

Let us glance for a moment at the dress of man, which may be said to consist principally of black. We believe that few, if asked the question, could give a satisfactory answer why so much white shirt bosom was shown in former days; or why they have to resort to the white or light-coloured neckties, so much worn at present. The white shirt bosom reflected light back to the face; and as the present style of vest came in fashion, less white being visible, it became necessary to adopt the white or light necktie to supply the deficiency.

It is a custom, very prevalent among men at the present day, to purchase suits of clothes of a light colour for summer wear—coat, vest and pants one shade. Now if we look at this from an economical point of view, it is a mistake. It certainly looks well, and is particularly adapted to some men; but there is this consideration, one part invariably gets more wear than another, and the contrast becomes very marked, which would not be the case if the pants and vest were one colour and the coat another. I think no man possessed of good judgment would wear new black pants and vest with a rusty black coat, for the reason that the one would cause the other to look much worse by contrast.

I have made this slight digression, not so much for imparting information as to show that we of the sterner sex are not by any means faultless, as regards dress, any more than the ladies; and it is not our fault if we do not oftener transgress the laws of harmony. We have little colour to transgress with; yet it is matter for consideration, how to use the little we have rightly. We do our best to follow the caprice of fashion: our boots are sharp-toed, or round, or square, or, still more absurd, stubbed-toed. One season our pants are wide; next, tight-fitting, till one wonders how some men get into them; or they are spring-bottoms or peg-tops. Our hats are high or low, narrow in the brim or wide; and our vests and coats are cut in an endless variety of shapes.

Some of our lady readers may not think it amiss if we offer for their consideration (we say consideration, for we do not consider that they should adopt without a test, and that test subject to the laws of harmony,) a list of bonnets suitable to either blonde or brunette; because, as we remarked before, there are many complexions that do not, strictly speaking, belong to either type. We often find faces with the hair of the blonde, and not one particle of roseate tint in the complexion; and the same may be said of the brunette—dark hair and eyes, and yet the face almost devoid of colour. It is for this reason we so strongly advise every lady to study her own complexion; yet the laws of harmony and contrast are so fixed, that, for general guidance, the following hints may prove useful:—

A black bonnet trimmed with white does not contrast so well with a brunette, as it does with a blonde. It is requisite for the brunette to use more white, and that near the face.

A white bonnet composed of gauze, crape or lace, if worn by a blonde, the trimming best adapted will be found to be blue flowers; and if worn by a brunette, yellow flowers are preferable.

A blue bonnet trimmed with white flowers is particularly suited to a blonde complexion.

A buff bonnet suits a brunette very well, and receives with advantage violet or blue accessories. Care should be taken to let the hair separate it from the face.

A green bonnet is suitable to a fair and light, rosy complexion. The trimmings should consist of rose-red and white.