## COFATIERESTROHOMEN



 | Box Pleated Walking Skirt. |
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| Box pleated skirts are always grace- | material and is adapted both to the

coat suits and the odd skirts. In the
illustration is is made of white Sici-
ian mohair stitched with beldting sill ian mohair stitched with belding silk,
but it suits the linens and piques of
the present, and also the wour ma-
therials that will be in demand before
tere many weeks. Again, it can be util-
ized for pongee and for sllk, so that
it becomes a very generaly useful
and serviceable model.. The stitched
hem is an all sufficient finish, but if

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| THE PULPIT. <br> A SCHOLARLY SUNDAY SERMON BY THE REV. W. L. WATKINSON. Subject: Christ and Common Things. |  |
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| Melbourne.-The following helpful sermon, entitled, "Christ and Com- |  |
| mon Things," was contributed recenty to the West Australian Baptist by the Rev. W. L. Watkinson: |  |
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| The first remarkable point in the records of our Lord's earthly career is the extent of His relation to com- |  |
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| is the extent of His relation to common things. The supernatural and the marvelous are, of course, in evi- |  |
| dence in the successive stages of His mission, yet the prevailing aspect is that of human commonplace. |  |
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| This key was struck at the beginning. "Shepherds abiding in the field, and keeping watch by night |  |
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| field, and keeping watch the tidings of His coming; and "gloritying and praising God," the humble men re- |  |
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| turned from the splendors of His advent once more to resume their lowly duties. Born in a stable and cradled |  |
| duties. Born in a stable and cradled in a manger reduces His infancy to stark commonplace. The rustic home and village life of Nazareth linked |  |
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| and village life of Nazareth linked Him with the cottages of all time. His occupation, again, brings Him close |  |
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| to the overwhelming host of workers. Carlyle writes: "Not 'Arms and the Man;' 'Tools and the Man;' tha |  |
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| Lord for thirty years give visible expression to this epic? And if ever a great singer should worthily renderthat theme, must not the central |  |
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| Figure of his large poetry be the Carpenter of Nazareth? His work |  |
| was not daintily wrought in fairy workshop of artist, goldsmith or au-thor; but rough hammer, saw and |  |
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| thor; but rough hammer, saw andnlummet were consecrated by His plummet were consecrated toiling million was hallowed by His example. |  |
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| In the days of "His showing unto Israel" He remained faithful to simple people and scenes. Our Lord ompanions of |  |
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| His sublime career should be obscure and simple. He identified Himself with the common lot. <br> The great artists of the past who |  |
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| signs and symbols-He is haloed with splendor, adorned with jewels, angels are His bodyguard, Heaven opens |  |
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| above His head, magi, priests and kings lay treasures at His feet.we know that all this is very remote from fact. The modern realist who |  |
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| from fact. The modern realist who pictures our Lord as one of the peo- |  |
| sacerdotal, or imperial insignia, is much nearer to New Testament truth. How truly human was pur Lord! |  |
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| How completely He identified Himself with us and the common lot! He seemed ever watchful lest any rag of |  |
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| purple or gold, any likeness of kingly diadem or mitre, any obtrusion of |  |
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| majestic and privileged greatness, either earthly or unearthly, shouldseem to separate Him from the teemseem to separate Him from the teem- |  |
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| ing hosts who by hard labor in many <br> spheres earn their daily bread. <br> Yet whilst our Lord stands in con- |  |
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| stant relation to common things of every kind, He manifests no impatience, never once refers to His lowli- |  |
| tience, never once refers to His lowliness as if it were a matter of injustice and monstrousness. Genera- |  |
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| tions have regarded with wonder the spectacle of Alfred the Great lodging |  |
| in the neatherd's hut; it is felt as an act of almost incredible condescension and patriotism that Peter the Great |  |
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| was willing to work in our dockyard as a common shfpwright, and whenever royalty visits a cottage, or chats |  |
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| with a piowman or shopkeeper, the fact must be proclaimed as something in the very nature of the case as |  |
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| tounding. Yet Christ seems never to have been conscious of this amazing |  |
| disparity between one rank and another. On no occasion does He express surprise or regret that He is |  |
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| peasant rather than a prince, a carpenter rather than a captain, that He is encrased with minor matters or |  |
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| humble life rather than with the marvelous and magnificent. <br> Whenever the New Testament |  |
| fers to the humiliation of our Lord, the emphasis is placed on the moral side, not on the circumstantial. The |  |
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| marvel is that He descended from the realms of glory to dwell with a world of sinners, not that He passed by |  |
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| princes and palaces to act with shepherds and fishermen. He humbled |  |
| herds and fishermen. He humbled |  |
| not to the cottage of the peasant, the bench of the craftsman, or the boat of the fisher-this is never reckoned any part of His bumiliation. |  |
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| We do not find our Lord condoling with Himself on account of His un- distinguished associations. For suf- |  |
| ficent purpose He may incidentally refer to His mean estate, yet never by way of apology or complaint. He |  |
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| does not attack the rich and powerful on the grounds of their official status; |  |
| whenever He judges or rebukes them it is strictly on moral and religious grounds. He is no acrid, vitupera- |  |
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| tive, truculent scorner of the great, as if in some way they did Him injustice by belng such. envy the opulent, brif |  |
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| envy the opulent, brilliant, or powerful. He betrays no jealousy, because He knew none. |  |
| imitate the great, the wealthy, or the famous. We often |  |
| weathy, or the democracy in pathetic and ridiculous ways imitate the nobility |  |
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| ridiculous ways imitate the nobinty selves with false finery, cheap jewelry, and in sundry ways aping the |  |
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| that in their secret hearts they covetthe pomps of greatness, and wouldfully share them if opportunity |  |
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| served-with one feather the pleThere is nothing of this in Christ, no attempt to escape the common lot as |  |
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| attempt to escape the common lot as if it were something to be ashamed of, something to escape from. Whilst |  |
| of, something to escape from. Whilstrecognizing social gradations, our Lord knew no servility or soreness. |  |
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| He was rich, great, satisfied in His clear sense of self-respect and in the His serene eyes was undazzled by splendor; His great mind appreciated the moral significance, not the magnitude of circumstance; He was content to work out his career, sublime beyond that of all mortals, in the by the vast multitude of His brethren. <br> Great souls recognize the worth of common things. The greater the |  |
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