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## [FOR the critio.]

## LETTERS TO COUSIN CARYL.

Dear Cousin Caryl,-I havo had hosts of company the past week and beou dissipating to yuito an oxtont. Do you romomber the Bont girls from Washington? Woll, they suddenly put in an appoarance last Monday nisht. I hadn't seen thom for ten jears, but thoy looked, as the man said, "as large as lifo and twico as natural," especially Lucis, the cldor. I expect Laura will bo married this fall, and I wont shopping with ber, and saw hosts of piolly things. You know an old uncle, who ran away yaars a\%o to Califurnia, turned up a ferr yaars back enormously weallhy, und usel to give thom over so much. And last year it pleasod a kind l'rovidenco to remove him after ho had made a will in which his two favorite nicces wese vely gerarously remombered. So now Laura and Incia aroh. iresses. They aro cot a bit changed howover. Laura became conaged thico years ago to Will Cummines, a "puor but worthy young man," an: although sho "csmo uts" iu Now York Socioty sinco and has had a dozan su-callod brilliant offurs since thon (from impocunious young men without much in tho way of steady habits but with a griet doal in the way of fanily, she has not oncs dreaded of anybody but her Will. 1 helped her to pick out her trousbiau-al of $d$ inty silk and finesi lacus. I wish you could sco the biby blae silk night gowns re got at Stearnes.' I told Laura thet if I ever come to own such things I shall eit up all night in fis ont of the lioking-glars just to see myself in them-I know I shall. The coftest, creamits: lace in cascudes down the front and at tho throat fini h them, aud they are altogether "too sweet for anything" Her Jinen was most of it besulifulls embroidred by hand (nun's work,) although some of it was trimind with valenciennes lace, and ono set with the fine strong Irish point. Sino got sowo lovely dresses two ; one or too of thom are boug made to ordor for ber. One was a charming gown of white voiling, into which wero woven dolicato blossoms of clover, the petals of which wero of the palest rose-beliotrope, brightened hero and thryo with a gleatn of silver thread Tho edge of the skirt tras bordered with a deep band of cloverpink: The draped bodice was gathered into a gold and silver cmbroidared zone, into which pink ribhon was folded. A chemisetto of rosy crèpo de Chine filled in the frout of the bodice. The hat which accompanicd this beautiful gown was of white lacestraw, lined with palo clover-pink velvet, tho crown covered with blossoms and grass. Her wedding-dress is to be of ivory satin and ctépo do Chioo, entirely embroiderod by hand. It soems to me, that if I were marrying a penniless young man liko Will, even if I wers an hoirass in my own right, I would not caro for anything quite so elaborate ds sho has, but it is nono of my business. I suw a wed-ding-gown the other diay for one of Iboston's heiresses that wout far ahoad of everything ciso in this country. This pieco of loveliness has outrivalled all the wedding gowns for costliness, and for the beauisy of the rare Alencinn lace with which it was trimmed. For a fortnight curiosity-shops and collections of rare laces were ransacked to find enough Alencon for its adornment. The croam-whito satio was specially ordered from Iyons. The train, threo yards long, was covered with two lengths of lace. This vision of bridal white wrought in lace and satio and long triils of orango-blossoms was insured for nearls 20,000 france ( $£ 500$, just half 1 !s value, and a duty of 7500 francs ( $£ 300$ ) was paid at tho New Iork Custom-houso Woll, wo ordinary peoplo like to see and hear of such things once in a while, oven though we may nut aspire b them. There are not mauy people in this couptry who can afford such things.

Iucia Bent is nct a bit like Iaura. Sho is much plainer in dress, but she dees a groat doal of good with her money. I am told that she sponds nearly balf her income for other people. And who doubts that she is happier for it?

Of course there is not much nery in the way of fashions so far. Nobedy has got home from the watering-places yet, and the place to seo stylo ie not in foston in August. Thero are fers new fancies in houschold knick-knacks.

Tho " mounory hoop" is the nowest craze among socioty young ladios. Any hoop will do, for it is covered up by pieces of ribbon, presonted by ginl friends, upod which must be painted or embroidered the namo of the giver, and tho dato when giveu. The ribbon must hava been worn, elso it possesses no charm. Frorn gentlemen friends a coppor cent is obtainod, highly polished and engraisd with tho initials of the donor. Theso are suspended by ribbons from the hoop, which in turn is susponded in the owner's room. If a piece of ribbon fades, or one of tho coppers turn dark, it is a sign that tho giver is ill, in troable, or false, and tho owner immediately sots to work to find out which. Of course, it is an infallible tost.

This is about as sensiblo as the bangle bracelet which was beggod from ono's "dear five handred iriends." Another new fad is tho "paper jillow." which beats tho pine pillow and the "over-lasting" pillow all out. To make them you tear the paper into rery small pieces, not big ger then your finger nail, and then put them into a pillow sack of drilling or light ticking. They aio very cool for bot climates, and much superior to feather pillows. The newspapers are printing appeals for thom for hospitals. Nowspaper is not nice for use, as these is a disagreeable odor from printer's ink, bat brown or white paper and old envelopes are the best. As you tear them stuff them into an old pillow case and you can seo when you got enough. The easiest way is to tear or cut the papor in otrips about half an inch wido and then tear or cut across. The finer it is the lighter it makes the pillows. Some girle who have a fancy for making them give than to the hospitals, and in that ray do somo good with them.

Tho pretty doablo pillows to hang across tho back of an easy-chair are as popalar as ever. Some of them are as dainty as bon-bon casos; but it is beat to make them of come good silk matorisl that will not show dirt, or of the lovoly "Wash" silks. Theso latter are taking beantifully. I havo seen

