

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

A COLUMN OF GOSSIP AND HINTS FOR OLD AND YOUNG GIRLS.

What Women All Over the World are Talking and Thinking About.

A moderate-sized household, that is to say, a family of some three or four persons, requires but two servants in view of the sub-division of labor by outside aid. The laundresses do the washing, the baker sends in the bread and the con- cierge looks after the halls and staircases, carries parcels, brings up the trunks and goes on long trips with messages. The maid unites the functions of house- maid and waitress, has abundant time in the afternoons to keep the family gar- ments in good repair, and she is gen- erally sufficiently skillful with her needle to alter and rearrange dresses, retine skirts or ball dresses, etc. She can attire her mistress for a ball as well as wait nimble- ly and dexterously at table. In fact, she understands the refinements of house- hold service far better than her drudgery, being quick to take hints as to the grad- ing of hovers or fans, for the adornment of the table, the arranging of glass and china, etc., and also how to redrape the tulle or crape on a ball dress, how to place in floral garnitures, and such like dainty details. Her hands are not spoiled by scrubbing floors or rubbing out clothes, and though she cannot make dresses or dress hair like a regular lady's maid, she is quite fitted for the minor de- tails of personal service. In fact, the best French housemaids often prefer to pay the con- cierge to do the heavier part of their work, such as washing windows and mirrors, or thoroughly cleaning a room, to doing it themselves.—Paris Letter to Philadelphia Telegraph.

"Renting articles for occasions," said a New York jeweler, "is a growing feature with us. It is hardly a regular business, but a number of the large houses are, to an extent. They call it accommo- dating their friends, but they collect fees. It is not improbable that it will grow in this city to the proportions it has assumed in New York. There is a woman in this city who frequently lets fifty thousand or seventy-five thousand dollars' worth of jewels in an evening. They blaze on their wearers' persons, and nobody knows they are only borrowed glitter. Who are the borrowers in this city? Mostly men. You would not think it. You would guess that feminine vanity was at the bottom of the business. But the male is the valiant, let me tell you. Be- sides, women usually own more gems than men. The articles loaned are diamonds principally—studs, collar-buttons, rings, sleeve-buttons, etc. Men want them for receptions, weddings, and din- ners. Women borrow bracelets, and occasionally a necklace. Now, a magnifi- cent necklace can be got up for three thousand five hundred, or four thousand dollars, that the non-professional observer will think worth ten thousand dollars. Fancy the feelings of a woman who wears such an article at a swell ball? She's happy, isn't she? Well, such an article has been rented several times this win- ter. Jewellers, of course, do not let these valuables to people they do not know. They exact security for the most expen- sive. Articles of vertu and braca-brac for adorning a room are often rented, as are all of these must be returned early the next morning."

Mr. Worth recently remarked to a re- porter: "I find that every country pro- duces beautiful faces, graceful figures, and lovely dispositions, as well as the con- traries. I suppose Russian ladies are the greatest dancers in the world; Eng- lish women are just proud of their per- fect complexions; the French lead the world in real elegance, and the American ladies impress me, as well as they do, in which they wear gorgeous gowns. Nothing overpowers them. You ask me if fabu- lous sums are sometimes paid for dresses. It is quite impossible to make any esti- mate as to that. If you begin putting on gold threads, jewels, etc., of course there is no limit to the cost. Some years ago, a Peruvian dress paid us one hundred and twenty thousand francs for a single gown—one hundred and eighty thou- sand francs being the cost of the lace. A few weeks ago, we sold a cloak for forty-five thousand francs, of which forty-four thousand francs went for the fur." We count among our patrons the ladies of all the courts in the civilized world, that is all, with a single excep- tion. Queen Victoria has never hono- red us with her patronage. The other day, a telegram came from the Empress of Rus- sia: "Send me a dinner-dress." Nothing more. We are left absolute freedom as to style and material. Not that the em- press is indifferent in the matter of dress; quite the contrary. She will some- times require that all the ladies' cos- tumes, at a certain ball, shall be pink or red, or blue. And her own toilets are al- ways masterpieces of elegance. The point is that she trusts our judgment rather than her own."

Tee-gowns would seem to gain favor more and more. At country-house par- ties they are universally worn at tea- time. After a long walk in the lanes, or even after a long drive, it is delightful to cast off heavy wooden dresses, with thick boots, and don the easy, soft, flowing tee-gowns, which are at the same time be- coming. In London they are the fashion for home dinner wear, and probably this is why they are made at all events to ap- pear to fit more closely than they origi- nally did. It is not considered that they are in good style if in any way they sug- gest a dressing-gown or wrapper; and they are nearly all trimmed now with the costly tinsel galloons, in which the metal gives just a sufficient feeling of

talk or to assert itself without glitter, subduing and mellowing the tints. Very wonderful tee-gowns appear on the stage, but perhaps the most splendid of all is that worn by Mrs. Bernard Secor in "As in a Looking Glass," principally composed of red crepe, which swishes the limbs in most graceful fashion. She wears it open in the death scene, showing a white-silk vest beneath, invisible be- fore. Red tee-gowns are worn much more for the embroidery upon them, there is no admixture of colors.

The ceremony of presentation at the Italian court (writes a Roman correspon- dent) is far more graceful and less oner- ous than that which takes place in Lon- don. The Italian presentation takes place at a reasonable time of the night—i. e., ten o'clock—and though low-necked dresses are de rigueur, there is no sumptu- ous law to regulate the degree of low- ness, nor are trains obligatory. All the ladies about to be presented, and the gentlemen in attendance on them, meet at the reception-room which was lighted with, it seemed to me, thousands of candles; they were arranged accord- ing to their various nationalities, and talked at their ease. Suddenly there came a rush in the further end of the room— all sprang to their feet, and we saw that the queen had entered, and was beginning her round. The mistress of ceremonies, the Marchioness Villamagna, read each name from the list, and presented the owner to her majesty, who spoke a few pleasant words to each person, bowed slightly, and passed on. On being pre- sented, the ladies bowed and the gen- tlemen bowed profoundly. The queen looked charming in a pale-green and sil- ver costume, and fulfilled her office most graciously. She is very quick and intel- ligent, and generally manages to say something apt and to the point to each person. The queen had addressed some question to an American lady, who, either through nervousness or because she could not understand the foreign accent, hesitated in replying. Her daughter, stand- ing by her, answered in her stead. "I spoke to your mother, mademoiselle," said Queen Margaret, and passed on without a word more to either. Another compatriot went to the other ex- treme, and was so nervous that her knees shook under her, and she could not find voice to answer at all when ad- dressed. Having completed the round, her majesty dropped a magnificent sweeping courtesy to the whole room (her courtesy is famous, and imitable by any one in the court), and went into the next apartment where were all the un- attached gentlemen. The king ought to be right to receive them, but such cere- monies are irksome to him, and he passes them on to his wife. The latter re- ceives her suit at the door, and repeat- ed the ceremony of the first room, accom- panied by the gentlemen of the court household only. She then retired, and we were free to go to supper or home.

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1.45 p. m.—For Fredericton and intermediate points.

8.20 p. m.—(Except Saturday night)—For Bangor, Portland, Boston, and all points west, except Saturday and Sunday nights, for Houlton, Woodstock, St. Stephen, Grand Falls and Edmundston, with Pullman Parlor Car for Boston.

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