

OUR PARIS LETTER.

In spite of the continuous disagreeable weather that we have had, we still cling to our faith in the belief that the sunny days will soon be here, and so we resolutely lay aside our winter costumes and array ourselves in the janniest and most delicate of spring costumes.

In the show windows of the most prominent houses, and the parlors of the modistes, everything shows the greatest novelty and most exquisite freshness. All fabrics are delicate in color and of light weight; the hats are marvelous wreaths of most natural flowers; parasols are fascinating beyond description, and a thousand charming inventions are displayed ready to lend their aid as a finishing touch to magnificent costumes. This Spring everything, ribbons, fabrics, even the silk muslins, so soft and supple, show variable colors; their tints reflect the ever changing colors of the opal, and the chameleon like hues of the wings of the *tophophore* mingled with shot color.

For street costumes gray and beige colors predominate. A charming costume, which has just been finished by a leading modiste, is of gray cloth called "*pantalon de cheval*," of which we have spoken before, ornamented with narrow bands of velvet embroidered with steel points. The round corsage is confined by a pale blue satin ribbon and opens on a plastron of gray satin studded with steel points. Large puffs of cloth form the sleeves above the elbow and are joined to deep wristbands of gray satin, also studded like the plastron with steel points. The skirt is quite plain with only a narrow band of gray velvet studded with steel points placed just above the hem. Another robe is beige colored India cashmere with sheath-shaped skirt, very close above and spreading in fulness in wheel shape at the bottom. With this is a very long jacket, the fronts widely open on a chemise of straw-colored silk muslin arranged in *coquilles*; a small basque completes the corsage. A visiting robe of mauve bengaline has two flounces of black Chantilly lace, each about ten inches deep across the front and sides of the skirt; the corsage has a double quilting of lace as bretelles and a drapery of lace on the hips forming paniers. The back of the robe is cut princess shape, the bretelles extend over the shoulders and terminate in a fall of lace at the waistline. The sleeves are plain, close at the wrists and dotted with pearls of jet.

If the hats are marvelous wreaths of flowers what shall we say of the bonnets, toques, capotes, etc. The Greek style of dressing the hair has given a new idea to the milliners, and the result is to say the least a novel coiffure. In front is a cluster of roses from which spring two swallows' wings; two larger wings placed at the sides, cover the wire frame which has been draped with lace and connect the front of the coiffure with a small wreath of roses which surrounds the hair at the back of the head. These wreaths are made of forget-me-nots, and fine ferns and sometimes orchids are seen, instead of roses, on the front. Many capotes are formed of a simple twist of large jet pearls like a Moorish cap, and a little cluster of ostrich tips are placed upright on the centre of the crown.

Large hats are not worn unless they are of the beautiful Italian straw, twisted into the most artistic shapes and covered with flowers. Small hats, in the shape of a plate, without crowns and with narrow brims are preferred. Bronze and yellow are the favorite colors and combine well. *Acacias*, *primroses*, yellow *edelweiss*, *narcissus* and *jouquilles* are the fashionable yellow flowers. A very pretty novelty is a large poppy of black velvet with the underside of yellow satin; the petals and stems, mixed, yellow and black. A cluster of these flowers makes an extremely effective garniture for a black hat.

Parasol handles are in natural wood, often of the same color as the cover; for instance, wood of allspice, of a pretty old rose color with silk to match, or of green citron or orange wood with striped silk of the same shade. Some handles represent hazel nut branches on which are seen nuts in their green coverings; sometimes branches of rose wood decorated with clusters of little roses. On handles of natural wood are placed all sorts of ornaments; flowers, fruits, birds and even vegetables; *panemones*, white and red gooseberries, little peas in half open pods, cloves parrots, swallows, etc., all perfectly imitated as to form and color. As a compliment to these pretty handles are seen beautiful covers. Changeable silk, old gold and blue, with an embroidery of black lace placed on the edge and falling over it is the newest style. There is also black guimpure and Irish guimpure over translucent color; these have cases of fancy silk which are quickly withdrawn at the first appearance of the sun's rays,



No. 1018.

No. 1019.

which are so necessary to the full display of such dainty articles. FELICE LESLIE.



No. 1020.

No. 1015. DRESS SKIRT.—This skirt is of fine wool goods mounted in straight pleats in the back and draped in front by fine pleats over the hips. The front of the skirt is ornamented with embroidery put on in circular shape to simulate a round apron front. Embroidered dress patterns can be made up in this way to great advantage by using the width of the embroidered breadth, for the length of the front of the skirt.

VISITING COSTUMES.—No. 1018. The first costume consists of a gown of heliotrope faille very plainly made; the skirt is trimmed with two flounces of black lace, each from ten to twelve inches deep. The bodice is pointed in front, perfectly plain, and closed in the centre with small buttons. The shoulder cape, or *pelerine*, is made of broad silk with flaring collar of black velvet and lining of fancy striped satin. Togue of heliotrope velvet edged with jet galloon and ornamented with black cock's feathers.



No. 1021.

No. 1019. The second costume is of tan colored goods, the skirt pleated in the back and on the sides. The centre of the front is ornamented with a design, embroidered in silk of a deeper shade, which decreases in width towards the waist line. The pointed bodice has fronts gathered at the shoulders and laid in pleats which meet in a point at the centre of the waist line. The centre of the front, which is flat, is ornamented with a design of embroidery to match that on the skirt, but reversed; the wider portion being placed close to the collar. Straight, high collar, sleeves close from the wrist to above the elbow from which point two full puffs reach to the shoulder.



No. 1015.

No. 1020. SUMMER JACKET.—Our model shows a jacket made of white wool goods trimmed with white moire ribbons. It has a tailor back and fronts adjusted by darts, closed in the centre; the top of the fronts is trimmed with revers and opened in V shape on a false waist-coat closed also in the centre. Straight collar formed by a ribbon. Half large sleeves trimmed with cuffs, ornamented with two rows of ribbon; the same ribbon trims the edge of the jacket and the revers.

No. 1021. PARTY DRESS FOR A GIRL TWELVE YEARS OLD.—Cream-colored bengaline trimmed with ecru guimpure is used for this dress. The straight skirt is finished with a flounce of guimpure. The corsage has the fronts arranged in form of a fish opened over a plastron of guimpure; the fronts are pleated on the shoulders and crossed at the waist, the right front forming a heading from the plastron to the waist. High collar of bengaline. Full sleeves of bengaline terminating in very deep wristbands of guimpure. Pointed belt of bengaline.



No. 1022.

No. 1022. GOWN FOR AN AFTERNOON TEA.—Gown in pale blue *peau de soie*, trimmed with black lace and outlined with gold. The back of the skirt is of blunt *peau de soie* laid in pleats; the front is of fawn-colored surah trimmed with a deep flounce of lace headed with groups of fan-shaped pleatings decorated with bows of pale blue satin ribbon. The round bodice is of *peau de soie* with plastron of fawn-colored surah draped on each side with pleatings of lace. High collar edged with lace; half-long sleeves ornamented on the shoulders by epaulettes of lace and bows of ribbon, and finished with deep frills of lace looped on the inner arm with knots of ribbon. Belt of blue ribbon fastened with a rosette on the right hip.

If thou art not born again, all thy outward reformation is naught; thou hast shut the door, but the thief is still in the house.

We never do evil so thoroughly and heartily as when led to it by an honest, but perverted because mistaken, conscience.

In proportion as one's nature and emotions develop in complexity does their expression gain in directness and simplicity.

Tell your friend that he is looking thin; intellectual people are often thin. He may think you are indirectly complimenting him.

Though a man may not escape his fate, he shall bind her hands in the meshes of her own web and triumph in fulfilling her degrees.

We are apt to forget that the only attribute of a crown is not its lustre; that in proportion as it is precious will it press upon the brows with the weight of responsibility.

A free rein may be given ambition if one is strong and sure of touch. But otherwise there comes disaster more melancholy than that which befall an attempt to drive ambition tandem with love.

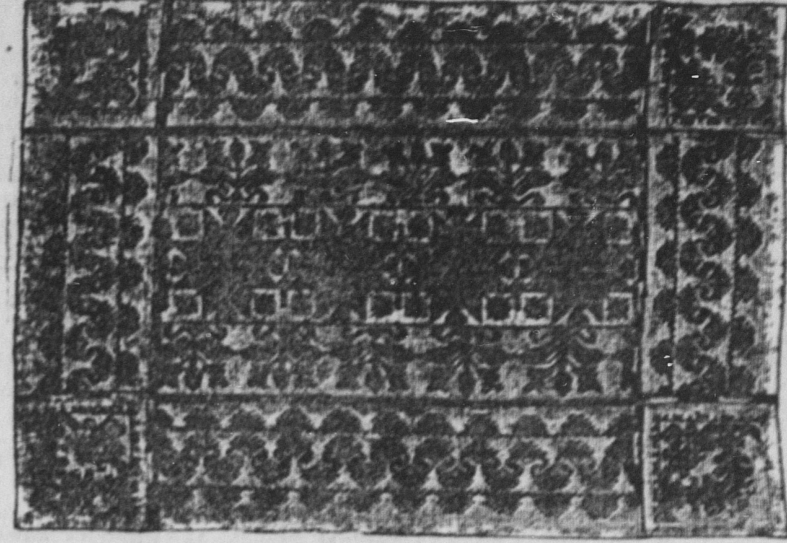
FANCY WORK.

Knowing that our readers are interested in all that pertains to fancy work of every description, we are pleased to give them this week a very interesting article on Hungarian Peasant Embroidery for which we are indebted to the columns of *The Season*.

"Like many other home industries, carried on by the peasants of different countries, which, thanks to the efforts of benevolent ladies of rank, have been turned into a source of regular profit for the poor workers—we especially refer to the Irish schools for lace, crochet, the Mountmellick embroidery, and the Bosnian and Turkish embroidery—the Hungarian peasant work lately—now become quite an article of trade—As far back as 1885 the lovely specimens of embroidery displayed in the peasant rooms 'szoba' in the 'Hazi-Ipar' pavilion of the Exhibition in Budapest attracted general attention.

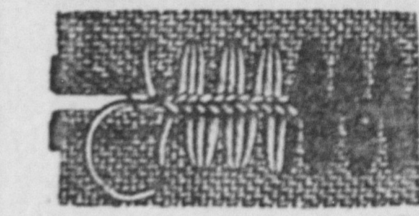
The empress Elizabeth of Austria was much interested in the work and she and the ladies of her court bought large quantities of it. Their example was followed by a great number of the aristocracy, but the limited uses to which it could be put—ornamenting sheets, table cloth and towels—did not offer a wide choice, and rather hindered a more extensive sale of these beautiful and rich embroideries.

Madame de Gyarmathy, wife of the Vice President in Transylvania, has now, out of pure love for her country, undertaken the trouble to enlarge the hitherto narrow restrictions attached to home industry, and so to organize its production and sale as to render it a remunerative undertaking. The women and girls of Transylvania dressed in their becoming national costumes, on which embroidery is never wanting, may be seen sitting before their cottage doors, or in the field, cheerfully singing whilst plying their busy needles, and producing such work as shown in our illustrations. The grand Duchess Marie Valerie ordered three rooms in the castle of Lichtenegg, her new home, to be fitted up with this work. One saloon is in white and light blue, a smoking room cream color with Turk-

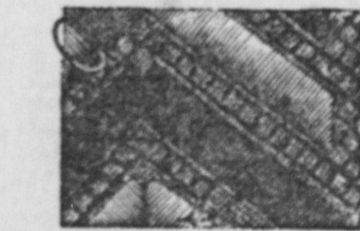


ish red, and a dressing room ecru and white.

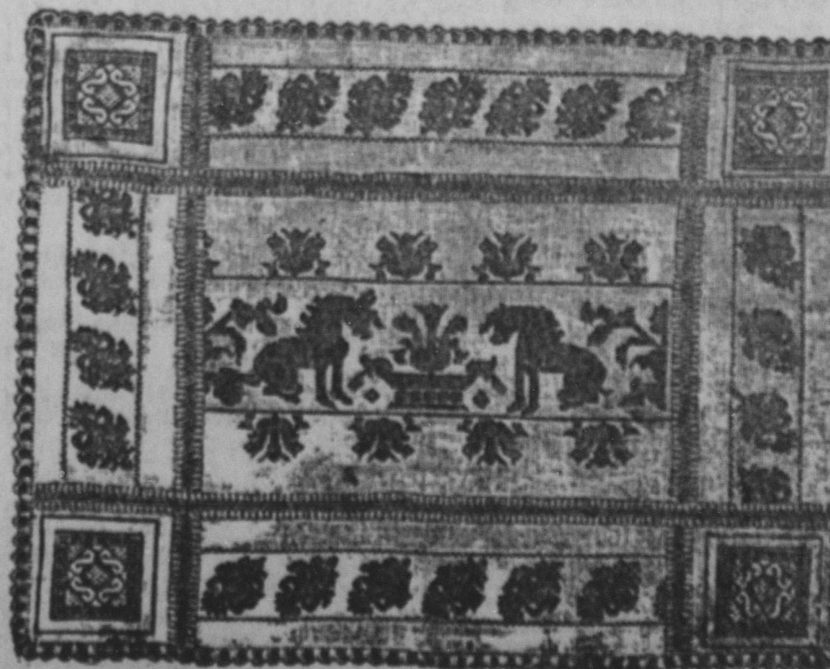
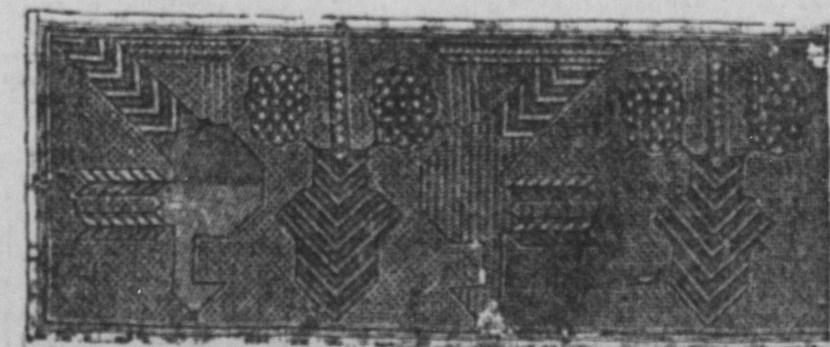
This outfit includes not only the cloths etc., but all the upholstery, cur-



texture, is a specialty of Transylvania and not for general sale. The best substitute is thick home spun linen, but never finished machine-made cloth, for the glossy regular surface spoils the effect of the work. Among the many patterns we have selected two table spreads embroidered with linen thread, and a sofa cover with silk. Both of the former display similar divisions of different size; the one with animals in the centre measures a yard 12 inches long by two yards broad, whilst the other is one yard 24 inches long by one yard broad. The joinings on the first are done with pillow-made red and white thread insertion, and the lace round



the edge is to match. The principal parts of the second cover, and the edge are done in red plait stitch, and the corner squares are worked in white and other fancy stitches. The long cover shows a continuous pattern, a curious ornament is noticeable at the corners, or where the material is joined by a sort of double button-hole stitch, (see detail of work) these button-hole stitches being done with alternate red cotton and white thread. The tree shows the effect of the twisted stitch. The richly decorated sofa cover is worked on white homespun linen, the original pattern being done in flat stitches and the fillings with open work; those marked in squares have pointed esparting fillings. The ground is done with yellowish cordoned silk, the birds and flowers with white and light blue fillole, and the outlines and divisions of the birds' wings are brown. The accompanying small patterns will suffice to explain the different stitches which may be arranged in groups." Ema.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Joy is a subtle elf.  
Be always frank and true,  
Pride frustrates its own design.  
Hope, without an object, cannot live.  
Man is happiest when he forgets himself.

Confide your faults and follies to but few.  
Work, without hope, draws nectar in a sieve.

Society is the master and man the servant.  
He who does nothing is very near doing ill.

A forward child shows a backward parent.  
The everlasting gloomy man can be ignored.

The everlasting funny man is to be dreaded.  
Nothing is more refreshing than true politeness.

There is too much law and too little justice extant.  
The thrifty housewife should take pride in her occupation.

The finest manliness consists in the power of self-recovery.  
Intemperance is a tyrant that a man creates to reign over him.

We must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures.  
Small sands make the mountain, moments the year, and trifles life.

No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting.  
Shallow men believe in luck; strong men believe in cause and effect.

It is something to feel that in your own house you can do as you please.  
By being contemptible we set men's minds to the tune of contempt.

Virtue is like precious odors, more fragrant when they are crushed.  
Next to the virtue, the fun in this world is what we can least spare.

'Tis right to be contented with what we have, but not with what we are.  
A little word is not a little thing, for it may make, and it may mar a king.

If you would have a faithful servant, and one that you like, serve yourself.  
Fix upon that course of life which is best; custom will render it delightful.

As tears soften the heart, so does rain soften the earth that good may come.  
If cleanliness is next to godliness, the Baptists begin their religious life well.

The glider and the refiner of gold see no beauty in a cowslip.  
All that remains of life is death; all that remains of death is a handful of ashes.

It is the greatest possible praise to be praised by a man who is himself deserving of praise.  
Some people see everything connected with themselves and their friends as through a magnifying glass.

Doing nothing for others is the undoing of one's self. We do most good to ourselves when doing for others.  
When thought is too weak to be simply expressed, it is a proof that it should be rejected.

Justice is never so blind but she can tell the difference between a rich and poor man.  
Hope may be the anchor of the soul, but Faith is the wharf at which the soul lies moored.

Above all things always speak the truth; your word must be your bond through life.  
The man who is perpetually hesitating as to which of two things he will do, seldom does either.

It takes a wise man to suffer prosperity, but most any fool can suffer adversity.  
Moral supremacy is the only one which leaves monuments, not ruins behind it.

Goodness is not left to stand alone. He that exemplifies it will have neighbors.  
Truth is established by investigation and delay; falsehood prospers by precipitancy.

Most people would succeed in small things, if they were not troubled with great ambitions.  
An industrious and virtuous education of children is a better inheritance for them than a great estate.

Spurn every kind of affectation and disguise. Have the courage to confess your ignorance and awkwardness.  
The phrase, "Heaven is for the good," rather loses its force when we consider that everybody expects to go there.

Pride, after all, is one of our best friends—it makes us believe we are better and happier than our neighbors.  
The person who argues with a liar has about as much sense as the man who drives in the mud to paint his wagon.

Life is very short, but it doesn't seem so when a fellow is waiting for an over-the-train at a country railway station.