

Mattia's Love Affairs.

He had been away from his hills about three months; and, do what one would, for twenty days or a month he could not be made to smile. He had bawled like an ass on his threshing floor, which, encircled by tomatoes and pumpkins, was as big as a city square; and he had stamped about the farmhouse, yelling "No." He had spent hours in his beloved chestnut grove, all coiled together like a hedge hog; while, on the night before his departure, he had been found in the stable, hugging the cow closely and blubbering in her ear.

At eight of such a lubber, brown as a tench, loose jointed as an ape and rank enough to be scented a mile away, his employers uttered a shriek. Mattia opened wide his mouth, his eyes and his nostrils, bit his hat brim and stood nodding yes and no. After a week of forced ablations they regarded him with less disfavor. He no longer smelt bad, and his hair was less unruly, while the two tears that kept ever welling up in his eyes made their azure most beautifully transparent.

They put him into a plaid suit, with brass buttons and a slouch hat, whose brim flapped out like the wings of an immense harvest fly, and hanging a basket on his arm and sending him on trifling errands, they finally succeeded in fetching a sorry sort of smile to his phiz. Mattia scratched his pate, wherein all those little matters buzzed like a swarm of horse flies, opened the door and dashed like a streak down the streets of Florence.

For a time he felt such a dizziness that he believed he was going mad. Then he began to look about him; he stretched his arms and legs and raised his head; he gave a jaunter bend to his broad hat and even dared, now and then, to pinch the maid servants in the market betwixt benches loaded with garden stuff and tables covered with plucked fowls.

His employers beheld him transformed. It was Mattia here and Mattia there; the whole house was full of Mattia, while, down in the kitchen, Nanna and he seemed to see who could raise the most racket.

Nanna was a tall blonde, with whitish eyes and skinny face; she had dwelt there for a half dozen years, making stews and pastry, and dreaming probably of somebody on her own account.

The first day that Nanna and Mattia met in the kitchen they stood staring at each other like a couple of goats making ready to butt. Yet, when Mattia had had six or seven washings, Nanna slackened rope, while he drew it in! The spy, pallid, lanky maid put him in mind of his beloved tassels of corn on the slopes of La Borra, where in August the quails whistled, while he lay stretched on the ground, dead tired, beneath the burning kiss of the sun.

She gave him a pinch, and laughed long and merrily. "Why, what are you spooning over?" Nanna blurted out one evening, planting herself squarely in front of Mattia, who had assumed a mysterious air, and was gazing at the moon through the casement. He gave a start. He was thinking of Leprina, but beheld only Nanna.

"I know!" she went on, while he held his peace, "I know, you ugly plowboy!"

"Nanna, be still." "No, no, no! You are just baked in love, like any tile!" "It?" "You!" "It!"

Mattia rose to his feet and appeared to wish to make some sort of protest, but merely sat down again. "You humbug!" Here the scene ended; but there was poison in Nanna's heart. Mattia had the honey, and was keeping a close mouth.

He had set Leprina upon the altar of his hopes, and fancied how she would look up among his hills, all affection for him, with flowers about her and the full sunlight on her pretty little face. He fancied her there, on the tomato-festooned threshing floor, and in the farm house during the long winter evenings, with the fire flashes reflected in her black eyes, and he there, too, close by, envied, but so contented, overwhelming her with his caresses.

Upon such dreams Cluffo, the butcher, threw, so to speak, a jug of ice cold water. "Leprina," quoth he, "seems an angel dropped from the skies; but she isn't. Let Mattia beware. A man forewarned is a man forearmed!"

The result of this warning was a fist fight, and Mattia changed his butcher, without changing his mind in the least. Leprina smiled on him more sweetly than ever, and made him believe that he beheld a paradise, with seraphim and cherubim more gloriously depicted than by Dante Alighieri himself.

The first chance that Mattia had of hugging Leprina was one evening, just behind the wall of the Viale. The laurel boughs shielded them; silence surrounded them, while the moon cast its white radiance upon the little villas over the way. Amid the shadows could be discerned the girl's pretty head, studiously inclined, and Mattia's visage uplifted, with its glistening eyes and its open mouth.

And above this little tableau, perched amid the leafage like an owl, was Nanna, apparently upon the point of pouncing down upon them. Instead, however, when Leprina and Mattia put their heads together for a resonant kiss, Nanna vanished, with a stirring of the branches that caused the couple to turn round and look up, and then stare at each other.

You shall attend to the cow, and I will work as of old. You shall see how Gianna, Venanzia, Galletta di Memo and Secca di Mestolo will be eaten up with bile. Leprina, won't you answer me?"

Leprina bent her head still further. She was ready to burst with laughter; she attend to the cow? She the wife of that block of flesh? Mother Eve deliver her!

They were in the Via Montebello. In the distance the tall acacias of the Cascine made one open one's mouth, to breathe with all one's lungs, while from the Fosso Macinante rose the exhalations from the stagnant water and sun-fermented mud.

Leprina looked at the beautiful earrings that Mattia had bought for her with a little pile of money hoarded for a different and nobler purpose—when he was still thinking about his old mother.

Mattia carried his bundle of clothes to a mean room in the Via Nova, where Leprina had promised to meet him again.

He now awaited her there, striding up and down, and, in fancy, fending the slender little figure, whose like had never been seen at Maona among the hills.

When he had been obliged to part from her at the street corner, he had sighed with sufficient force to have extinguished a street lamp, had one been lighted; and he had scratched his noddle, and given most languishing looks. The gravity of the step he was about to take now impressed him fully.

Not Nanna's wild-eyed face, warnings and threats, nor his employer's orders to return at once to Maona, nor his own secret misgivings, could avail to restrain him, for Leprina had promised to go to the ends of the earth with him.

"Until later!" he had exclaimed, while Leprina had answered "Good-by," and walked off, with her eyes fastened on the gold pendants.



New York City.—Striped materials are so much in vogue and so generally becoming that such a waist as this one, which is especially well adapted to their use, is much in demand. In the illustration a pretty gray and white marquisette is



trimmed with gray silk banding and combined with chemisette of lace, but all materials that are soft and thin enough to be tucked successfully are appropriate, the many silks and silk and wool fabrics and also the pretty silk and cotton mixtures that are so varied and so well liked. The plain

House Sleeves.

Sleeves are constantly in need of remodeling, for no detail of dress changes its style more often, and consequently such satisfactory models as these are always in demand. They provide a number of different sorts, and will be found adapted to every style of shirt waist or blouse. In the illustration No. 1 is made of a dotted batiste with cuff of embroidery, while No. 2 is made of linen and Nos. 3 and 4 of handkerchief lawn, No. 4 being trimmed with pleating, while No. 3 is finished with banding, but trimming and finish can be varied again and again, the sleeves being adapted not alone to the washable materials, but also to the silk and wool waistings that already are being made. The cuff of No. 1 affords a special opportunity for the use of the hand work that is so distinctive and smart, while No. 3 shows a straight band cuff that can be treated in various ways, and Nos. 2 and 4 provide the best possible styles for the tailored waist.

Each sleeve is cut in one piece. No. 1 is gathered and joined to a band to which the cuff is attached, No. 2 is finished in regulation shirt waist style, No. 3 is gathered and attached to the straight band cuff and No. 4 is tucked and joined to a band, to which the roll-over cuff is seamed.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is for either long sleeves one and three-fourth yards twenty-one, one and five-eighth yards twenty-seven or seven-eighth yard forty-four inches wide; for either el-



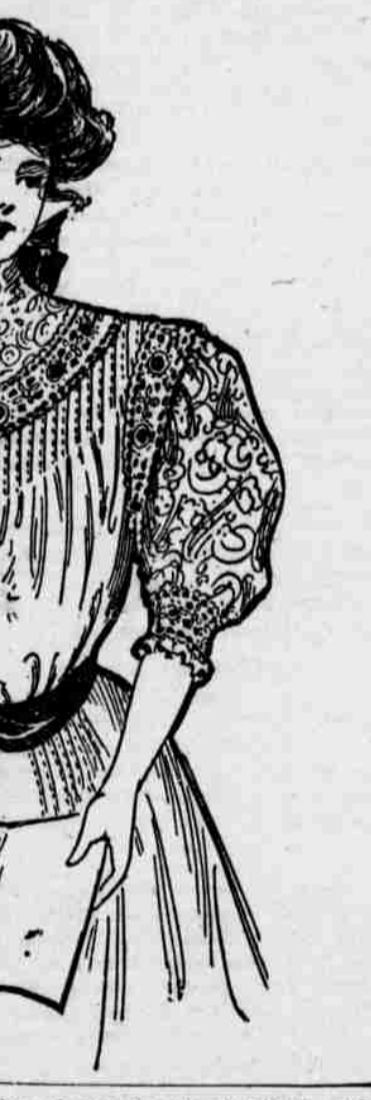
silk banding is effective and fashionable, but it is not obligatory, for any applique could be substituted that may be preferred. Again, the design is not confined to striped materials, as it can be made from plain or figured ones quite as well. Crepe de chine and chiffon taffeta suit it admirably well and would be charming with trimming of heavy lace, either in self color or in a lighter tone as liked.

The waist is made with combined tucked and plain portions and is cut out at the neck so that it can be worn with or without the chemisette. The chemisette is entirely separate and is arranged under the waist and closed at the back, but the closing of the waist proper is made beneath the edge of the left front. There are comfortably full sleeves that can be either tucked or gathered at their lower edges and that are trimmed with shaped bands.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is four yards twenty-one, three and one-half yards twenty-seven or two yards forty-four inches wide, five-eighth yard of all-over lace and six and three-fourth yards of banding.

Low Shoes Popular. Low shoes in brown leather with white duck tops and white ribbon ties promise to be popular.

Low, Flat Heels. One of the most sensational changes of the present season has been the substitution of low, flat heels instead of high ones usually approved by the chic Parisienne. For some time past many of the aristocrats have worn sandal shoes in the house, especially with Early Victoria toilets, and out of doors no one who is smart thinks of wearing now the long knife-shaped heel, choosing instead one with a flat heel and a square toe.



bow sleeves one and one-eighth yards twenty-one, one yard twenty-seven or five-eighth yard forty-four inches



FINANCE AND TRADE REVIEW

DUN'S WEEKLY SUMMARY

Interest centers in fall retail trade and results are all that could be desired. There is no sectional difference on this point, all leading cities reporting a liberal distribution of seasonable wearing apparel. Supplementary orders are coming to wholesale and jobbing houses, and satisfactory results with autumn goods encourage manufacturers to extend preparations for the next season.

Mercantile collections have also improved, October payments being fairly well met thus far, although rates for commercial paper are abnormally high. Among the manufacturers the most notable increase in orders is reported by New England shoe shops, while there is no lullness at cotton mills, and the reduction of steel output is not significant. In some lines there is a sentiment of conservatism that eliminates much of the customary speculative business, and this is regarded with satisfaction by those who appreciate the importance of moderation until the financial pressure is reduced.

No change has occurred in the condition of the iron and steel industry. Few sales of pig are reported, and some sections of the market are slightly weaker, but as a rule, steadiness prevails, and Bessemer is \$3.50 per ton higher than a year ago. Export trade has broadened in several sections of the market, large tonnage of wire going to Canada.

A better feeling exists in primary markets for cotton goods, while mills are producing as rapidly as possible without overtaxing orders to any appreciable extent. Jobbers in the west continue to transact a large business, although the money market is still a restraining feature. Fewer goods are sacrificed by second hands, removing the most depressing influence.

Narrow print cloths are sold well up to next spring, while wide goods are taken less freely.

MARKETS.

PITTSBURGH.	
Wheat—No. 2 red.....	90 92
Rye—No. 2.....	73 74
Corn—No. 2 yellow, ear.....	73 72
No. 3 yellow, shelled.....	61 62
Mixed ear.....	51 54
Oats—No. 2 white.....	46 47
No. 3 white.....	46 47
Flour—Winter patent.....	4 31 4 31
Fancy straight winters.....	19 03 19 03
Hay—No. 1 Timothy.....	17 50 18 00
Clover No. 1.....	34 00 35 00
Feed—No. 1 white mid. ton.....	28 00 28 50
Brown middlings.....	25 00 25 50
Brass, bulk.....	10 00 10 25
Straw—Wheat.....	10 00 10 50
Oat.....	10 00 11 50

Dairy Products.	
Butter—Elgin creamery.....	30 31
Ohio creamery.....	31 34
Fancy country roll.....	15 30
Cheese—Ohio, new.....	11 12
New York, new.....	14 15

Poultry, Etc.	
Hens—per lb.....	17 30
Chickens—dressed.....	18 30
Eggs—Pa. and Ohio, fresh.....	20 21

Fruits and Vegetables.	
Potatoes—Fancy white per bu.....	73 75
Cabbage—per ton.....	15 00 16 00
Onions—per barrel.....	1 31 4 45

BALTIMORE.	
Flour—Winter Patent.....	4 75 4 11
Wheat—No. 2 red.....	1 08
Corn—Mixed.....	74 75
Eggs.....	24 41
Butter—Ohio creamery.....	35 37

PHILADELPHIA.	
Flour—Winter Patent.....	4 30 4 71
Wheat—No. 2 red.....	1 08
Corn—No. 2 mixed.....	47 47
Oats—No. 2 white.....	41 41
Butter—Creamery.....	30 30
Eggs—Pennsylvania farms.....	22 22

NEW YORK.	
Flour—Patents.....	4 60 4 73
Wheat—No. 2 red.....	1 03
Corn—No. 2.....	86 67
Oats—No. 2 white.....	51 52
Butter—Creamery.....	43 47
Eggs—State and Pennsylvania.....	22 23

LIVE STOCK.	
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Union Stock Yards, Pittsburg.	
Cattle.	
Extra, 1,420 to 1,600 lbs.....	6 50 6 40
Prime, 1,300 to 1,400 lbs.....	5 90 6 25
Good, 1,200 to 1,300 lbs.....	5 60 5 90
Fair, 1,000 to 1,100 lbs.....	5 15 5 31
Common, 700 to 900 lbs.....	4 00 4 30
Oxen.....	3 25 4 00
Bulls.....	3 00 3 25
Cows.....	1 50 3 75
Heifers, 700 to 1,000.....	2 30 4 11
Fresh Cows and Springers.....	18 30 19 00

Hogs.	
Prime heavy.....	6 00 6 50
Prime medium weight.....	6 00 6 50
Best heavy Yorkers.....	6 00 6 50
Good light Yorkers.....	6 00 6 50
Pigs.....	5 00 5 50
Roughs.....	5 11 5 10
Stags.....	5 31 1 00

Sheep.	
Prime wethers, clipped.....	5 63 1 75
Good mixed.....	5 25 5 50
Fair mixed ewes and wethers.....	6 00 6 50
Culls and common.....	2 00 3 60
Lambs.....	4 50 7 75

Calves.	
Veal calves.....	5 00 8 50
Heavy and thin calves.....	3 00 5 00

Simple Tunnel Full of Radium. A newspaper at Geneva claims Prof. Joly has completed a geological examination of specimens of the strata collected from borings for the Simplon tunnel. He found richer traces of radium than any hitherto discovered in Europe. He believes the presence of these deposits caused the abnormal heat experienced in building the tunnel.

Why Currants Are Nutritious. The reason why currants are so remarkably nutritious is that they consist, to a very large degree, of saccharine in its most easily digestible form—that of grape sugar. The piquant flavor of the currant, which adds so much to its pleasantness as a food, is derived from the valuable percentage of tartaric acid which the berry contains. Potash is also present in the form of cream of tartar and is undoubtedly of dietetic value.—Ladies' Pictorial.