

"SKETCHES BY JACK."

III.

THE MODERN YOUNG LADY.

As beauty varies according to taste, notwithstanding Hogarth's *line*; so the personal attractions of the Modern Young Lady must be decided by the conflicting tastes of her numerous *benighting swains*. Be she tall or short, lank or stout, she generally has a standard of her own at which she aims; and what nature has failed to accomplish on that score, she invariably supplies by art.

She is just eighteen; although the testimony of Betty, who was her nurse, and who remembers the year, month, week, day, and hour she was born, makes her exactly *twenty two past*. Is accomplished, and has received an elegant, and finished education. Has studied profoundly *subtractive addition*, which teaches her to add one year to her age, for every four. Deems the English language an ungentle study; and always thought it extremely troublesome to learn to spell. Was in all above ten years at school; and thinks the French edition of Chas. XII has very peculiar attractions. Has a great love for coloured Embroidery and fancy Wax work, and is well grounded in Music, and the use of the Globes. Is not aware what is meant by a *plain seam*; has, however, heard of "*Hood's Song of the Shirt*," but could never bear the vulgar idea of attempting to make a shirt; once, however, sewed on a pearl button for Pa, and trusts to goodness she will never require to do so again. Doesn't know whether a spool of cotton No. 14 or 40 is the finest. Can't say whose Needles are the best; heard it once whispered by a certain old lady, that those with her Majesty's Bust and silver eyes, are the most popular.

Has in her possession a rosewood workbox, which contains a silver bodkin, and gold thimble; has used the latter occasionally when embroidering a footstool; but has no idea what the bodkin is intended for, and hasn't moral courage sufficient to display her ignorance by inquiring. Thinks a pair of curling tongs much more indispensable than a pair of scissors; finds the latter sometimes useful in clipping stray hairs from her little "Fan's" nose. Has seen Miss Timmin's old aunt both knitting and darning, and thinks both processes proper work for old ladies; has more than once got the "good old lady" to knit her *Scarlet* purses as specimens of her own, we shan't say what; and as presents for whom, we shan't say who.

The Modern Young Lady is rarely seen in the Kitchen; but when she condescends to appear there, she creates a great sensation among the domestics. Thinks she could make peppermint and acidulated drops; at least, she possesses a receipt for both; once bribed the cook to let her try her hand at a pudding, to astonish "Ma," and "Pa," used on that occasion cayenne pepper, for seasoning, instead of ground cinnamon; thereby creating the internal ignition of the whole family by inflammable combustion; at the risk of losing the "company's insurance" from culpable ignorance.

She has presided at the Tea table during Ma's illness, after which she is always confined to her room for a week, with an affection of the right wrist and shoulder blade, to the serious augmentation of "household expenses," caused by medical attendance.

She can't bear children; thinks them "nasty troublesome things." Can not do any little necessities for her younger sisters. When going into Town she sometimes listens to their importunate requests, and enjoys them over by a few fair promises; which are sure to be forgotten. Has no sympathy at all with children; excepting in the "be sure and dont tell Ma" style. Never dreamt she was a child herself.

The Modern Young Lady, when at home, can sing well with Pianoforte accompaniment. She is passionately fond of Music, and practices three or four hours every day. Never sings in church, it is "unfashionable to do so." Is suffering always from a cold when asked to sing in a promiscuous company. The Piano is a delightful

instrument; and is beautifully adapted to the display of the physical conformation of the feminine hand. The names of Thalberg and Liszt she has seen in print. But Hadyn, or Handel, Meyerbeer, or Beethooven, Mendelssohn or Weber she has never heard of. She thinks the "Battle of the Prague" a noble piece; and can play the "Bohemian and Enniskillen quadrilles"; the "Tweddletenthum and Viehnosé polkas" and the "Pugsley airs." Can sing the "Sighing Lovers" and the whole of one of Moore's Melodies; and thinks its author must be a "bewitching man."

The Modern Young Lady is fond of walking during fashionable hours; and is generally to be met with on the shady side of the street. She sails rather than walks; and is not aware that motion is an attribute of grace. She dresses well, though not according to correct taste. She evidently thinks herself handsome, which can easily be gathered from the expression of admiration which radiates her countenance when passing a newly cleaned plate glass window. She never knows or salutes a friend of her *brothers* when out; although she has taken tea with him "at home" the evening before; she can however recognise a military uniform at a considerable distance.

The Modern Young Lady is permitted to do her own shopping; in so far as bordering-blond, ribbons, or even a pair of gloves are concerned; but she often visits dry goods stores without wanting any thing. Never gets all she wants in any one store, at any one time. Has no objections to "look at" all the newest styles in dresses and shawls; and thinks it the duty of clerks to show goods, and not to sell them. Thinks them well repaid by waiting upon her; she enters and retires, without having the politeness to say, "how dy'e do," or "good bye;" without any desire to refresh her own lineal obtuseness by recollecting that her father was once a clerk and her grandfather a porter.

The Modern Young Lady never evinces much literary taste; she is, however, rather fond of *light reading*, and therefore gets "Pa" to take the "Literary Garland" for her. She thinks it an excellent medium for gaining information, and would have no objections were it published fortnightly. She has studied the "Adventures of an Aid-de-camp," and "Ranthorpe," and is at present reading, "Sir Theodore Broughton." She has heard of Mrs. Ellis, "Women of England," but is not acquainted with Jay's, "Morning and Evening Exercises" or J. A. James' "Anxious Enquirer." She thinks some passages in the "History of a Flirt," delightful; but never could believe that Woman had any "Rights and Duties." Has never heard of Dr Gregory's "Legacy to his Daughters," but has often had prescribed for her "Gregory's Mixture."

She is very talkative and prefers a military subject. She can speak fluently on the past campaigns of the 52th; of the present conquests of the 19th; and frequently gets into the most felicitous raptures regarding the future prospects of the "79th coming to Town."

The Modern Young Lady loves a ball room; and if she can only persuade her brother or his friend to accompany, and leave her there, she will work her way spittingly through its mazy whirlings. She is easily recognised, as she is generally on the floor during the greater part of the evening; and her dress and manner ever betoken an attempt at effect. Is remarkably gratified if she receives any commonplace attention from gentlemen in military uniform; and it is the very goal of her bliss to dance with one. She rates the honor not according to the qualities of the man; but his rank in the army. Ensign, Lieutenant, and Captain, are her positive, comparative, and superlative degrees of excellence; and an A. D. C. is her "seventh heaven."

The Modern young Lady has thought of marriage, and according to her own account has received "a dozen offers," but never accepted one. Builds fond hopes of one day basking in the sunshine of matrimonial bliss; which according to her views consist of idleness, luxury, and ease. Pictures frequently the colour of her future carriage and horses; the personal appearances of her coachman, and cook; the