

There is no chance, no destiny, no fate, Can circunvent, can hinder, or control The tirm resolve of a determined soul. (iffus count for nothing; will alone is great, All things give way before it, soon or late, What obstacle can stay the mighty force Of the sea-seeking river in its course, Or cause the ascending orb of day to wait. Or cause the ascending ore or may as the serves Each well-born soul must win what it deserves Let the fool prate of luck. The fortunate is he whose enrices purpose never swerves, Whose slightest action or inaction serves The one great aim. Why even Death stunde still And waits an hour sometimes, for such a will. Ella Wheeler Wilcar.

FOR THE CRITIC.

LETTERS TO COUSIN CARYL.

Dear Cousin Cary/,-The subject of dress-reform occupies the feminine mind now a-days to a great extent. Dress ought to be beautiful so far as it can; to please the eye, to gratify the artistic sense, to harmonize with womanhood, which was meant in itself to be beautiful. There is no virtue in ugliness, or any safe guard against vanity in an uncouth, unbecoming gar-ment, and a beautiful woman in a beautiful dress is as pure a source of delight as the exquisite shape and hue and fragrance of the blossoms of

designt as the exquisite shalls and nue and tragrance of the blossoms of June. At the same time it should combine the first principles ind ress, health, comfort, adaptability, heauty and simplicity. Some day our women will learn that to be beautiful they must be healthy; that to be healthy they must make a study of rational dress; that the human form as God made it is levelier than any device of the dressmaker. There will be more individuality in dress, but less violation of fundamental law; just as many beautiful gowns, but a great many more plain, simple, substantial ones to take the place of the flimsy creations of an uneducated taste.

But after all, I say to every woman with brains and common sense, do not go to a dress reformer to be told what you ought to wear outside or underneath. Use your own common sense and your natural sense of modesty, remembering that without hes ' and strength you cannot be of use. The grown woman who has not invention and ingenuity enough to arrange her own clothing had better not try to work on charity committees or even to direct a bousehold.

If we we were all ton times more independent of each other in matters of fashion, my dear, we should be better off. Now don't call me strong-minded or other hateful names for that !

You wanted to know about the baby's outfit. Well, when poor Mary's children were left to my care ten years ago I had become quite out of patience with the uncomfortable, unbygienic methods of clothing helpless infancy, and determined to evolve "out of my own head" (as the boy said he made the gate,) something a little more practical and useful. This was the result: 1st, a short shirt; 2nd, a waist; 3rd, one or two skirts; 4th, a dress. The shirt was of worn flannol—frequently made from a soft, partlyworn under vest of my own—short, in preference to the long pattern of the "Gertrude suit," because it thus becomes needless to change it through the day, as it escapes being soiled. The waist, of cotton in summer, (heavier in winter and with sleeves,) and with a row of buttons for attaching the skirt or skirts. These may be one or more according to the season, more or less elaborate according to the occasion, and usually moderately short; for riding out on a cold day, however, a longer, heavier one may be added, which will

out on a cold day, however, a longer, heavier one may be added, which will wrap the little feet more securely than any other garment. The dress may be a simple slip, or a gored dress, trimmed much or little according to the mother's taste; for myself I think the simpler the better, as being the more appropriate to the innocant little being it is to cover. After babyhood up to the age of nine, Mary's children have worn nothing next the skin but flamel, and for this purpose I have found the well-known "Shsker" flamel most satisfactory. Of course the "Sanitary all-wool" is the *ideal* in its various grades, but is much more expensive and far loss durable. Of the "Sbaker" there are several grades, and we may find for summer wear one quite light, which, made with short sleeves, keeps the for summer wear one quite light, which, made with short sleeves, keeps the little wearer comfortable, while guarding against sudden chill. The heavier qualities are excellent for the colder season, made with sleeves down to the wrist.

l have found this mode of dress entirely satisfactory; and you cannot find two healthior, happier children than Bess and Mollie.

I was in town the other day and happened to be going by Stearns' during a sale of fancy work. You know they have the very prettiest things there, as well as the newest. I thought of your bare marble-top parlor table. I went in and saw the table spreads, and "when seen made a rote on." Among them a spread for a small table is made of mahogany colored velours, bound with silk braid, which has a row of tassels in the middle. When finished it forms a fringe ; either side is right ride, as they are both alike. A lovely table scarf for an antique oak stand measures thirty-seven inches in longth, is of olive green plush with a stripe in centre of old gold figured silk. The scarf is lined with canton flaunel to match. Where the silk and plush are sewed together cover with old gold silk cord.

I think the spread would be prettier for your parlor, don't you, as you want to hide that cold-looking marble? I got ever so many new ideas that

day. White China silk scarfs are very pretty to throw over casels or pictures, and are easily and simply made. There can be either hem-stitched, fringed, or trimmed with lace. Sometimes they are painted. One has a spray of field daisies on one end and some yellow roses on the other. Another has