

**THE GREAT SALONS.**

**THEY PREPARED THE GREAT FRENCH REVOLUTION.**

Can They Come Again?—The Author Thinks Not. Others Are of a Different Opinion—What the Salon of Mme. Lespinasse Was Like.

It is hard for an American, to whom the drawing room—that is, the "salon"—signifies for the most part tittle-tattle, or flirtation, or exaggerated boredom—to realize that the salons of the eighteenth century in France had a mighty influence upon history. When he is told that they prepared the French revolution; that they laid the foundation for the modern spirit of altruistic consciousness, and that they virtually made the human race over again, he remains incredulous. But it is all true. Modern ideas were talked into existence in the salons of Mme. de Lambert, Mme. de Tencin, Mme. Geoffrin, Mme. d'Épinay, Mme. Necker, Julie de Lespinasse, and a few others. In particular, the salon may claim to have created the modern woman.

These facts are made clear enough, even to the wayfaring reader, by Helen Clergue in "The Salon, a story of French Society and Personalities in the Eighteenth Century." The author has emphasized the influence of the eighteenth century salons, but not, we think, unduly. She reaches the conclusion that the salon, in its old sense, cannot come again—but we are not so sure of that. She says:

The historical salon, which was the instigator of original thought, and the arbiter of taste and manners, was sacrificed by its own creation; it evoked a destroying spirit, by whose agency, nevertheless, the position of woman as a whole, was incalculably raised. The salon came to an end with that society in which alone it could reach pre-eminence, and it can no more be rehabilitated than can the structure with which it fell.

The salon, taken in itself, might conceivably be restored, since men and women and drawing rooms still exist; but its relation to the life of an epoch is the thing which it would be so difficult to renew.

What was the salon of the eighteenth century? In her account of Julie de Lespinasse, the author of this book makes it clear what it was in its best estate. Mme. de Lespinasse forsook all ordinary pleasures and intercourse in order to maintain her salon. She received every evening from 6 to 10, and so rarely was this rule broken that an occasional visit in the country was an event talked of throughout Paris. At her assemblies she effaced herself, apparently—that is to say, she took no prominent part in the conversation, but acted as its guiding force.

Marmontel gives an account as an eye-witness of her influence over the diversified company, which she and d'Alembert gathered about them. He likens the dissimilar personalities grouped in her salon to the chords of an instrument from which, though diverse in themselves she with her art, drew forth the most exquisite harmonies. "Nowhere," he says, "was the conversation more lively, more brilliant, more solid or better regulated."

It must be remembered that Julie de Lespinasse was a poor girl, of illegitimate birth; that she offered no luxury or grace of surroundings to the great men who came to her little parlor; and above all that she never gave them anything to eat! They came, quite manifestly, for what they were to talk about, and they talked to great purpose.

Julie Lespinasse was born for her salon, but she nevertheless had a training for the art in the house of her aunt, Mme. du Deffand, who had a great salon before her. The story, indeed, of Julie's maintaining a kind of subsidiary, surreptitious and clandestine salon in Mme. du Deffand's house is well known. Mrs. Humphrey Ward has made use of the whole episode in her "Lady Rose's Daughter." But the traitorous Julie certainly improved upon the example of her kinswoman.

**NEEDLEWORK NOTES.**

**Corn Husks as Pillows**

Save the husks of green corn; dry; sift them and use as stuffing for one or two summer pillows. They make a crisp, springy filling and a few dried rose geranium or lemon verbena leaves added will give suggestion of pleasant fragrance. Pink and white clover blossoms are also a change from the old favorites, pine and balsam needles, which not always are easy to procure.

Real flower fans are the present fancy, and are carried by many bridesmaids at fashionable weddings. There must be a different fan for every gown and occasion nowadays. A tiny one to match the hat is correct for mornings.

A dainty and fashionable slipper for evening wear was made of pompadour taffeta ribbon in a rose pattern and trimmed with a green jeweled button in the center of a tiny rosette of shell pink.

White is still the choice for dressy gowns.

**The Knock-out Blow.**

The blow which knocked out Corbett was a revelation to the prize fighters. From the earliest days of the ring the knock-out blow was aimed for the jaw, the temple or the jugular vein. Stomach punches were thrown in to worry and weary the fighter, but if a scientific man had told one of the old fighters that the most vulnerable spot was the region of the stomach, he'd have laughed at him for an ignoramus. Dr. Pierce is bringing home to the public a parallel fact; that the stomach is the most vulnerable organ out of the prize ring as well as in it. We protect our heads, throats, feet and lungs, but the stomach is utterly indifferent to, until disease finds the solar plexus and knocks us out. Make your stomach sound and strong by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and you protect yourself in your most vulnerable spot. "Golden Medical Discovery" cures "weak stomach," indigestion, or dyspepsia, torpid liver, bad, thin and impure blood and other diseases of the organs of digestion and nutrition.

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**What Is Sent Us From Abroad.**

The statistics prepared by the Government bureaus at Washington with reference to the "exports declared for the United States" are not such dull reading as might be expected. There are many surprising details, which if gathered into a comprehensive story would give an interesting idea of the current of the world's commerce.

In the popular mind the names of important cities are often associated with some distinguishing product in much the same way they would be associated with historical events or political prominence.

In the first place, take Brussels. Brussels suggests carpets, of course; yet for some years Belgium has not exported to the United States more than a few thousand dollars' worth of carpets. But we do get from that country plate glass, cement, linens, and laces in tremendously large quantities.

Jamaica sends us some ginger; but a great deal more in value of bananas and sugar.

From Cologne we receive a fair quantity of cologne; but fifty times as many dollars' worth of mineral waters.

Rome suggests at once art and literature; but nearly half of the imports from the Italian capital comes in the form of cheese.

Athens sends but little, chiefly iron ore. The other Greek cities sell currants, which really form the staple of Greek trade with the United States.

Out of Jerusalem we get "religious articles made of mother of pearl."

Genoa, the birthplace of Columbus, finds in the land he discovered a market for olive oil. Raw silks lead in Milan; horsehides are among the great exports of Moscow; clay pipes and lace are the somewhat incongruous combination forwarded from Calais.


Antiquities and gum figure high in Cairo's list. From Egypt we also get some mummies from which a peculiar pigment is made for the use of artists.

**The Forests of France.**

France contains in all over 23,500,000 acres of wooded lands. The State owns about 2,707,000 acres, which are well guarded and taken care of, and the various departments and communes possess some 3,472,000 acres of forest which are not so well managed. The remaining timber is owned by private interests, and often large tracts are sold to speculators, who, after cutting off the trees regardless of size, sell the land for grazing. Due to this, resinous trees are fast disappearing, the ash and acacia can scarcely be found, the poplar is becoming rare, and the chestnuts of the mountains have nearly disappeared. Gaul, once the home of the great oak forests, now has to seek other countries to furnish the necessary supply of oak, and at present France imports more than \$7,000,000 worth, inferior to that once grown, from Austria, Roumania, Russia, Germany, and America.

**To Move Greenwich Observatory.**

The Greenwich observatory will have to be moved. From year to year the magnetic observations made there have become less reliable because of the increasing traffic; and the impending establishment of large electric works in the immediate neighborhood will make it necessary to make the nautical calculations elsewhere.

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