

Our English Letter.

(From our own Correspondent.)

LONDON, June 13th, 1892.

This has been quite a week of congratulations and birthday festivities. First and foremost, of course, was the Queen's birthday on the 24th, and I am sure there is not one of her millions of sub-



MISS FELLOWS.

jects, both at home and abroad, who has not wished "Many happy returns of the day." I never can understand how it is that her Majesty's birthday is not "kept" on the correct day, usually any festivities and holidays connected with it take place on the Saturday before or after May 24th, this year the 25th was the day chosen for the official celebration. There is a very pretty ceremony "Trooping the Color," which takes place annually at the Horse Guards' Parade on Queen's birthday. It would take me too long to give a full description of the proceedings, but we Londoners think it one of the prettiest of sights, and it never fails to bring together crowds, composed of all classes of the people. Any number of state dinners were also given on that day, of course the principal one was that given by Lord Salisbury, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and his guests included all the foreign ambassadors now in London. As you know the Queen confers a great many "Birthday Honors." The most popular one this year was the title of Duke of York for Prince George. Apropos of the title, I believe Prince George will be the twelfth of that name. The first Duke of York was the fifth son of Edward III., and I notice among those princes who have borne the name many have died young or have met with an untimely end. The second duke was killed at Agincourt in 1415; his nephew who succeeded him was slain at Wakefield. The fourth duke was afterwards Edward IV. The fifth duke was one of those unfortunate young princes murdered in the Tower 1483. The sixth duke was Henry Tudor, afterwards Henry VIII. The title then remained in abeyance until 1605, when Charles Stuart, afterwards Charles I., was made Duke of York. James II. was the next to bear the title before his accession to the throne. The next duke was Ernest, brother of George I., created to it in 1716, and died in 1728. In 1760 Edward, brother of George III., received the title and died in 1767. The last to bear it was the father of George IV. He died 1827 and the title has since been in abeyance. Of course, the topic of the hour is the Royal Danish Golden wedding, and the papers are full of accounts and portraits of the family party. If we may judge from photos and engraving, both the King and Queen look remarkably young for their age, they were born in 1818 and 1817 respectively; presumably "our Princess inherits her youthful appearance from her parents. King Christian IX. is, I believe, somewhat singular among the crowned heads of Europe. He is generally considered to be a constitutional monarch, who for twenty years has defied the constitution. Nevertheless he is respected by the whole continent and enjoys great popularity in his own country, as is clearly proved by the festivities which have been organized in Copenhagen in honor of his golden wedding day. In this democratic age it appears, as in this case, that high personal character and domestic virtue appeal more strongly to the sympathies of the public than strict constitutional rule. King Christian's character is irreproachable, and his political shortcomings have been lost sight of in the bright example he has set in his domestic life. The little King of Spain has just lately celebrated his sixth birthday, and among the

facts relating to the day, we are told that he was so pleased with a beautiful tricycle sent to him by his grandmother, the ex-Queen Isabella, that he himself "took the trouble to write and thank her for the present." I am inclined to think this juvenile sovereign must be an unusually talented young person, if with any amount of trouble he can compose and write a letter of thanks "all himself," at the tender age of six years. The little king's health has always been a source of anxiety, but he is now so much better that there is every hope he is outgrowing the weakness which has been the trouble ever since his birth. I promised to send you sketches of one or two of the robes worn at the Drawing-rooms, here are two of the prettiest. That worn by Miss M. Fellows was quite an ideal toilette for a youthful *debutante*. It was a white satin veiled with tulle and showered over with daisies. A fringe of the same flowers edged the skirt, corsage, and rich train of Pekin *poult de soie*. The second sketch is that of the robe worn by Countess Evelyn Metaxa. The rich pure white satin court train had a shell pleating all round the bottom; the petticoat was of white silk, embroidered with silver cord in Greek key pattern round the hem; the corsage was exceedingly pretty bengaline silk, with chiffon sleeves and cross-belt also embroidered with silver cord in Greek key pattern. Princess Christian was, of course, in mourning at both the drawing-rooms, as were also other members of the royal family, and black gowns were worn by the ladies connected with the diplomatic corps. There are fashions in bouquets as well as in everything else, and this year the change of fashion is particularly noticeable. Not a scrap of wire must be used, not anything else to make the bouquets stiff and ungraceful; no, they must be truly rural looking arrangements, wild and unrestricted. Grasses and green foliage are much in vogue, and many of the drawing room

say that these latter are actually and indeed taking the bread out of the mouths of their poor and needy sisters. Of late years it has been the fashion for people of ample means to take up some form of work or another not merely as a pastime and interest but also for the sake of gain, and in doing this they are quite unconsciously, we feel sure, doing real and grievous harm to those whose sole livelihood depends upon their success or failure in obtaining remunerative work." If only some of our richer sisters would lay these remarks to heart. I have just space enough left to recommend a charming book which has lately helped to pass a few idle hours. "Famous People I Have Met," by Mrs. George Augustus Sala. The descriptive portraits are most cleverly drawn and there are fac simile letters to each. Be sure to read it if you get the opportunity.

Annie Vaughan

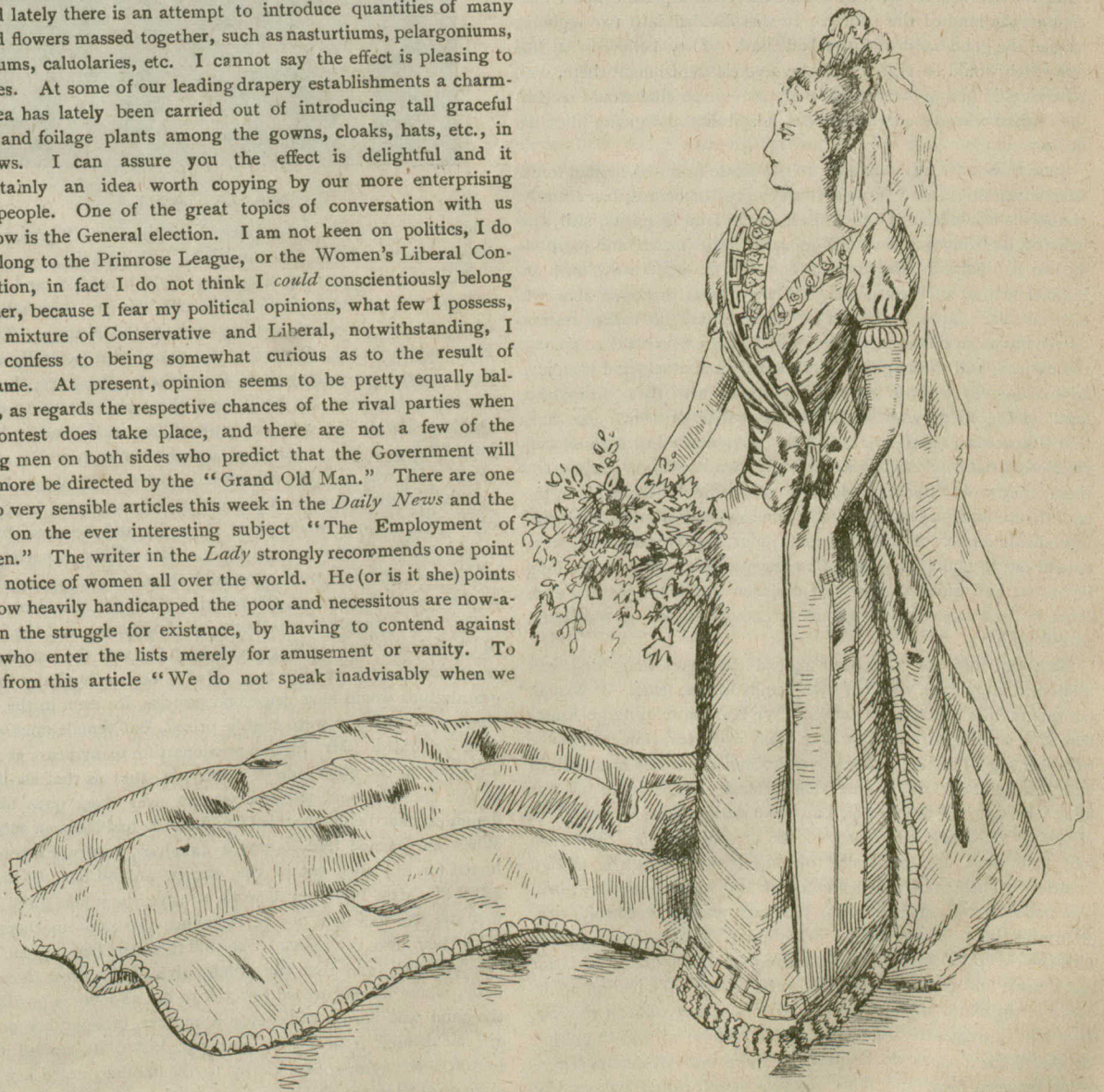
When To Answer Letters.

If possible answer a letter directly. This to the busy housewife may be out of the question, but at any rate preserve the letter, and, before answering, read it over carefully, noting the questions asked, if any, and attending to them before you go into other details which may be to you more interesting, but can wait. You would consider it very rude of any one if you asked a question in conversation and no attention was paid to it. The same thing applies in your correspondence, for are you not talking by mail? Do not delay answering a letter longer than is absolutely necessary, for delay only makes it harder to render yourself interesting, and is the cause of the oft-repeated, "Oh, I never know what to say." To remedy this, if you intend to keep up a correspondence, jot down each day any little piece of news or anything that particularly interests you.

THERE is, now-a-days, a great cry to teach the girls to be good housekeepers; why not teach the boys to be helpful instead of helpless. Besides laying the foundation for habits of neatness, order and helpfulness, some of the time of active boyhood days will be spent where it should be, with the mother instead of on the street.

A GENTLEMAN representing the interests of one of the American magazines was commissioned recently to approach Alexander Dumas with a view of securing a certain piece of literary work from the French novelist. But Dumas was obdurate, although the most alluring terms were held out to him. The fact of the matter is that Dumas has never allowed himself to forget the bitter grudge he bears against Americans for the lack of international copyright which has deprived him of any royalties on his published works in this country. He has always claimed that he lost a fortune in "Camille" alone, and this so embittered him that a proposition to write for an American periodical rouses his anger as much to-day as it did twenty years ago. Argument has always failed to induce Dumas to look at the matter from any other standpoint.

bouquets were masses of lightly arranged roses, lilac, lilies, etc., among feathery green and tied flowing ribbon streamers. What a change from last season! when everything in that line was stiff and formal. Our window boxes are quite a sight just now, daisies, of course, are always much in request for the windows, but I have noticed lately there is an attempt to introduce quantities of many colored flowers massed together, such as nasturtiums, pelargoniums, geraniums, calceolaries, etc. I cannot say the effect is pleasing to my eyes. At some of our leading drapery establishments a charming idea has lately been carried out of introducing tall graceful palms and foliage plants among the gowns, cloaks, hats, etc., in windows. I can assure you the effect is delightful and it is certainly an idea worth copying by our more enterprising tradespeople. One of the great topics of conversation with us just now is the General election. I am not keen on politics, I do not belong to the Primrose League, or the Women's Liberal Confederation, in fact I do not think I could conscientiously belong to either, because I fear my political opinions, what few I possess, are a mixture of Conservative and Liberal, notwithstanding, I must confess to being somewhat curious as to the result of the same. At present, opinion seems to be pretty equally balanced, as regards the respective chances of the rival parties when the contest does take place, and there are not a few of the leading men on both sides who predict that the Government will once more be directed by the "Grand Old Man." There are one or two very sensible articles this week in the *Daily News* and the *Lady* on the ever interesting subject "The Employment of Women." The writer in the *Lady* strongly recommends one point to the notice of women all over the world. He (or is it she) points out how heavily handicapped the poor and necessitous are now-a-days in the struggle for existence, by having to contend against those who enter the lists merely for amusement or vanity. To quote from this article "We do not speak inadvisably when we



COUNTESS EVE LYNE METAXA.