

NEWS FOR THE FAIR SEX.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON NUMEROUS FEMALE TOPICS.

Ladies' House Gown—Ladies' Princess Gown Sashes and Neckwear—Coral May Become Fashionable—Etc., Etc.

LADIES' HOUSE GOWN.

Figured challie is used to develop this graceful house gown and the trimming is of heliotropes colored velvet ribbon, two stripes of which are used at the head of the ruffles and one at the bottom of each.

The waist of the gown has a fitted flaring which is formed of backs, seamed in the center, to which are attached



the side backs by curved seams under-armed pieces and fronts which have doubled darts. The full front and back are gathered and fastened to the yoke portion, the joinings being concealed by a berthallike skirt and give a wateau effect. The skirt portion widens below the waist giving the skirt the additional fullness needed and is trimmed at the bottom with a frill like the one above.

The sleeves are ordinary two seamed snug fitting, save at the top where a little fullness is let in at the shoulders. The wrist has two bands of the velvet, as has also the simple turn-over collar.

SASHES AND NECKWEAR.

Sashes are to be worn not only by children over their white pique cloaks and white dresses, but by women over their white and airy gowns. These sashes are not only seen in solid colors, but in black and white, plaids and the always pretty Roman stripes. The fashionable milliner shows these with great variety of chiffon capes, and choker collars, fancy fronts, and neck pieces that are made of the dainty fabrics in liberty silk, lace net and chiffon.

CORAL MAY BECOME FASHIONABLE.

Queen Margherita of Italy intends to be seen a good deal this season wearing coral jewelry, in order to encourage an industry which of late years has somewhat fallen upon evil days. It would not be surprising if the fashion were to spread to London, as coral is becoming to almost any complexion, and can, of course, be had in any shade from a rose-pink so delicate as to be almost imperceptible, up to a vivid red. If a revival of the dainty old filigree setting should also set in, the outcome should mean many pretty things of a kind that would be quite a novelty to the girls of today.

READY-MADE TRIMMINGS.

It is really impossible to think of any garnishment for summer muslins, dancing, calling or dinner dresses, that the counters cannot supply all ready made. No woman ever thinks these days of making with her own hands a decorative front, the ruffles for the net, silk or muslin skirts, the bright collar for her tailor dress or a bit of jabot to smarten up a rather solem suit. The economy of the home-made is slight when, so cheaply and so beautifully put together, she can purchase yards of muslin or chiffon flossing all decorated with rows or narrow gathered ribbon or lines of fine chiffon puffing, called bouillonne. Delicate lisle and liberty silk ruffling come with a lace edging or completely tucked, or charmingly bordered with fringes of violets, cowslips, etc. Silk and linen appliques in white and colors and lisle quillings are noticeable among the garnishments for spring dresses, just as clusters of laburnam and brilliant silk pomegranate blooms are set forth amid the millinery novelties.

NEW PROFESSION FOR WOMEN.

A new trade has sprung up among wage earning women, and one so essentially feminine in its nature that it seems so strange no woman ever thought of it before. It is that of "professional mender." The professional mender is a boon beyond comparison to the helpless bachelor, and an enemy to the sighing maid. What bachelor with comfortable apartments and beautifully cared for wardrobe is going to give up his freedom for the thralldom of marriage bonds?

By this industry many a woman is earning a comfortable living in a perfectly womanly way. The woman, who originated the scheme said to me:

"I was at my wits end. I had never been brought up to work and did not even know how to set to work to find anything to do. I had gone to see a very wealthy woman one day, who has been exceedingly kind to me, and assisted me in many ways. Talking over my inability to find steady employment which would not need experience, she proposed that while waiting for something to turn up I should try and get some mending or plain sewing to do.

"I did get some work of this kind, but it was spasmodic, and not very remunerative. One day she sent for me. 'I have an idea for you,' she said. 'Would you be willing to mend for bachelors; in fact, to take the entire supervision of their wardrobes?'"

"Certainly I should," I replied, 'if you thought I was capable of it.'"

"You can try at any rate, and if you are the woman I think you are I am certain you will succeed."

"So I tried and have succeeded beyond my wildest anticipations. How did she happen to hit upon the scheme? Why, in this way:—She was talking me over with her husband, telling him my struggle to eke out a bare existence by mending and plain sewing and he had suggested that I should try to get some bachelors to give me their mending to do. He spoke to two or three bachelor friends at his club, and the result was that I had three bachelor customers in three different apartments, and through them I was given employment by friends of theirs in the same houses, so that now I have more than I can possibly attend to, and have started a cousin in the same business."

"I have certain hours and certain days for each customer. I do not begin my work until after eleven o'clock in the morning. The majority of bachelors do not leave their rooms until between nine and ten o'clock, and then they have to be put in order by the servants of the house."

"I keep the clothes brushed and laid carefully away. I went to a tailoring establishment and learned exactly how to fold a pair of trousers, how to hang or fold a coat, and am just as adept at the work now as a valet would be. Of course, where there is a valet kept I confine myself strictly to mending, but when there is no valet I do everything necessary to be done."

"I receive \$3 a week for taking entire charge and \$1.50 for mending. I have at the present time eight customers, and I make \$21 per week. I leave my bill, with the extras that I have paid out during the week, on the customer's desk or dresser, and I always find the money waiting for me on Monday morning when I go to attend to the laundry, or the valet hands it to me. I have had not the slightest trouble so far, and I really do not anticipate any."

"I do everything for a man, as far as keeping his wardrobe in order is concerned. If I see that his collars and cuffs are beginning to show signs of wear I make a little memorandum to that effect and pin it to my bill, reminding him to replenish the articles which I have been authorized to throw away. If his underwear or pajamas show signs of giving out I do the same thing."—New York Herald.

LADIES' PRINCESS GOWN.

No gown shows to better advantage a well rounded figure than a fitted princess gown. The one we illustrate is made of one of the latest designs of China silk in periwinkle blue and white, and trimmed with bands of lace insertion over ribbon of the same color. The gown is slightly trained in accordance with the latest demand of style in regard to reception dresses and admits of an elaborate decoration as the fancy dictates. The fronts are fitted by double bust and under arm



seams, the second seam on each side extends to the bottom of the skirt. The backs fit smoothly to a point slightly below the waist line. They are seamed in the center and joined to the fronts by side backs which extend to the bottom of the skirt. The fullness of the skirt portion is laid in deep underlying plaits and falls in graceful folds to the floor in a slight train. The lining is closed in the center front. The outside hooks over to the left side under the insertion and ribbon. The sleeves are close fitting two seamed with a little fullness at the top according with the latest fashion. At the wrist is a band of insertion and ribbon and a graceful flounce of lace. The neck has a high standing collar with which is worn a broad ribbon tied in the back which matches the ribbon at the waist.

A PLUCKY PHILADELPHIA GIRL.

A plucky Philadelphia girl at eighteen years of age supported herself as a public school teacher. In the course of twelve years she has made six journeys to Europe, and learned to speak six modern languages, during which time she has supported herself entirely by her earnings as a teacher and has paid every penny of her traveling expenses. Her first journey was made to England and Scotland, and during the next two school years she saved money for her second trip to France, Belgium and Holland, and learned French during her leisure hours. Returning to her school work she began to study German, and at the end of two years was ready for a journey to the Rhine and to Vienna, and back via Dresden and Berlin to Bremen. At the end of the next two years she had learned Italian, and started for Rome. She visited the im-

portant Italian cities and spent two weeks in Switzerland. Two years later she was in Spain, and was able to speak the language of that country. During the past year she has made her sixth journey to Europe, visiting Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Russia. She has a fair knowledge of Swedish and says that she can make herself understood in Russian.

FASHION NOTES.

Plaid and plain shot silks are combined in the new silk petticoats.

Appliques of black lace on white lisse are one of the features of the new millinery.

Bunches of white violets freshen up many a winter hat, giving it a very spring-like look.

Three narrow ruffles of black satin, with satin baby ribbon on the edge, freshen up a black satin skirt wonderfully.

Black and white checked wool gowns trimmed with black velvet ribbon are to be among the stylish costumes of the season.

The new toques are larger than those of last season, but the difference is most noticeable in the width from side to side.

The redingote style of dress is to be very much worn for spring walking costumes, and a full front in the waist, caught down with a belt is one of the features.

Beige-colored gowns, trimmed with bias bands of the same stitched on and made with a glimpse of finely tucked white batiste, will be very much worn for morning dress when the warm days come.

Jeweled buttons are seen on handsome gowns of silk and velvet. Turquoise, rubies, emeralds and topazes are the jewels most in use. The buttons are of medium size and are really works of art.

The latest veil is a scarf two yards long. It is edged with lace finished on the ends with a flounce, ties at one end at the back, and the ends are carried around in front and tied in a bow under the chin.

A novelty in hairpins is a narrow band of gold two or three inches long, studded with real or imitation jewels, with a gold hairpin attached. When the pin is in place the band shuts down and confines the stray locks.

The approved petticoat to wear with the new sheath skirts fits very tightly over the hips, is plain down the front, with a narrow ruffle at the bottom, and is finished with deep full ruffles at the back, drawn together with ribbon run in at the head to give the plain effect in front.

Yak lace is revived again, and the new laces generally are beautiful beyond description. In the heavy varieties, white chenille figures very plentifully, outlining the pattern with fine effect. This sort of lace is used for sleeves and gumpes, yokes, and entire waists.

It is the ambition of the woman, who would be fashionable this season to be slender, so all her garments are fashioned to further her efforts in this direction in case nature has been too generous in her proportions. Sleeves are small, and the tight-fitting bodice is coming in again as a proper accompaniment for the sheathlike skirt.

A Noble Earl's Sense of Humor.

Earl Durham, who visited us during the present month, writes the Chicago correspondent of the New York Times, remaining incognito under the family name of Lambton, was a guest of the Bohemian Club, where old Uncle George Bromley, well known in New York club circles, told some choice Western tales for his benefit. Everybody laughed except the noble Earl, who sat silent and seemingly bored. His lassitude moved someone to comment good naturedly upon the English lack of appreciation of American humor.

"Nonsense," said the Briton; "an Englishman understands humor as well as any man in the world."

"I think so, too," affirmed Uncle George, seriously. "I never mind these boys, Lambton," he continued. "I'll tell you a funny story all for yourself. Several years ago a friend of mine was camping in Arizona. One night he was awakened by a peculiar numbness of his leg. He turned down the blanket and found that an immense rattlesnake had coiled itself around the limb. He seized his revolver, and was about to blow the rattler's head off, when the snake looked at him with such a pitiful expression that, not having the heart to murder such a confiding reptile, he dropped the revolver, gently unwound the snake, and kept him as a pet. When he returned to San Francisco he brought the snake with him, and gave it the run of the house, where it was a charming play-fellow for the children and company for his wife when business kept him out late. One night the family was awakened by a terrific noise below stairs. Rushing down, they found that a burglar had broken into the dining room. There he had been seized by the snake, which held him firmly in his coils, and had its tail out of the window, rattling for the police."

There was a moment's dead silence. Then the Englishman laughed. "That is one on you, Mr. Bromley," he said. "You don't rattle for police here; you whistle for them!"

A Collection of Human Heads.

A French professor is said to be the owner of a collection of 920 heads, representing the various known races of people on the globe.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

WANTED, A MAP.

Another map, an please you, sir! For why, we cannot understand, in all your great geography. There is no map of Fairyland.

Another map, and please you, sir! And, afterward, describe in full how Fairyland is famed for pearls, and fleeces made from golden wool.

And prancing, gold-shod, milk-white steeds.

With bridles set with jewel-eyes; Tell how the Fairy rivers run, And where the Fairy mountains rise;

And of the Fairy-folk, their ways And customs, if it please you, sir; Then of the journey there, how long For any speedy traveller.

Another map, an please you, sir! And would you kindly not delay: Sister and I would dearly like To learn our lesson there to-day!

—[Mary E. Wilkins.]

SAW A CHARMING SNAKE.

W. R. Mason of Bakersfield, Kern County, Cal., tells the following story of snake-charming to the Scientific American: "I was riding in California and had off-saddled to eat some lunch, when I saw a gopher snake stretched along the limb of a tree in which was a flock of excited small birds. About eighteen inches distant from the snake's head was a bird whose companions were making the noise. The bird was perfectly motionless, and, to all appearances, looked straight at the snake, which was gradually creeping toward it. When about eight inches away the snake struck and caught the bird by the breast. The captured bird and its companions struggled with the snake, but it lowered itself to the ground, carrying the bird in its mouth."

WHERE THE OLD MONEY GOES.

In the United States bureau of engraving and printing at Washington hundreds of thousands of dollars in torn and soiled bills are destroyed each day. The money comes from banks in all parts of the country, is counted by an expert, is then cut in two, lengthwise, and each half is re-counted by different persons. The money is then reduced to a pulp by disintegrating chemicals, the bills being turned into a large revolving cylinder partially filled with the chemicals. This process is called maceration, and the pulp so obtained is pressed into sheets resembling white cardboard and is then sold for about \$40 per ton. In this manner the government pays the expense of maceration. The doors to the maceration rooms are carefully guarded and can be entered only by three officials who have keys.

HORSES CAN COUNT.

Proofs of the horse's power of counting are curious. Dr. Timofeff mentions a peasant's horse, which, when working, invariably stopped to rest after the twentieth furrow. It did not matter how long the field happened to be, nor how tired the animal might feel, it never stopped until the twentieth furrow had been made, and so exact was the count that the farmer could tell the number of furrows by noting how many times the horse had halted.

In another village there was a horse which reckoned distances by posts, and knew what hour it was by the striking of the clock. Dr. Timofeff was driving from one town to another, and at the twenty-second verst (two-thirds of a mile) one of the horses stopped suddenly. The driver got down from his seat and gave the animal a measure of oats, at the same time explaining to the passenger that the horse was accustomed to being fed every twenty-fifth verst. This time it had made a mistake, but it could not be blamed, as it did not judge of the distance traversed by its own fatigue or hunger, but by counting the verst posts along the road. It had mistaken for some of these posts three others which greatly resembled them, but which merely served to mark the boundary of the state forest.

The same horse was always fed in the stable at noon, and Dr. Timofeff himself observed that whenever a neighboring church clock began to strike the animal raised its head and listened attentively. When the strokes were less than twelve it put down its head sadly, but it displayed every sign of joyful expectation when it heard twelve strokes and knew that dinner time had arrived.

TWO HEROIC DOGS.

One afternoon a fire occurred in a tenement house. In half an hour the firemen had the flames quenched. As the men burst into one of the smoky rooms after putting out the fire they found a poodle dog that had been deserted by his mistress in the wild rush for life. His once white coat was blackened with soot and his little eyes watery with the smoky vapor. But he seemed to be attending strictly to business. He was carrying something in his mouth from the better rooms to the front. One of the men caught him and took from his mouth a live kitten. A basket containing seven small kittens had been left in the kitchen, nearer the burning stairway than the other rooms, and the poodle with more than usual dog sense had carried every kitten to the front rooms. The owner of the dog screamed with delight when the brute returned. As an illustration of the extraordinary fidelity of dogs to men this story is told. Muffy, a poodle, started

on a journey with his master, a French merchant. Before beginning their journey Muffy noticed that his master received a largess of money in gold. That he counted it carefully and placed it in a bag, attached to the latter part of his saddle, for it was too heavy to put in his pocket. On the way, the weather being sultry and the distance long, the master stopped in a shady place to rest. He placed the bag of gold near him in the bushes. After satisfying himself with a sandwich he fell asleep. In an hour or so he awoke and resumed his journey, forgetting all about his gold. Not so with the dog. He tried his best to seize and carry the bag, but it was too heavy. Dropping it he ran to his master and tried every way to make him understand his loss. He pulled his coat, he ran ahead snapping at the horse's nose, trying to stop him. His behavior was such that his master became convinced that he was mad. So thinking he drew his pistol and shot him. In a little while he remembered his gold, and then the whole meaning of the dog's madness flashed upon him. Hastening back he found a trail of blood from the place where he shot the dog to the place where he rested. And there he found the faithful animal guarding with dying breath his master's gold.

PUSS AND THE PELICAN.

Behind a big, old-fashioned house, in a large city, there lived a large pelican. The bird was allowed the liberty of the yard, around which he would walk sedately. He could not fly far, and he had lived there so long that he seemed content to stay.

One day, when the pelican was taking his morning exercise, a little kitten from a neighbor's yard came strolling a'long the fence. When she first saw the big bird her eyes opened in wonder, her tail grew big, and her hair stood out. But presently, as the pelican did not hurt her, she became used to him, and jumped down into the yard to investigate.

Now, whether the pelican happened to be in a lively mood, and wanted a game of play with somebody, or whether he remembered the way his father used to catch fish by throwing them up in the air and catching them again, while he was a little nesting and lived in a tree beside a river, I don't know. But the pelican picked up the little kitten, and giving it a toss in the air, opened its huge mouth as if to catch it as it came down.

Puss seemed to think it was rather good fun. With a quick motion, she turned over, and came to the ground on her feet. Then she scampered around Mr. Pelican's legs, nearly upsetting him. He turned, made another grab at the little cat, and gave her another toss. Down came kitty again, landing safely on the grass, not at all frightened at this new rough companion. She seemed to enter into the sport of the thing, and stood still to be tossed as if she rather liked it.

The pelican got tired first. His master came out of the house with a good dinner of fish for him. He picked up a fish, gave it a toss, and caught and swallowed it. Puss, who was looking on with open eyes, came in for a share of the pelican's dinner, and they have been the best of friends ever since.

Seven Wonders of the World.

The Century is publishing a series of articles on "The Seven Wonders of the World," written by Professor Benjamin Ide Wheeler, with illustrations by Castaigne. Professor Wheeler says:

We have no indication of the existence of a cycle of seven wonders until about the end of the second century B. C. Then appears, in an epigram of Antipater of Sidon, an enumeration of seven great works, which prove to be the very ones later appearing as the seven wonders. They are: (1) the Walls of Babylon; (2) the Statue of Zeus at Olympia; (3) the Hanging Gardens of Semiramis at Babylon; (4) the Colossus of Rhodes; (5) the Pyramids of Memphis; (6) the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus; (7) the Temple of Diana (Artemis) at Ephesus. Within the next century, Varro, by his leisurely allusion to the septem opera, betrays that the saying had already assumed current proverbial form. Diodorus, in the second half of the same century (first B. C.), speaks, too, of "the so-called seven works;" and Strabo, a little later, uses the very phrase, "the seven wonders." From this time on, at least, the septem miracula have an assured place in all common lore of Rome. The little Greek treatise, "On the Seven Wonders," which has come down to us in incomplete form, and under the name of Philo of Byzantium, an engineer of the second century B. C., is really, as its style and artificial purisms amply show, the work of some rhetorician of the fifth or sixth century after Christ, and in no wise chargeable against the otherwise blameless record of the excellent man of facts and machines. The list it gives is the same as that found in Antipater's epigram.

A Queer Habit of Seward's.

Great men have queer habits. At the session of the Society for Political Study the members were discussing the life and services of William H. Seward. When his life was attempted by an assassin he escaped through the habit he had of starting, when startled in his sleep, and rolling rapidly out of bed to the floor. This was too much for the assassin, who fled without finishing his task. The great secretary's wife once remarked, it is reported, that Mr. Seward invariably rolled under the bed whenever aroused by even the smallest noise or a very bad dream.—New York Mail and Express.

Value in a Dead Elephant.

Diamond, the second largest elephant in the world, died recently at Peru, Ind. He was a circus elephant and was valued at \$10,000. When he was in winter quarters he was most unmanageable, and when he went on the rampage it required from 20 to 40 men to subdue him. One day recently Diamond intimated to his keeper that there was going to be trouble, and the keeper undertook to tame him. Diamond was chained fast, and the keepers began to beat him with flat sticks. In his struggles to release himself he became entangled in the chains and fell. His massive limbs were hurriedly released, but Diamond did not get up. He had made his last fight against the authority of the show boss. Some near affection had brought him to his end, no doubt on account of the fright and the beating the keepers gave him. When the fact was really established that Diamond was dead a telegram was sent to Mr. B. E. Wallace, in Chicago, notifying him of his big loss. Mr. Wallace told a friend in Chicago of the death of Diamond, and the gentleman bought the carcass of the dead elephant for \$200, after a dicker of five minutes. The Chicago man made a pretty good investment, for he sold the skin, skeleton and tusks of the dead elephant within two hours to a leather manufacturer in New York for \$750. The deal was closed by wire and the skull and tusks, the latter three and one-half feet long, and the hide were shipped to New York. The hide filled a china hoghead.

Diamond was eleven feet four inches high; the hide was 22 feet eight inches wide. It is estimated that the hide will make 350 bags and pocket books, which will be worth from \$12 to \$20 each.

The "Drug Store Smell."

"The smell of a drug store," said a recently returned traveler to a Washington Star reporter, "is a very distinctive thing, and the peculiarity of it is the same in all parts of the world. My first impression in this matter was noticing that three or four drug stores in Baltimore, where I spent my youthful days, all had the same smell. From this city I moved to New York, and from there to New Orleans. Though all other smells varied in the different cities, that of the drug store was always the same. Circumstances then sent me to many European cities, and, though the arrangement of drug stores or apothecaries, as they are called abroad, are somewhat different from what they are in this country, they all smell alike. The smell is a result of the combination of smells and not like the smell of any one particular thing. No particular drug ever seems to have the advantage over any other, and no druggist that I have ever talked to on the subject has ever given me the same idea as to his opinion of the leading smell, but they are always identical. The little apothecaries in the sands of Egypt smell like the fashionable pharmacies of New York, London, Paris or St. Petersburg. Some years ago the minstrel performers used to tell a gag as to the smell of drug stores. It generally wound up that sponges were the cause of the smell. Now, the fact is, sponges have their own and a very distinctive smell, and they are generally exposed in drug stores, but I have found that the smell of the drug store is the same whether sponges are there or not."

How You Bicycle in Holland.

There are no restrictions of any sort that I know of in Holland. You may ride anywhere you want, on the tow-path, the dikes, or the brick streets. You can see more of the country from a cycle than in any other way, as the roads are invariably higher than the canals or the railways, and you can ride from one end to the other of the most interesting part in the day. In riding on tow-paths, however, it is well to look out for tow and other ropes, if you do not want to be suddenly swept into a canal. From Rotterdam to The Hague, Haarlem, the dead cities of the Zuyder Zee, back down the great dike to Amsterdam, thence to Dordrecht, and up the Rhine, if you like. The children of that country, it might be remarked, are fender incarnate, and have a European reputation for deviltry. As almost everybody speaks more or less English, there is little trouble in getting about. Holland and Austro-Hungary are the most expensive countries next to England to travel in, unless you are acquainted with the ways and the language.—Joseph Pennell, in Harper's Magazine.

A Windowless Building.

A New York architect, a brother of the head of the Department of Buildings during Mayor Strong's term, has designed the plan of a windowless building, in which slight recesses resembling windows shall be built in the solid walls for ornamentation and to relieve the monotony of what would be otherwise a blank wall. The ventilation of the building is provided for by means of pipes in the walls, the fresh air being drawn by suction from the top of the building and the foul air being forced out through the others. The building is to be lighted by electricity. The advantages of such a building are claimed to be the economy of space where the land is costly, immunity from fire, there being no window openings to let in flames from the outside, and the securement through its system of ventilation fortified by germ destroyers in the pipes, of good air to breathe.

The royal crown of Persia, which dates back to remote ages, is in the form of a pot of flowers, surmounted by an uncut ruby the size of a hen's egg.