

**Women versus Women.**

It is nearly twenty-five years since a powerful series of articles on "Modern Women" appeared from week to week in the London, "Saturday Review." Two volumes for these Essays were reprinted in New York, and had a large circulation, while many of them were copied into Canadian Journals, and occasioned much discussion among both male and female readers.

The first article of the series was entitled "The Girl of the Period," and was followed by about eighty papers, which for a long period enticed the fashionable world to buy the "Review" weekly. As women are often said to be the keenest enemies of women, no one was much surprised to learn a few years ago that the writer of most of the bitter articles on the "Woman Question" was a woman—Mrs. Elizabeth Linton, better known as Mrs. Lynn Linton, an extremely clever novelist, and Essayist. Naturally enough, many counterblasts to Mrs. Linton's merciless philippics were published: notably a volume entitled "Essays in Defence of Women," which consisted of well-written contributions to "The Imperial Review."

If there was too much exaggeration on the part of the "Saturday," there was too much extenuation on the part of the "Imperial" writer, who from a chivalrous but undiscriminating regard for the honour of the fair sex, went too far in denying many truthful charges against the fashionable world of London. About the same time as these essays appeared, there was published "Femmes Savantes et Femmes Studienses." In this work the author showed no wish that woman should be an inferior imitation of man. His ambition was not so much to alter entirely, as to improve practically, her actual condition. He would be content to see her what Wordsworth has described,

"A creature not too wise or good  
For human nature's daily food;"

If, however, we are to believe Lady Cavendish, and the Duchess of Bedford literally—and we must remember that their revelations were made at a Church Congress—the fashionable women of London are daily disgracing their sex, and shocking the moral sense of the community. The two ladies above-

mentioned assert in unqualified terms that women of rank and fashion, in order to recruit their exhausted energies, and stimulate their jaded nerves, have recourse to "pick-me-ups" early in the day, in addition to brandy and soda during the afternoon, and champagne etc., "ad libitum" at a late dinner. Lady Cavendish, moreover, declares that, in accordance with a new



From London Queen.

fashion, ladies, both young and old, quit the dinner table for the smoking-room, and share with gentlemen not only the cigars, but also the spirits. As these do not seem powerful enough to induce sleep, chloral, chlorodine, and morphine are taken in secret. We hope and believe that the two aristocratic speech-makers have exaggerated the evil that they denounce, and have illogically, like many other women deduced a general conclusion from a few particular instances. They admit that heavy drinking has been abandoned by the men; and, if this is the case, it seems highly improbable that husbands and brothers who have reformed their own habits should encourage the same bad habits in their wives and sisters. Such accusations were never made even by Mrs. Linton against "The Girl of the Period," and no reason has as yet been assigned why, as the century is drawing to a close, the morals of English ladies should have become more degenerate.

Example goes further than percept or even sweeping denunciations (which latter invariably defeat their object,) and certainly it will take more to convince us, that the fair sex in England had—contrary to the advance in sobriety with the men—receded to the debauched times of the First Georges, than the violent declamations of one or two of the sisterhood, who like certain birds like to foul their own nest.

**THE FASHIONS.**

Evening dresses are made short waisted, with elbow sleeves, or large short sleeves in one puff, on many of which are capes, lined with a contrasting color to the material, and so cut as to form a point on the centre of the sleeve. Most low bodices have wide velvet belts reaching almost to the armpits, and finished off with bows on the side. With regard to capes, they are used because jackets would spoil the wide sleeves.

There are plenty of pretty dresses, some for instance quite in the Empire style made of a black and blue stripe, with a gold and blue galon brought up in a point under the bust having bands of the same dividing the puffs of the sleeve. Others are of black silk trimmed with dark green velvet and edged at the hem with a ruche of net, divided here and there by tabs of the above velvet to match the under sleeves having over-sleeves of silk, edged with jet.

Our illustrations represent two winter dresses:—

No. 1. Black and heliotrope spotted dress ornamented with jet and heliotrope velvet.

No. 2. Green cloth dress trimmed with shot velvet.