

especially to an actor who relies upon the words of an author to carry on a conversation, and on the supplying words and actions of his associates to make the words appropriate. John T. Raymond was very happy in this respect. On one occasion he was delivering a soliloquy, in which the person spoken of should come on the stage at the end of the speech, but through some mishap he was not ready, and after Raymond had said, "Ha! here he comes," and looked off the stage to see why he didn't come, he improvised words to fill up time until the laggard could be brought to the wings. The scene represented a snow-covered country, and he immediately caught the chance to extricate himself. "No; he has fallen down on the ice! Now some boys come to his assistance. Good lads! raise him up tenderly." By this time the mis-sing actor was in his place and ready for his cue. "Ah!" said Raymond, "now he is able to come." And so the play went on without any but the habitué's noticing that there was an interregnum. The lack of this presence of mind is a drawback. The other night *Mercy Merrick* tried to ring the bell to summon the servant, and the bell wouldn't ring. The servant came on, however, and received his orders. As he was retiring, *Julian Gray* said: "Do not deliver that message until you hear the bell ring again." By substituting "until you hear from me," would have prevented the laugh from the audience which was provoked by the allusion to the bell.

Franz Liszt is at present at Leipzig, where he will personally conduct a new mass of his own composition.

Mr. G. A. Macfarren's new oratorio, "John the Baptist," will be produced at the Bristol Festival, and Mr. Henry Smart's new cantata, "Jacob," at the Glasgow and Edinburgh meetings.

The services of *Mlle. Carlotta Patti* have been secured for a series of concerts at Covent Garden Theatre this month. *Mlle. Patti* will come from Sweden (where she was making a professional tour) expressly to fulfil her engagement. *M. Levy*, the celebrated cornet-a-piston player, is also engaged, and came from St. Petersburg for the same purpose.

From London we hear that the French season at the Princess's closed on the 25th ult. At the St. James's "Les Braconniers," has been produced, and at the Queen's Miss Nelson appeared for one night in "Romeo and Juliet."

Charles Reade is at work on a drama in which he has created a character expressly for the purpose of holding up his critics to ridicule.

Mme. Ristori will appear in London again in October at the Théâtre Comique.

Shakspeare is being played by an English company at the Paris Athénée.

The Wagnerian festival at Bayreuth has been again postponed. 1875 is the date now fixed.

The Imperial Russian Musical Society, in St. Petersburg, has offered two prizes for operatic compositions, to be competed for by native and foreign musicians. 1,500 roubles for the first and 500 the second.

News of the Week.

THE DOMINION.—The House met on the 13th and was prorogued. None of the Opposition members attended in the Senate Chamber. After the prorogation a meeting of both Ministerialist and Opposition members was held at which a resolution condemnatory of the course taken by the Ministry was passed. Ninety-one registered letters were stolen from the Toronto Post Office last week.—The Biglin-Brown boat-race for \$1,000 comes off at Bedford Basin on the 25th inst.—The Toronto cabmen have struck owing to a disagreement with the Police Commissioners.—A despatch from Fort Garry says that Lord Gordon has suddenly disappeared. It is said he has gone to the Rocky Mountains or British Columbia. A party just arrived report having met him with a large escort about one hundred miles from there.—Judges Day, Gowan, and Polette have been appointed to the Pacific Railroad Commission.—It is reported that the Governor-General and Lady Dufferin will take up their residence in Quebec until the opening of the next session of Parliament.

UNITED STATES.—The Boston agencies of four of the largest English Insurance Companies are understood to have received orders from the Home office to suspend taking Boston risks for one month in order to see what action is taken there in regard to strengthening the fire department.—Secretary Richardson has directed a thorough investigation to be made in every branch of the New York Custom House. Treasury officials whose duty it is to compromise cases, do not hesitate to say that there has been a flagrant abuse of confidence, and that parties who have been systematically defrauding the Government have done so with the connivance of trusted employees in the Custom House in New York.—Nineteen Menonite families arrived in New York last week. A colony of 5,000 souls will come out in May.

UNITED KINGDOM.—Sir John Duke Coleridge having refused the Mastership of the Rolls, it was offered to and accepted by Sir George Jessel. Mr Childers retires altogether from the Ministry in October.—A desperate riot occurred last week in the military camp on the Curragh of Kildare between two Irish regiments. Several of the participants were killed, and many received injuries.—Leeds Town Hall was destroyed by fire last week.—An Imperialist fête was held at Chislehurst by M. Rother and other prominent members of the party on the 15th to celebrate the late emperor's *jour de fête*. Prince Louis Napoleon made a speech, in the course of which he said: "Planting myself as an exile near the tomb of the Emperor, I represent his teachings, which may be summed up in the motto: 'Govern for the people by the people.'" The Prince was loudly cheered, and the meeting was most enthusiastic.—Mr. Gladstone has been legally advised that his re-election to Parliament is not required by his assumption of the Chancellorship of the Exchequer.—Many coal pits in Leicestershire have been closed, several thousand miners having struck in consequence of dissatisfaction with the weighing system.

FRANCE.—It is stated upon the highest authority that Count de Chambord has announced his resolution to accept the constitution for France, prepared by the members of the Right of the Assembly and himself, and will rule both by the will of God and the good will of the people. The proclamation of Monarchy will be made in about six weeks.—Victor Hugo recently addressed an eloquent letter to the Duke de Broglie, in which he urges the release of Henri Rochefort on account of his literary eminence. The Duke has replied, declining to interfere with the course of justice, and remarking that the intellectual ability of the offender only serves to increase his responsibility.

GERMANY.—There is no truth in the report published lately in several Paris papers that Metz would be restored to France through the influence of Russia.—The *North German Gazette* stigmatised as a disgusting invention the report in the American papers of an interview with Prince Bismarck, in which the Prince is made to say that he would extirpate the idea of God and substitute that of the State. It declares that Bismarck never used such language or advocated such sentiments, and believes the falsehood originated in the machinations of the Jesuits.—Cholera is increasing in virulence at various places in Germany.

AUSTRIA.—A squadron of Austrian war vessels have been

ordered to the coast of Spain.—Many strangers are leaving Vienna, and the number of visitors to the exposition is decreasing daily.—The prizes at the Vienna Exhibition were awarded on Tuesday last.

RUSSIA.—The Imperial family of Russia will assemble to formally receive and welcome the Duke of Edinburgh, who goes to St. Petersburg in December next. The marriage of the Duke with the Grand Duchess Maria will take place in the following month.

SPAIN.—The Republicans have abandoned all the fortified positions in Navarre excepting only Pampeluna, Vittoria and Vergara. With the exception of these cities, the whole northern part of the province is in full possession of the Carlists. Don Carlos is at Alava with very few troops. Elio and Dorregary are marching with 5,000 men toward Aragon, with a view to raise that Province, and operate jointly with the movement in Catalonia and Navarre. Lissagaray is operating in Guipuzcoa and Biscay.—The wife of Don Carlos has joined her husband and will share his fortunes in the field. The Carlists are wild with enthusiasm over the event.—Berga has been captured by the Carlists.—It is officially stated at Madrid that the entire Carlist forces in Spain does not exceed 2,800 infantry, 150 cavalry, and 17 pieces of artillery.—Cartagena is preparing for a long struggle. All males above 16 years of age have been enrolled. The streets are almost deserted, and the shops are closed. The insurgents are issuing paper money. They have further liberated and armed 1,800 convicts. The German and British Consuls have left the place.—One thousand insurgent refugees from Valencia have landed on the coast of Alicante, and are levying contributions on rich towns.—Eight hundred Galician Socialists are marching on Portugal, in which country they hope to find sympathisers with their movement.—In the Cortes last week a resolution authorizing legal proceedings against nine members of that body implicated in the recent insurrection movements, was adopted. The minority remains obstinate and threatens to resign unless a general amnesty is granted to the republican insurgents.—The Cortes has approved the bill calling 30,000 reserves into active service against the Carlist and Republican insurgents.

SWEDEN.—Christianople, on Kalmar Sound, Sweden, has been entirely destroyed by fire.

SOUTH AMERICA.—The Government of Brazil has determined to prosecute the Bishop of Pernambuco, for refusing to obey its orders. During a debate in the Lower House of the Legislative Assembly, upon the course of the Bishop, the President of the Council declared that the Government would force him to comply with its demands.—The insurgents of Paraguay made an attack upon Assuncion, but were repulsed and driven off. Caballero and a number of other insurgent chiefs are reported to have left the country.—The revolution in the Argentine Province of Entre Rios continues.—A treaty of peace between Paraguay, Brazil, and the Argentine Republic has been signed.

CUBA.—Havana private advices say the insurgents are steadily closing in on Puerto Principe. The city is crowded with penniless people, and food supplies are selling at starvation rates. Owing to the scarcity of meat the Government has ceased to furnish supplies.

Courier des Dames.

Our lady readers are invited to contribute to this department.

ANOTHER WORD ABOUT THE CORSETS.

A correspondent writes us as follows: "In deciding the great question which has been set forth, whether the human frame should be free or chained, D. has come to our assistance with some useful axioms fortified by professional knowledge. For this timely intervention we have to thank him, as well as for the declaration that 'absolute non-interference and an absence of all restriction were best,' but the closing portion of his essay will be found to be rather at variance with the excellent rule with which it commenced. The physiological argument is conclusive for those who will take the trouble to study it, which they may do with the aid of Dr. Andrew Combe's popular treatise; but we think D.'s supposed discovery of the exact elevation at which a woman's frame may approximately be cut in two without her being sensible of the incision, to be, in common parlance, a myth.

If it is proved, as we believe it to be, that the constriction of the waist will fail to create beauty, why should the practice be persisted in? Beauty is very much a thing of mind and esprit. It is idle to say that small waists are admired, because even the vitiated tastes that are pleased with waists disproportioned to the figure do not admire the sunken eyes, hollow cheeks, thin lips, limp frames, ruined appetites, and general querulousness and want of stamina which must invariably accompany the smallest failure to realize that very precise and exceedingly innocuous (D. being believed) form of cincture which he has too rashly prescribed; and whatever may be said in regard to popular tastes, we maintain that in looking at any group of faithful studies from good human models in costume, we are conscious of no instinctive desire to see the waists different from what they actually are for the reason that each bears a certain true relation to the rest of the figure.

We are pleased to say that at the bathing resorts of the St. Lawrence there are every year to be found young Canadian ladies who can pull an oar that some of our sedentary young fellows might be glad to emulate. Those sensible girls, we may depend upon it, do not constrict their waists, or take the Egyptian-mummy view of animated nature; and the boating and swimming of these maids—the latter of which enjoyments we fervently wish were entirely guarded from danger, as the government should have feeling enough to insist upon its being—will be found far better precursors of the future useful and earnest 'house-mother' than the long list of ailments and general depression of vitality that accompany the silly practice under discussion. We do not repeat the arguments here of the deprivation of vital grace, but we are well assured that a general freedom of step and movement is a quality that will appeal to every healthy eye, notwithstanding all that D. adduces. It would probably be far better to inquire into the forms of activity that will maintain the figure in light and graceful guise, as so much stress is laid on these particular merits. Perhaps our more learned professors of calisthenics could afford a hint in this department of what will be considered a really important social question. False principles can only result in defective practice, and it will be best to provide our fair ones with such rules as can be trusted. As has lately been well said: 'The realization of the ideal of life is the great design of God, and the great work of man,' and the society of Christendom is certainly beginning to be conscious of this mighty truth, although it may be far from unanimous in its modes of presenting it.

PARIS FASHION NOTES.

A new fashion which has suddenly come into favour is an outdoor garment called a "surcot." It is a sort of polonaise with plastrons entirely different in colour from the rest, and with large sleeves cut out in petal-like scollops, precisely as were worn in the fifteenth century. Sometimes the surcot is composed of a bodice only, with these immense sleeves. At other times it forms part of a polonaise. For example, a brown faille skirt of the peculiar shade known as autumn leaves; the lower part of the skirt was trimmed with folds, and with brown and silver-grey fringe; at the back there was a multitude of flounces, as well as brown and grey fringe. The surcot was brown silk, and its wide scolloped sleeves disclosed coat-shaped grey sleeves beneath. The plastron was composed of immense pearl-grey gimp leaves, entirely covering the front of the bodice; chased silver buttons fastened it. There was no basque in front, but it described a sort of rounded point like a habit bodice. The basque at the back terminated with grey and brown fringe.

Waiscoats are universally worn, and occasionally their size approaches the ridiculous; but they are more covered with the jacket of the polonaise than during the spring. The following casino toilette was made a few days ago at a famous Parisian house: A white Chambéry gauze skirt, bouillonné in front with very wide puffings; a large Montepan polonaise, made of blue China crêpe, with wide organ-pipe plaits of blue faille, lined with pink faille, and turned down to show a small portion of the pink. Very long pink silk waistcoat sleeves, with double ruffles of blue silk, lined with pink and Valenciennes lace. Black velvet waistcoats, with white piqué costumes, are very popular.

Waistbands are by no means abandoned, and as long as polonaises are in vogue they will never go out of fashion. For seaside wear they are made of Russian leather, and have a Russian leather fan and scent bottle suspended upon them, from either silver or steel chains. These look very well on écu dresses, which continue to remain in favour, notwithstanding their want of novelty. A ladylike style of make for an écu dress is to trim the back of the skirt with écu flounces, embroidered with écu thread, and to work the flat tablier in front in the same style. The polonaise is bordered with two narrow embroidered frills, and the band, bows, and sash are all of chestnut brown silk. The sailor blue linen dresses now in vogue are rendered very stylish when trimmed with a profusion of fringe and écu guipure. Blue linen is often used for trimming écu dresses. So much depends on the manner of ornamenting these linen dresses, for unless the trimming and cut impart style to the costume there is nothing very much to admire in the material.

A Charming Colonel.

The future wife of the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Maria Alexandrovna, is Honorary Colonel of the Yamburg Regiment of Uhlans, and her photograph in the uniform of this gallant troop, czapka on head, the white sultana hanging gracefully down, makes her the most charming colonel in all the Russias.

The Grand Duke Alexis Betrothed.

The Grand Duke Alexis, rumour says, was sent forth on his travels by his Imperial father, in order that the love he had conceived for the daughter of a tutor of the Czar might be forgotten in absence, new thoughts, and new scenes. But the Grand Duke's love resisted such treatment, and when he reached Russia again was as warm as ever. And it is to be rewarded, for he has been given permission to contract a morganatic marriage with *Mlle. Jouyoski*, his old love.

The Mole in Ear Ornaments.

We think pearls are wasted on the hilts of swords, yet it is now the great fashion in Paris to have one on a yataghan or dagger, that is worn as an ear-ring, not pendant, but to all appearance thrust through the prettiest part of one's keenest perceptive organ. It is only an appearance, fortunately, there being a spring underneath concealed by either a pearl or some jewel that serves as a hilt. It is so cleverly disposed that it fastens the murderous-looking weapon like any other ear-ring; but it looks as if a jealous Gaiour had fiercely plunged his weapon and left it there. This piece of jewellery is creating a great sensation. When worn by an olive-skinned brunette, whose bright eyes flash, it attracts one as pearl will sometimes, until youth finds he is the victim of cutting things.

Good Taste in Dress.

In a special article on the topic of dress the *London Globe* says: "The insatiable thirst for change of fashion precludes the possibility of the prevalence of real good taste in dress, which consists in refined simplicity, with a subservience of ornament to use. Let quiet colours in durable materials be chosen best suited to the complexion of the wearer, on the principle of harmony either of analogy or contrast, as described by Chevreul in his excellent work; let all jewellery which serves no purpose be banished; let such as may remain be of the best, or be banished too—for surely it is better to have no watch-chain, no necklace, no ear-rings (although the latter may perhaps help to shorten the appearance of an overlong neck), than to suggest odious comparisons between individuals in different walks of life. Let fat people wear neutral colours, and old people soft colours, palling with advancing age, for their faces having sunken and become dim, they will no longer be able to throw up their complexions by deftly contrasted hues, but must attain a pleasing effect by a general halo of softness, which will throw into relief the brightness of the eye, the last spot where human beauty lingers ere it fades altogether out of sight."

The Blessing of Belts.

For years women have weakly protested against their iniquity with the tyrant man in the matter of pockets, for whereas one solitary receptacle for handkerchief, purse, gloves, knife, tablets, and vinaigrette is all that fate and fashion grant to lovely woman, man has pockets of all shapes and sizes, situated in all parts of his dress, to say nothing of the ample storage room afforded by his hat. But now the leather belt comes to the relief of the fair sex, and they make good use of it. Fully equipped, a young woman wears hanging to the Russian leather band which encircles her slender waist eight articles, to wit: Sun umbrella, vinaigrette, pocket-book, fan, bunch of keys, glove-buttoner, small case for thimble and scissors, handkerchief, and, on Sundays, an ornamental prayer-book. Old gentlemen and sober young men say that ladies thus adorned look like fools, but this is only masculine envy. Woman at last assumes her proper position of superiority. No longer does she envy her brother man's pockets, since she now has a place in which to put all her possessions, and, moreover, a place which does not conceal them like a pocket, but allows them to blaze forth in glory, and excite the envy of all her cousins, sisters-in-law, and other enemies. Belts will give a death-blow to Bloomerism.

John Stuart Mills' autobiography is in the printer's hands.