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A MILLINER'S BILL.

In the Court of Exchequer, on Saturday last, in the case of LEWIS and COOPER v. SCHRADER, an action was brought on a milliner's bill for £95 10s. 6d., towards which the defendant had paid £50 into court, and pleaded that he was not indebted beyond that sum.

Mr. Hawkins, Q. C., and Mr. Honyman appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. Lush, Q. C., and Mr. Bernard for the defendant.

It appeared from the opening statement of the learned counsel for the plaintiff, that the defendant, Mr. Schrader, had been married in May last to a daughter of Gen. Allen, and resided in Piccadilly, and in July last the defendant's wife wished to have a very handsome ball dress to attend a ball at the West-end. She accordingly called on the plaintiffs, who are Court milliners in Somerset Street, Portman Square, and ordered a ball dress for herself and her sister, Miss Allen. The ball dress was sent home, and was very much approved by her husband, and this formed one item of £10 10s in the bill. There was also ordered by her at the same time a magnificent steel dress petticoat. They were sent home, approved, and very much admired. Mrs. Schrader and her sister went to the ball, where, in the crush, her dress got considerably torn in the course of the evening, and some of the charges were for altering and re-making this dress. In the course of July, Mrs. General Allen and another daughter of Mrs. Allen went to the shop, and ordered some articles to be supplied on Mrs. Schrader's account, which Mrs. Schrader approved and authorised. Unhappily, in the same month of July, Miss Allen died, and it was necessary for the family to go into mourning, and a great variety of

dresses charged for in the account were for mourning then ordered. The learned counsel said he believed it was intended to discuss and dispute every item in the bill, and the jury would be let into such a lot of mysteries as to ladies' dresses as they never were before. The amount of the bill was £95 10s. 6d., and the defendant had paid into Court about £50 in full satisfaction. He should show that the charges in the bill were reasonable, and that the cost of the materials was between £70 and £80.

Miss Lewis, of the firm of Lewis and Cooper, Court milliners, in Somerset Street, Portman Square, then proved that Mrs. Schrader, in July last, called upon her, and said she was going to Lady M'Lean's ball, and wanted to know if two dresses could be made by Tuesday. She showed her seven or eight. They were not long enough nor full enough. The dress she ordered came to £10 10s. There was also an extra full book slip belonging to the petticoat, £1 9s. 6d. The dress was extra long and extra wide.

Mr. Honyman.—Was it twelve feet across?

Miss Lewis.—It was nearly five yards.

Mr. Honyman.—What! in diameter?

Miss Lewis.—No, in circumference.

Mr. Honyman.—What was the book slip belonging to the petticoat?

Miss Lewis.—The Crinoline, if you will enter into the mysteries. It is to hide the steel hoops.

Mr. Honyman.—Then there is an item for steel hoops, £1 5s. 6d.; is that reasonable?

Miss Lewis.—Quite so.

Mr. Honyman.—Then there is a steel article, the name of which I am afraid to mention, 3s. 6d., is that reasonable?

Miss Lewis (looking at her bill).—A steel bustle 3s. 6d.; quite so. (Loud laughter.)

Mr. Honyman.—Then there are two long tulle for Mrs. Schrader, 8s. 6d.; (to Mr. Lush) you don't object to that?

Mr. Honyman.—Then there is a charge for attending to dress Mrs. Schrader. My friend Mr. Hawkins says it took two of your young women to put the dress on. Did you send them?

Miss Lewis.—Yes. (Loud laughter.) There was then a dress for Miss Allen ordered by Mrs. Schrader, and Miss Allen's dress at Lady M'Lean's crush was torn to atoms, and had to be repaired. After the ball witness got a message to go to Mrs. Schrader's with some dresses, and had at the time two dress jackets with her. She showed them to Mrs. Schrader, and she also much approved them, and ordered them to be made larger in the neck. These were charged reasonably—12s. 6d. each. She also purchased two dresses, both extra lengths, one a blue dress, £3 12s. 6d., the other a grenadine, £5 12s. 6d. After this Miss Allen died, and she received a letter from Mrs. Schrader—

“Kindly come at once, as I have some important orders to issue, which must be executed immediately. My poor dearly-loved sister has been summoned from this world of care.”

She went in consequence of this letter, and took orders for mourning dresses, and the two coloured dresses were countermanded, and Mrs. Schrader

told her to dispose of them if she could, but she would pay for them if she could not. She had sold the five guinea and a half dress for three guineas and a half, as the season was over, and given the defendant credit for that sum.

The witness was cross-examined as to many of the items, to show that she had fixed a less price on them at the sale, and that the dresses ordered for Miss Allen were not ordered on Mrs. Schrader's account, when

His Lordship said, it was apparent that it was impossible to try this cause, and it must be referred, as there was a distinct issue raised on almost every item.

The cause was then referred to the Master to decide all matters in difference between the parties.—*Bath Chron.*

FRUIT TREES IN POTS.

In a late number of “Once a Week” we find an article on the cultivation of fruit trees. The novel method recommended, which it appears has been practised with considerable success for some years, by one of the first nurserymen in England, is likely to prove highly advantageous in this country, where an expected crop of fruit is frequently destroyed by one day's frost.

The cultivation of fruit trees in pots in hot-houses has long been practised by nurserymen in this country, in the same manner as grapes are cultivated; this process is necessarily expensive, and entails the necessity of employing highly-skilled gardeners. Mr. Rivers of Sawbridge-worth, in Hertfordshire, was the first, however, we believe, who proposed to simplify the growing of rare tree fruits—such as the peach, nectarine, and apricot—so as to render their culture within the means and knowledge of persons of very moderate incomes. To grow peaches at the cost of two shillings a-piece has never been a difficulty; to grow them at one penny a-piece is a triumph, and that he has taught us all to do. In this country the production of the rare stone-fruits out of doors has always been a lottery. We rejoice greatly at seeing our walls one sheet of blossom in early spring; and then comes a day of wet and nipping frost, as in this very year, and all our hopes are blighted. To afford protection during the few trying weeks of March and April, and to produce a temperature like the dry, yet varying atmosphere of the east, the natural home of our finest wall-fruit, without delivering us into the hands of the professed gardener—with his stoves, hot pits, boilers, and other horticultural luxuries, which the rich only can afford—was a desideratum, and that Mr. Rivers has accomplished with what he terms his “orchard-houses.”

These are not the elaborate pieces of carpentry work we meet with in great gardens, but glass-houses, constructed so simply that any person of an ingenious turn may construct them for himself. They are nothing more, in fact, than low wooden-sided houses, with a glass roof. As there is no window-framing, planing, mortising, or rebating required, the cost is very inconsiderable.