

OUR PARIS LETTER.

In nearly all the spring costumes, the collar seems to play a most important part and receives, so to speak, "all the honors." Until some other novelty springs up, every woman will be entranced with this collar and will not be satisfied till she sees it reproduced, in all its glory, on her own spring costume. It must be confessed that it is very comfortable, and has the great advantage of resting somewhat upon the jacket.

A large establishment here in Paris, well known to many of our readers, has designed some most beautiful garments for the coming season, which combining the best points of the visit and the jacket are for this reason, extremely elegant. One has the body of the jacket in pleated lace upon which falls a shower of fine pearls; at the shoulder a Grecian sleeve in colored velvet or of fancy silk with an application of jet, fine as lace, in open pattern, and finished with a magnificent fringe. There is also a pretty, little cape, reaching scarcely to the waist, of cloth, called Japanese rose. This cape is cut quite straight like a band, without form and without darts; adjusted around the neck by a series of garters and is then joined to another band, equally straight, of velvet folded double. The top of the band spread in pleats forming a Medici collar. As the bottom of the cape is placed a flat strip of cloth and this is ornamented with beautiful gold embroidery on brown guipure, and finished with a rich fringe made of gold balls, pearls and silk threads in which are mingled all the colors of the cloth, the embroidery and the velvet.

These little capes, which will be made in all styles, will be in great demand this spring and summer, especially if they are made of rich material and trimmings artistically combined.

A most novel robe has just been shown by Felix, made of gray *viscose* with the skirt well draped and entirely bias in the back. At the foot of the skirt was a rather deep flounce of black Grecian tulle held in place under knots of gray ribbon. The corsage was trimmed in front with a pleated plastron of dark gray silk. A flounce of Grecian tulle formed the collar and also edged, in shell shape, the plastron. Under this flounce, on each side of the front of the corsage, were three rows of jet *cabochons* sparkling beneath the tulle.

It is quite impossible to imagine the amount of *cabochons* of all sizes and forms which are being used upon dresses, wraps and hats. They are like the grains of sand upon the sea shore, innumerable. Costumes of cloth are seen whose skirts are ornamented with five circular rows of *cabochons* at the bottom; plastrons and sleeves are entirely covered with them as well as the belts, collars, etc.

It can be truthfully said that they have become a passion with both modest and their patrons. The same is true of pearls upon the hats. The Parisians outside the women of the Orient; never has there been seen so much fringe, embroidery of fine pearls and net.

Under the pretext of the Cleopatra coiffure, our pretty women wear upon their heads little round caps covered with pearls, the brims of which, surrounded with nine or ten rows of twisted fringe, are turned up in turban shape. In spite of this infatuation, jet is much more elegant; there is in these black stones, sparkling so sharply, a mystery and a poetry with which the elegance of the pearl cannot compete.

Nothing is prettier, richer or more dainty than these little black toques made with bands of jet and ornaments or aigrettes which sparkle like the stars. For the theatre, especially, there are no hats quite so pretty or appropriate.

For street wear, charming toques of a style quite new, but not all black, are made; they are composed of three bands of jet, of which one in the back surrounds the chignon in the Grecian fashion, as the hair is now usually worn. These three bands are mounted on coarse white tulle embroidered with black rings. In front is placed a little knot of black velvet ribbon; in the back, near the hair, a camellia, a cluster of gardenias, tuberose, etc., a *l'espagnoles*.



No. 974

These designs are now very fashionable; foxtails, beautiful silks, tulle, etc., are all ornamented with these large rings so dear to Saturn. A robe of gray periwinkle foxtail is ornamented with long oval, interlaced, black and white rings. This robe is made in redingote form and opens on a flat apron of cream-colored bengaline. No trimming on the front, only a seam adjusts the waist and a fall of old lace forms a plastron. The sleeves are full on the shoulders and close at the wrists. We must not forget a little embroidery of white pearls, not more than three-fourths of an inch wide, which ornaments the lower edge of the apron of bengaline; with this is worn a round hat of black lace, made according to model, and placed like a delicate net upon the head. Fine wire gives the hat its shape and the lace is draped over this. On the crown is a light drapery of lace confined by three bands of jet, and in the back is a cluster of aigrettes. FELIX LESLIE.

No. 974. THEATRE HAT.—This charming capote is composed of a wreath of roses without foliage and a crown of gold lace and fine pearls. In the back is a cluster of roses without foliage; in front a knot of green velvet ribbon and aigrettes with black feathers. Strings of green velvet.

PALETTES GOWN AND STORM CLOAK.—No. 975, illustrates a tailor made gown of dark blue serge trimmed with black soutache which outlines the edges and seams and forms trefloils at the angles. The foundation skirt is faced six inches deep with dress material and the left side has a facing about twelve inches wide extending nearly to the top. The over skirt is cut without fulness at the top, in front, being fitted to the form by small darts; the fulness of the back is laid in pleats. The skirt is slashed on the left side and ornamented with two rows of braid which forms trefloils at the corners and the top of the slash. The bodice is plain with two small points in front and is ornamented with the high collar and cuffs of the sleeves with braid.

No. 976, is a spring ulster suitable for stormy weather or for traveling. It is made of light brown cross-barred tweed and has a movable cape with hood which may form a separate short wrap by itself. It has a close-fitting back and half loose front with loose



No. 977

coat sleeves. The edges of the cloak are finished with rows of stitching and the fronts are closed with oxidized silver buttons.

No. 977, gives a back view of the cape.

PERSONAL.

CANON HOLLAND'S "Life of early Lord" has just appeared.

JAMES PAYNE, the English novelist, has joined the staff of *Punch*.

ADOLPHUS DALY possesses one of the finest libraries of dramatic works in this country.

MRS. FRANCIS HODGSON BURNETT will soon return to this country to resume her literary work.

MISS CHARLOTTE M. YONKE, in her sixty-seventh year, is writing her one hundred and first book. It is to be a story of the time of Vespasian.

MISS LUCY M. SALMON, Professor of History at Vassar, recently delivered an address at Cornell University, U. S., on the "Historical Side of Domestic Service."

Mrs. BELVA LOCKWOOD is actively engaged in the work of the International Peace Congress, whose object is to arbitrate in the case of all disputes between nations.

Mr. A. A. LOW, the father of President Low, of Columbia College, has just passed his eightieth birthday. Mr. Low has given \$30,000 to his birthplace—Salem, Massachusetts—to be devoted to the education of deserving boys.

WALT WHITMAN's mother was of Netherland descent, and his grandmother was a Quaker. The poet himself is said to show distinctly his Dutch ancestry.

Two editions of Lucas Malet's "Wages of Sin" have already been exhausted, and Messrs. Sonnenschein have a third edition in the press. As most of our readers are aware, the pen name "Lucas Malet" conceals the identity of Mrs. Harrison, a daughter of Charles Kingsley.

WHEN THE BABY CAME.

Always in the house there was trouble and contention,
Little sparks of feeling flashing into flame,
Signs of irritation
So sure to make occasion
For strife and tribulation—till the baby came.
All the evil sounds full of cruel hate and rancor,
All the angry tumult—nobody to blame!
All were hushed so sweetly,
Disappearing fleetly,
Or quelled completely—when the baby came.
Faces that had worn a gloomy veil of sadness,
Hearts intent on seeking for fortune or for fame,
Once again were lightened,
Once again were brightened,
And their rapture heightened—when the baby came.
All affection's windows opened to receive it,
Pure and fresh from Heaven, and give it earthly name,
Clasping and caressing
In arms of love, confessing
That life had missed a blessing—till the baby came.
Homes that were in shadow felt the gentle sunshine,
Smiling, as if anxious their secret to proclaim,
Careful songs were swelling,
Of mirth and gladness telling,
And love ruled all the dwelling—when the baby came.
Hearts that had been sundered by a tide of passion,
Were again united in purpose and in aim;
In the heart secluded,
Peace divinely brooded,
Where discord had intruded—till the baby came.
Little cloud dispeller! little comfort bringer!
Baby girl or baby boy, welcome all the same!
Even o'er the embers
Of break and cold December
Some fond heart remembers—when the baby came.

No. 975

No. 976

FANCY WORK.

As the warm weather approaches, we begin to tire of the heavy fancy work which has occupied our spare moments during the winter months, and hasten to discard it for the lighter and more tasteful drawn work which is now so much in demand. If properly executed this *punto tirato* is extremely durable; it washes perfectly, as there are no colors to fade or become shabby looking, which is another point in its favor.

The new designs are very elaborate, but are easily copied by anyone who knows how to do this work. The best patterns are worked with white flax thread, and of the same coarseness as the material upon which they are employed.

Many persons think it a waste of time to do this work when most of it can be bought at a very reasonable rate, but we beg to differ on this point. There are many odd minutes which can be utilized in such work, and the labor of love required in thus decorating an article intended for a gift or for the advancement of one's home enhances its value threefold.

For beginners, the simple hem stitch, usually found on handkerchiefs, should be the first work attempted. The following illustration will show how to begin.

A doily may be taken for the first work, as the same design applies to a handkerchief, only you must remember that the proportion of threads taken up on the needle must depend upon the coarseness or fineness of the material used. Draw six threads one inch and a half from the edge on all four sides of the doily. Turn and baste the hem so that it may be three-fourths of an inch wide and begin at the left side of the doily, taking care to conceal the knot of your thread within the folds of the hem. Place the needle under five or

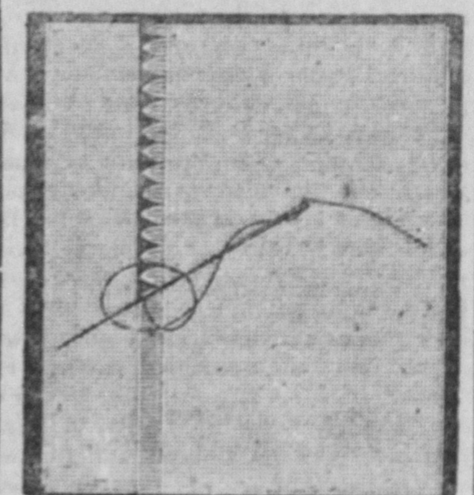


FIG. 1

six threads, from right to left, draw it through and take an ordinary stitch as if you were hemming, at the right of the threads, as shown in No. 1.

A beginner should always count the threads, but after a little practice it will be found quite easy to guess the number, and yet have them equal. Few persons, even among those who can do this work, know how much it adds to the beauty of both table and bed linen.

Napkins ornamented in this way always present a more finished look and possess a dainty grace not seen in their neighbor's hummed by hand. Linen sheets are greatly improved by a drawn

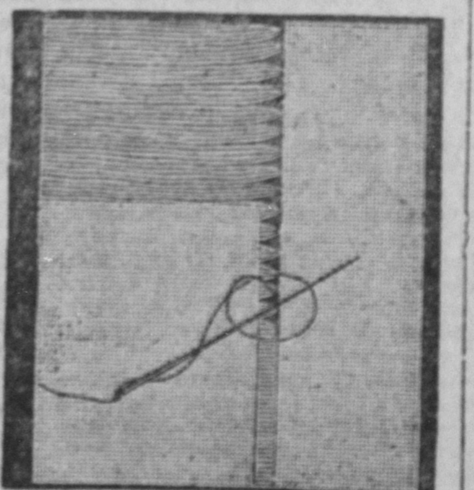


FIGURE II

border, and the upper sheet, at least, should be thus ornamented.

Hand towels with closely drawn borders lose half their ungainly look, and in fact there is no article upon which it is placed, but that seems to acquire, thereby, an added beauty.

If a fringe is desired, draw out three or four threads about two inches from the edge, the distance determining the depth of the fringe; then take up a group of threads as shown in No. 2, draw the thread, with which you are working, down tightly under the point of the needle towards the right, thus tying a very firm knot.

At first this knot may be difficult to make and appear very clumsy, but this knot is the very essence, so to speak, of drawn work, and when you can make it quickly and easily you will be mistress of this field of fancy work.

After you have gone round the doily with this stitch begin at the inside to draw the threads of your fringe, that is if you prefer to have a fringe instead of a hem. By beginning at the inside first, and continue to work downward, as by so doing your fringe will look less crumpled.

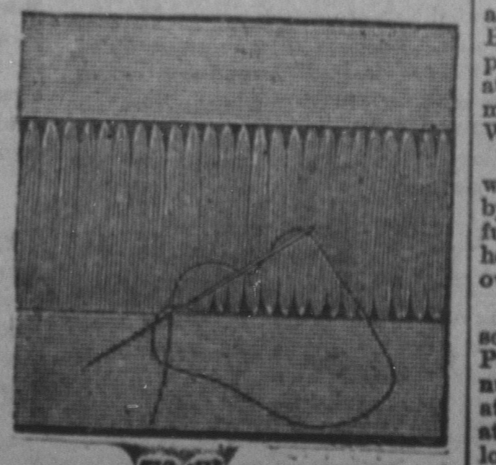


FIG. 3

When you can tie the knot easily and quickly, you can take up a pattern with a good prospect of success.

To prepare your work for a narrow pattern, say an inch wide, you must draw out threads for that space and fasten each side with the stitch shown in No. 2, and when ready for the design should have the appearance of No. 3.

Remember that any unevenness of threads will cause confusion and destroy your design.

No. 4 illustrates some of the simplest designs which are so plain as to require no explanation.

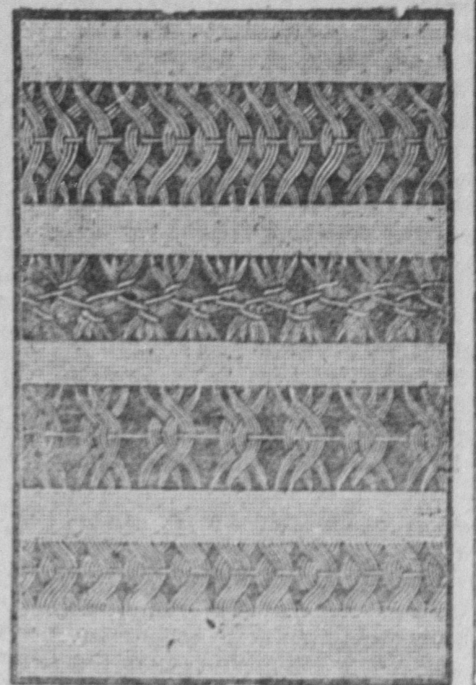


FIG. 4

We have always found it advisable, especially for beginners, to keep what is called a sampler, for future use.

For this purpose take a strip of coarse linen about a yard long and a quarter of a yard wide, on which work those patterns which are the most difficult to remember.

You will find this sampler of great value and assistance, not only to yourself, but also to the many friends who desire new patterns.

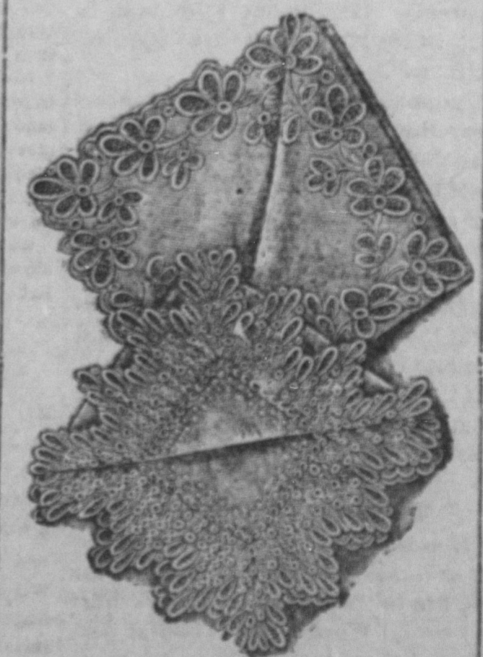


Monogram K. P.



MONOGRAM—H. P.

This illustration gives designs for monograms suitable for table or bed linen.



CREPE DE CHINE HANDKERCHIEFS.

CREPE DE CHINE HANDKERCHIEFS.—These ornamented handkerchiefs are made of crepe de Chine of very delicate tints with borders of embroidered or painted flowers.

DR. FRANCES DICKINSON, one of the Board of Lady Managers of the World's Fair, is the only woman oculist in Chicago. She studied in Germany, after having graduated from medical colleges in this country, and is an authority upon diseases of the eye.

FRANCES CLEMENTINE HECKENMULLER, a Sister of Mercy, has received the Humane Society's medal from the Emperor, for saving a lady from drowning at the risk of her own life in the ornamental lake in the palace grounds at Wilhelmshöhe.

This first vote ever cast in Texas by a woman was deposited there recently by Mrs. Cora Bacon Foster, a successful real-estate agent in Houston. She held that her position as property owner entitled her to a vote.

The Empress Frederick has drawn several sketches during her stay in Paris, among which is a sketch of a number of Parisians engaged in staring at her carriage while she herself stands at the window of the German Embassy looking on. This sketch is to be multiplied and sold for charitable objects.

HORSE NOTES.

—Trixie is with foal.

—James Elliott will campaign Alive this year.

—A few fast moves have been made by the horses at Morris Park.

—At Monmouth Park the horses are doing well and going finely.

—James Rowe will start the horses at the Buffalo running meeting.

—M. F. Dwyer says he has no intention of taking Potomac West this year.

—The annual meeting of the Belmont Driving Club will be held on May 7.

—Mr. Easton's consignment of fillies were shipped to England yesterday.

—The reported death of the broodmare Thora proves to have been incorrect.

—The personal effects of the late Edwin Hart will be sold at auction on May 5.

—The trotting register question will be settled at Chicago.

—Up to date 129 trainers and 74 jockeys have applied for licenses from the Board of Control.

—The Brooklyn Jockey Club's Great American stakes of \$20,000 will soon close.

—Tenny's lameness has caused him to be scratched from the Suburban and Brooklyn handicaps.

—The Country Club, of Brookline, Mass., announces its spring meeting of three days—May 23, 27 and 30.

—The Point Breeze track is being put in fine condition, teams having been at work with harrows all this week.

—All entries for the Cumberland Fair Association's stakes close May 15, with the exception of the Citizens' post stakes.

—Carroll, who is in the Brooklyn handicap at 97 pounds, ran three quarters of a mile recently in 1:14.

—Erin Ben Boru and Duke of Darlington are the stallions at Meadow Brook Park, A. Kilgore, proprietor, Flemington, N. J.

—The scratching of Tenny in the Brooklyn and Suburban will probably stimulate speculation on these events somewhat.

—The stallion Nelson will not appear on American Association tracks this year unless first reinstated by the National Association.

—Hambletonian sired 412.30 performers. His sons sired 783, while his daughters produced 72 that are in the charmed circle.

—Robert Bonner has not yet sent Maud S. to his farm, but the full stakes of the queen, Russia, is there, and she is heavy in foal by Ansel.

—Mrs. M. M. Patterson has sold to H. W. Jefferson a roan Mare by Robert McGregor, dam Uzella (dam of Elgon, 2:30), by Mambrino Patchen.

—The horses are being sent along at Belmont Course. The wheel-harrow did good work in cutting up the manure dressing put on the track.

—James Goldsmith, who has been quite sick, is improving in health and will soon transfer his stable of twenty head to the Hartford track.

—The collapse of the Thompson scheme has left San Francisco sportsmen awaking to the possibility that they may very soon be without a race-course at all.

—The annual sale of the sixty box-stalls and hitching sheds at the Philadelphia Driving Park occurred recently, and the sum realized was \$1137.

—John Metcalf, Harry Hunter and Thomas Grace are at the Point Breeze track with from four to seven horses each. Grace is handling Harry Webster's horses.

—Estabella has dropped this spring, at Village Farm, a filly by Mambrino King. This is the only sister to the great young stallion, Prince Regent: 5-year-old record 2:16; now dead.

—Vallera's victory in the Memphis Derby recently will make this promising son of Springbok more of a favorite for the Kentucky Derby. Vallera is owned by Soraggin Brothers.

—The Prince of Wales has his racing made easy for him as a rule. The Kempton Park officials always provide a special train for him and his party, while the directors supply a free lunch.

—The American Stallion Milton, by Smugler, won a two-and-a-half mile international free-for-all trotting race at Paris recently in 6:44, rate of 2.43 per mile.

—The three cornered tandem race from New York to Albany for \$500 a corner, between John A. Logan Jr., H. K. Bloodgood and John R. Townsend, has been declared off by common agreement.

—Thomas Jefferson, the celebrated stallion, died at the Jefferson stables, Charter Oak Park, Hartford, Conn., on Thursday. He was 28 years of age, had a record of 2:53, and won two \$10,000 races.

—Among the gentlemen who will compose the Board of Review of the National Trotting Association at Chicago on Tuesday, April 28, are P. P. Johnson, David Bonner, George W. Archer and William Edwards.

—Racine, Senator Stanford's great 4-year-old, and that speedy 3-year-old, Rinfax, carried off the honors in their events on the opening day of the Pacific Coast Blood Horse Association last Saturday.

—The winter jumping meetings in England have resulted in great loss to several of the associations, and it is rumored that many of them will stop racing under the Grand National Hunt Rules altogether.

—William Nicholson says ch. g. Royal, record 2:29, never seemed better than he is this spring. Besides Royal Nicholson has the blk. g. Delaware Boy, record 2:30, and a green one. He is working them at Belmont Course.