduction of these high grade meats.

BUEHLER BROS.

EXTRA TENDER BEEF ROAST	12c	NICE VEAL ROAST	15c
FINE TENDER SIRLOIN STEAK	15c	VEAL CUTLETS AND CHOPS	16c
CHOICE ROUND STEAK	15c	VEAL FOR STEWING	13c
SHORT BEEF STEAK	14c	LAMB CHOPS	15c
FRESH HAMBURGER STEAK	10c	LEG OF LAMB	15c
FRESH FLANK STEAK	14c	PURE COUNTRY LARD	12c
PORK LOIN ROAST	14c	COMPOUND LARD	11c
BOSTON BUTTS	12c	FORK SAUSAGE	10c
FRESH SLICED LIVER	6c	FRANKFURTS AND SMOKED SAUSAGE	11c
FRESH CALF BRAINS	10c	PRESSED AND MINCED HAM	15c

FINEST HAMS, CURED, AT ONLY PICNIC HAMS, SMALL AND LEAN EXTRA CHOICE BACON, AT ONLY
We are in a position to satisfy you on Butterine as we carry the most reliable Brands, which is always Fresh Churned Stock.



Mail Orders Attended Promptly

Tea Room Luncheon, 11:30 to 5:00

Robertson Bros. Co.

Wayne Knit Silk Hosiery Sale.

Seconds of valuts up to 75c, in black, white and colors at, pair, 19c

Many items listed here offering special clearance prices for July merchandise to fit any needs during vacation or to those spending the summer at home.

Women's Union Suits.

Made by Carters' of fine mercerized lisle; broken sizes only; values up to \$1.75 \$1

Women's Union Suits.

Light weight lisle with tight or umbrella knee; regular 50c-59c out sizes; special value

Boys' Union Suits.

Flat weave with elastic lisle band at waist line; low neck, knee length and sleeveless..... 50c

Women's Hosiery.

The Wayne knit and Iron Clad brands of white lisle hose; seam in the back or without seam; medium or light weight 25c

Department of Ribbons, Gloves, Parasols.

We are offering special inducements that are interesting.

Ribbons for hair bows and sashes or trimming, 4 to 7 inches wide of fancy Dresden or plain color brocades that usually sell at 39c to 59c, per yard, 25c and 39c.

Silk Gloves at \$1.00

Made by Kayser's, are made not only to fit but to wear; 16 buttons, in black and white, double finger tips; a remarkable glove at a popular price.

Special Silk Gloves.

16 button glove with double tip in black and white, special price July clearance sale..... 50c

Clearance Sale of Parasols.

Beautiful messaline and taffeta, black and white stripes, plaids, fancy combination and novelty in all the newest shapes.

Special Sample Line.

Offered at prices 1-3 to 1-2 the regular cost.

EXCEPTIONAL VALUES TOMORROW

Offered in our Garment Section for Women and Misses, Second Floor.

ONE HUNDRED DRESSES AT \$5.00

Exceptional in material, workmanship and prices; made of quality voiles, fancy crepes and lawns.

Dresses that usually sell at prices far in advance of this sale price.

Plain colors, figured or the popular stripes, full skirts in pleats, dainty net collars and vests; ribbon girdles.

Colored Summer Dresses at \$1.00 to \$3.50

Large variety of pretty styles for afternoon wear at home or a vacation morning dress. Not house dresses. Materials in stripes or figures with bands of plain color trimmings; full skirts and dainty waist effects.

WHITE VOILE DRESSES AT \$5.95

A limited number of dresses worth much higher prices are offered tomorrow. Voiles, embroidered or plain with tiered tunic or pleated skirt; lace trimming on waists and collars; silk girdle.

The New in Outing Blouses

New models, just arrived, of white galatea with wide sailor collars of brown black and navy stripes. Plain khaki cloth with white braid trimming. Plain blue with white bolero effect..... \$1.00

CONVERTIBLE SPORT BLOUSE, \$1.50.

In white Soisette with convertible collar; can be worn high or turned down; long sleeves and patch pockets.

Tub Silk Blouses at \$1.00

Splendid range of black and white stripes, checks and white with colored figures and dots.

Lingerie Waists Special 59c



STAMPED LINENS SPECIAL FOR SATURDAY

At half regular prices: scarfs and center pieces. Children's Dresses, stamped, ready to work and made up ready to wear. Made of pique and rep; values to \$1.50; Clearance Sale, 25c each.

45 inch Pillow Cases, stamped linen furnished, each 49c. Crochet cotton, Bucilla, highly mercerized and washable; in colors; only sizes 3, 10, 30, 50 and 70; per ball, 10c.

Royal Society crochet cotton, per ball, 10c. Embroidery Stilettoes, made with adjustable gauge, 10c. Porch Pillows of Felt and Leather, regular \$1.00 Values, 50c.

Big Sale of Columbia Summer House Dresses

Continues today and Saturday. The greatest bargain event of the season; all sizes. 1.00

Gabardine Tub Silks \$1.00

Tomorrow only, 100 shirts regular \$2.50 values, white gabardine, thoroughly shrunk, all new models, including patch pockets, belts and button trimmings.

Also a large variety of Pique and Rep Skirts in white, tan and blue, popular models for outings at \$1.00, \$1.50 and \$1.95.

Silk Taffeta Skirts at \$5.95

Beautiful models in tiered accordion pleats or box pleated, all black or black and white.

Wool Poplin Skirts at 5.95

Smart models with the new fall styles of belts and pocket effect. Black and navy.



Big Millinery Clearance Sale Tomorrow—Saturday

Trimmed Hats 25c, 50c, \$1.00. Untrimmed Shapes 50c, \$1.00

The greatest opportunity for buying millinery for the future use. Many of these hats will be worn this fall. Shapes are cheap enough to buy and lay away for next season.

Summer Party Lunch Cloths

Japanese stencilled cloths in beautiful designs of blue, pink and green; 36 x 36 at 69c; 45 x 45 at \$1.25; 54 x 54 at \$1.50.

Also 12 x 12 napkins to match at 75c a dozen; 18 x 50 dresser scarfs, 25c; toweling 10c a yard, bolt 85c.

HEAVY TURKISH BATH TOWELS

23 x 46, full size, 25c quality at 19c.