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DRESS REFORM—OR—VOTES FOR WOMEN?

When Lovely Woman Cannot Even "Stoop to Folly" in the Fashion Carnival at the Ascot Races



Observe what the square sunshade encanopies.



"Oh that we two were Maying!"—old song.



An exquisite example of embarrassed locomotion.



And the gentleman kept on smoking—Marvelous!

SUPPOSE that the militants, instead of mutilating Venuses, should turn some of their art-destroyers loose on the fashions at Ascot? We decline to consider it. Such a spectacle would, as old Oom Paul said about the Boer War, "stagger humanity." It has taken civilized woman more than two thousand years to evolve the decorative flutter-fest represented by the pageant of fashion at the great British race meets. Thousands of years ago the women of Greece were so glad to be alive that they danced upon the green in simple draperies that glorified nature. Some time afterwards old Virgil, trying to describe some lovely feminine apparition, broke forth into the ejaculation, "O dea certe!" He knew she was a goddess by the way she walked.

Now, imagine these ladies at Ascot trying to dance, or to walk like goddesses. Or picture to yourself one of these lovely phantoms so much embarrassed by dry-goods and lingerie and square sunshades, giving vent to her profound emotions at beholding the popular favourite flabbergasted by the "dark horse." Impossible again.

They say that Germany imitates England in styles and customs. What would the Kaiser think of such bewildering flippantries in feminine form at any of his racetracks? Canadian ladies, of course, get their modes from Paris, just as Englishwomen do, and try to wear them like Englishwomen. Well, if we must there's no use resisting. Perhaps artful concealments and dressmakers' deceptions would be as useful at the Woodbine and Blue Bonnets as they are at Ascot and Epsom Downs. But when the day comes we shall no longer need the horse at the racetrack.

Votes for women seem to be as slow in coming as dress reform. But so long as women are encouraged to appear publicly in these tantalizing phantasmagoria, there's no use trying to get votes for women. Most of these women at Ascot never would have time to vote. They are too busy—decorating.



An old vogue, but such a "tout ensemble"—What?