

SELECTIONS FOR A NEWSPAPER.

Most people think the selections of suitable matter for a newspaper the easiest part of the business. How great an error. It is by all means the most difficult. To look over and over hundreds of exchange papers every week, for which to select enough for one, especially when the question is not what shall but what shall not be selected, is no easy task.

THE CHOLERA.

The cold comes, and the cholera goes.—The accounts from the North and West generally concur in authorizing the conclusion that the pest is declining and will hardly survive the first frost. This will be a source of universal satisfaction. It is true that the disease has not been so extensive in its ravages this summer, as on two or three of its previous visits, but its positive attacks have been, perhaps, more malignant than ever.

The disease has always committed its chief ravages among those in a low and weak condition of body and mind. This has characterized it from its origin. The bulk of the population of Asia, being crowded into towns and cities, is very poorly fed, and the people among whom it has made the greatest havoc—the Hindoos and the Chinese—are closely packed, and live on a few handfuls of rice, or a few vegetables, that would not sustain an American child.

"THEY SAY."—Whenever anybody comes to you with a story concerning somebody or anything, prefacing it with a stereotyped phrase, "they say," you may rest assured that nine times out of ten that report, remark or story, is a lie.

Miscellaneous.

A SERENADE.

In a late HOME JOURNAL is a poem named a Serenade, which has much of the beauty of the true poem, while it is pervaded with a humor that captivates his modern etiquette and formality, as witness the following stanzas:

Come to the enclosure, my fair;
Come to the window, my dove;
The night is remarkably airy,
And very propitious to love!

ANECDOTES OF FASHION.

A volume on this subject might be made very curious and entertaining, for our ancestors were no less vacillating, and perhaps more capriciously grotesque, though with infinitely less taste, than the present generation.

The origin of many fashions was in the endeavor to conceal some deformity of the inventor; hence, the cushions, ruffs, hoops, and other monstrous devices.

Patches were invented in England in the reign of Edward VI., by a foreign lady who thus ingeniously covered a wen on her neck. When the Spectator wrote full bottomed wigs were invented by a French barber, one DuVillier, whose name they perpetuated, for the purpose of concealing an elevation on the shoulder of the Dauphin.

Shoes with very long points, half two feet in length, were invented by Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Anjou, to conceal a large excrescence on one of his feet.

Others, on the contrary, adopted fashions to set off their peculiar beauties—as Isabella of Bavaria, remarkable for her gallantry and the fairness of her complexion, introduced the fashion of leaving the shoulders and part of the neck uncovered.

Fashion sometimes originate in some temporary event, as after the battle of Steenkirk, where the allies wore long cravats, by which the French frequently sized them (a circumstance perpetuated on the medals of Louis XIV., cravats were called Steenkirks; and after the battle of Ramillies, wigs received that denomination.

In the year 1733, the men had no hats, but a little chapeau de bras; in 1715, they wore a very small hat; in 1753 they wore an enormous one, as may be seen in Jeffrey's curious 'Collections of Habits in all Nations.' Old Putesia, in his very rare work, 'The Art of Poesia,' page 239, on the present topic gives some curious information:—Henry VIII., caused his own head, and all his courtiers, to be polled, and his beard to be cut short; before that time it was thought more decent, both for old men and young, to be all shaven, and wear long hair either round or square.

Fashions, indeed, have been carried to so extravagant a length as to have become a public offence, and to have required the interference of government.—Short and tight breeches were so much the rage in France, that Charles V. was compelled to banish this disgusting mode by edicts, which may be found in Mezey. It is curious that the very same fashion was the complaint in the remote period of Chaucer.

In the reign of Elizabeth of England, the reverse of all this took place; then the mode of enormous breeches was pushed to a most laughable excess. The bucks of the day stuffed out their breeches with rags, feathers and other matters, till they brought them out to a most enormous size. They resembled wool packs, and at public spectacles they were obliged to raise scaffolds for the seats of these ponderous beaus.

Philadelphia.

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