

# The Ladies' Page.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

## FALL REDINGOTES.

The warm redingote of "diagonal," camel's-hair, cashmere, or else tufted camel's-hair, is the first garment that will be donned when cool autumn days require heavier clothing. This comfortable over dress, that so conveniently completes a suit when added to the black or other dark silk skirts of the present season, is very largely imported, and shows but slight changes from those now worn. The new fall redingote is a long close garment that makes the figure look very slender. The long clinging front hangs smoothly without a wrinkle, has two darts, or else is slightly loose and belted, is double-breasted, with two rows of buttons its entire length, has a round revers collar instead of the square and pointed revers now worn, and in many cases this collar is only set on for ornament, while the close high neck of the garment is finished by a still higher ruff of the material of the dress or its trimming. The back of the waist is tight-fitting, having but one seam down the middle, or else three back seams placed wide apart in English fashion, while the drapery of the skirt is most abundant, consisting of many deeply folded loopings in the three back seams; but these draped folds hang so softly that they do not give that bouffant tournure which is now so objectionable. Plain close coat sleeves are universal, but cuffs are more fanciful than the present square cuffs. Pockets also are not merely square bags, but have ornamental flaps, and are set on obliquely, or cut in points, or rounded. Belts of the material or of the trimming fastened behind by large silver clasps are on all redingotes, and few sashes are seen on the early importations. Above every thing else the standing trimming about the neck makes itself conspicuous, as not ruffs alone are worn erect, but also the English collar with standing back and turned-over points in front; and oddest of all is the fancy for turning up the back of wide revers collars, just as gentlemen's overcoat collars are sometimes turned up in the back by accident or carelessness, though certainly never by design.

Soft thick woolen fabrics are used for redingotes, and the garment is made sufficiently warm by lining the waist with flannel or else farmer's satin. The heavy diagonals and armures resembling the cloth used for gentlemen's semi-dress coats are the novelties of the season, and are in especial demand in indigo blue and dark green shades. A dark blue redingote will, it is prophesied, be the popular garment of the autumn; next in favor after blue is slate-color—which is a dark bluish-gray—then olive shades, myrtle green, and bronze. These deep colors will, it is said, be more used than black, though black will by no means be abandoned. Camel's-hair serge with its broad diagonal lines, cashmere roughened by camel's-hair fleece, and the tufted camel's-hair have already been described, and these will be the accepted materials for over dresses, with silk or velvet skirts of the same color. Few suits entirely of silk will be imported; woolen fabrics associated with velvet or silk of corresponding shades are preferred to silk costumes. The trimmings are flat bias bands of velvet or silk, pipings, and cords, put on in the way worn hitherto, with the more fanciful additions on collars, cuffs, and pockets already designated. There is a fancy for carrying the trimming up the back and side seams of the skirt to the waist. Quantities of embroidery are used, especially lines down the front of the garment between the rows of buttons. Swinging cords are seen in abundance. The novelty for trimming camel's-hair and cloth is yak braid, broad, substantial, and similar in appearance to the Hercules braid formerly used. Buttons of metal or pearl are colored to match the fabric they trim. For instance, there are blue steel buttons dark as sapphires, bronzed steel buttons precisely like the cloth with which they are used, and smoked pearl buttons that show all the olive green and olive brown shades. Handsome Japanese buttons, black, with gilt or silver figures, are also shown, and there are quantities of dark oxidized silver buttons, with clasps, buckles, and brooches carved to match.

Among the French redingotes imported for models is one of heavy blue diagonal made tight-fitting, with rounded revers collar turned up behind, black yak braid for trimming, and oxidized silver buttons. A second of myrtle green cloth, made with tight back and belted front, has a velvet band three inches wide laid on smoothly for trimming, also large swinging ornaments of yak cord for fastening the front. Another of slate-colored camel's-hair has very long double-breasted fronts with two darts; there are three seams behind, making wide side bodies, pockets with square flaps, a thick silk cord, not a mere piping fold, on the edge, and blue steel buttons in two rows down the front, and designating the waist behind. A fourth redingote of olive green armure, also double-breasted, has a high pleated ruff of armure showing a lighter silk lining. A cord of light silk surrounds the garment, and two rows of smoked pearl buttons trim the front. Polonaises of imitation camel's-hair, trimmed with yak braid and machine stitching in embroidery patterns, are imported in boxes, unmade. Those of dark blue are nearly all disposed of, but the garment can be had in slate, bronze, myrtle, and olive green. Fine real camel's-hair redingotes are ornamented with the rough yak sou-

tache done in medallions, with silk embroidery inside the medallion. Children's redingotes are imported ready-made in precisely the same designs and colors described for ladies. A square sailor collar with a ruff above it is a favorite ornament for wraps and over dresses for young ladies and girls.

## MISCONCEPTIONS OF BEAUTY.

BY GAIL HAMILTON.

Who is it that gives us our views of life? Whence come the conventional opinions? Whose are the eyes that, seeing, see not, and the lips that speak? A notion runs through the world, torn by every bristling projection of solid fact, but essentially unharmed and vital to the last. Is it error or truth, which, crushed to earth, shall rise again? In great things, in recondite matters, the mysteries, the conjectures, the half-discoveries of science, it is not strange that we blunder, make the worse appear the better reason, and mistake shadow for substance. But in minute points, in the trifling occurrences of every day, why should we not be right as well as wrong?

The cheap novelists can not be expected to create for the world another world as does the master of his craft; but why should not the cheap novelists, even the merest little weaver of one-column romances for the weakest of weekly papers, recognize and signalize the fact that the conquests of the world have not been made by beauty; that it is no power—is only one, and not the strongest, element of power? Yet not only the penny-a-liner, but the sensible and even the devout, close their eyes to the palpable and indisputable fact, and accept the theory that beauty is sovereign and omnipotent; and in consequence they bow down and worship with a misleading and false and fruitless homage.

Equally useless and wrong is it to attempt to impress upon the infant mind the idea that "looks are nothing, behavior is all." No one heartily believes it. Why not acknowledge and applaud the truth that looks may be largely the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, that the pure heart is symbolized by the spotless robe, the gracious soul by the graceful garb, the delicate taste by the fine texture and the modest tint? It is true that Great Heart may be a man of small stature, the most unbending integrity may have a stoop in his shoulders, the sweetest Lady Una in the land may be but a swarthy, shrinking girl. But inevitably the lady is shown in her array. Lady Una is dark, but she is comely. Great Heart is only small by measurement. We are given into our own hands to make the most of ourselves, body and soul. Let not the little girls be taught that beauty is irresistible, not because it will make them frivolous, but because it is not true. Let them be taught rather that power alone wins, and that beauty may be powerlessness; while mind, wit, tact, gentleness even, may be power. The charm of the most charming women it would be difficult to name. It is certainly not beauty, for the charming women, although often beautiful, are also often far less so than the indifferent women. The Charmer is, above all things, sincere. She assumes neither ignorance nor learning. She may be the owner of one or the other, but she makes no parade, and has great good sense. If circumstance or taste has forbidden her to be well-read, she is not ashamed, but neither is she proud of the fact, nor does envy induce her to put scorn upon those that are, nor does she attempt to conciliate superiority by infantine artlessness. The Charmer is inwardly exacting, but not outwardly querulous. She renders to every one his due, but loves to receive her own as a grace. She has a superb self-respect and is seldom wounded save by intentional slights. She is benevolent and beneficent. She says pleasant words, not from design, but instinct. She is not easily, but she can be thoroughly, offended, and the stars are not more remote than is she from the offender. She does not obtrude her opinion, but, appealed to, she is so faithful, sympathetic, sound, that she helps, be it only by listening, and clouds of doubt and hesitation are dissolved by the sweet shining of her clear eyes. More than this, if my lady is resorted to in vain, if her advice be not followed, she is not thereby estranged. She is not concerned to establish a reputation for cleverness or beneficence, or any reputation whatever; but when a fellow-mortals comes to her, it is simply that her heart goes out to him at once in succor and good cheer.

The Charmer is not necessarily perfect. She may be impulsive. She may be sometimes even petulant. She is serene or wayward according to temperament. But she is always magnanimous; never petty, never hard, never hateful. She never uses sharp, disagreeable speech, except, possibly, at long intervals, in the service of the oppressed, to rebuff an overweening and obstreperous aggression; and though one should go on describing her to the least lifting of the eyelash, still the charm of the Charmer would escape him, for it lies below and behind all traits, no trait, but the last subtle essence of a refined and cultured nature, of a rare and perfect womanhood.

Teach the little girls to make themselves as pretty as is becoming, with all the puffs and bows and ribbons that may be consistent with peace of mind and unselfishness and untouched honor; but teach them also that this is but a small part not only of what pertains to the conduct of life, but to the attainment of position and worthy influence. The first thing is to be. But Nature has so made men and women that

they care also to seem—to seem pleasant and desirable in each other's eyes. Who shall say that this, too, is not a powerful motive to excellence? Let us not scorn it, but use it. No father but rejoices when his son turns from the athletic but somewhat rude sports of his male mates, and begins to seek and to enjoy the gentler gayeties of female society. No mother but is pleased to think that her bairn's respected like the lave. In each sex the desire to please, whether its own or the other, is instinctive and blameless. Yet so delicate is it that it can hardly be touched without danger. It can hardly be guided except indirectly. To say to girls—as I have sometimes heard it said—men like this, men dislike that, therefore be thus and so, is coarse and cruel and servile. Yet can the honorable, the high-minded mother, teacher, friend, with dignity and sweetness, guide her girl to a womanhood reserved, commanding, reasonable, however piquant, merry and arch; guide her to a fitness for companionship with the wisest and greatest of men, as well as for solace to the weak and erring; guide her into attractiveness and grace and ornament, which are to be attained only by virtue of unconsciousness, uprightness and unhampered individuality.

One is troubled to see beauty wasted as well as wealth, or time, or mind, or any other gift of God. A lovely little maiden making herself lovelier before the glass to greet and gladden the eyes of all beholders is not a sorry sight, if beneath the visible loveliness lie a tender heart, a mind under control, a strong and active will. But to see a silly little girl rely on her colors and contours, and neglect mental culture, social grace, one might almost say Christian courtesy—this, indeed, is melancholy. Her selfish little heart, her barren little mind, lord it already over her cheap, superficial beauties, and will soon leave nothing behind but a dreary waste. Her little victories are temporary, her little failures lasting. She can never be a power. She can scarcely help becoming a drag. Her companions must be among the commonplace, not to say the vulgar, for she has nothing in common with the lofty and the grand. She would gasp on the heights. She can assimilate nothing beyond the material. There is danger that she will soon be unable to rise above the mean. While there is yet time, let her learn that in both sexes, in all ages and all worlds, to be weak is miserable, and though petty men and petty women may well enough consort, large souls love largely.

## YOUNG WOMEN vs. YOUNG MEN IN GERMANY.

Throughout Germany, wherever females can be employed to advantage, they are taken in preference to young men. At Munich the clerks and book-keepers in the banks are nearly all young and handsome girls. At the depots, many of those who attend the windows for the sale of tickets are girls, and the cashiers in all the cafes and restaurants are of the same sex. They are generally very expert at figures, and in mental arithmetic have no superiors. In view of the fact that so females are employed in the rougher and hardest descriptions of laboring work, it speaks well for the sex that they are seeking and securing more desirable and lucrative employment. It may possibly arise from the fact that young men are generally of the "fast" order, and are not to be relied upon in positions of trust. We are under the impression in America that our young men are not as steady and staid as they ought to be, but they are miracles of steadiness compared to the average young men in Germany. The students at Heidelberg can give them a start of half a day, and beat them before bed-time. They don't drink strong liquor; coffee, beer, or wine being the extent of their libations; but they devote the best part of the day to the café or the beer saloon, reading the papers, playing billiards, chatting, or studying the plates in the numerous satirical illustrated papers. How the many thousands of young men in Vienna obtain a living and good clothing, who are always to be found in the coffee-house, is a mystery "that no fellow can find out."

MRS. HENRY R. CHRISTIAN performed at Augusta, Georgia, a few days since, an act so cool and courageous as to place it among the pluckiest things of the kind we have read as having been done by a woman. At the boarding-house of Mrs. Bernard a burglar, supposed to be one of the colored waiters, secreted himself in the rooms of Mrs. Christian, who heard during the night noises in her daughter's room, and woke up her daughter several times to ask her if she was restless. At length, toward morning, Mrs. Christian dozed lightly for a short while, and awoke at the sound of a rustling noise to see the obscure but yet perceptible figure of a man, some five or six feet from the foot of the bed, and at the left, on his knees, fumbling in a dress that lay at the foot of a lounge by the window, just opposite the door of the room entering into the hall. Startled but not terrified, the courageous lady realized the situation at once, and shouting to her daughter to awaken her, and telling her to cry out for help, she herself screaming "thieves!" flew out of her bed, and boldly rushed at the daring burglar. He stood still for a moment, when she seized him by the arm. He, not uttering a word, hurled her from him with all his force, and broke for the window, and began working to unlatch the closed blind. Nothing daunted, and saved from falling by her trunk at the foot of the

bed, the brave-spirited lady again rushed to catch hold of the burglar. She could not distinguish his features, but she had a clear idea of his size, and could discern the flash of his eyes. This time she caught him by the suspender. He had succeeded in getting one of the blinds open by this time, and desperately sprang through the window, and just outside was a tree, into which he landed. His suspender broke in her hand, and as he lit in the branches of the tree he steadied himself by catching the window-sill with one hand. By this time some of the people in the house and in the neighborhood were aroused. Hopeful of holding him until assistance could come, the lady seized the hand momentarily clinging to the window-sill, but was unable to hold it. The burglar dropped to the ground, scrambled over the fence, flew into a gully back of the house, and managed to escape, being soon after followed by two policemen, who made the arrest of the waiter Scott, whose boots just fitted the tracks made by the burglar, who carried off the pocket-book of Mrs. Christian, containing fifty dollars, which has not yet been recovered.

THEY have started a "Woman's Dress Reform Association" in Des Moines, and this is its platform:—"Moderately short walking-dresses for the street; looser and wider corsets; warmly clothed extremities; the discarding of superfluous finery in church costume; and skirts suspended from the shoulder." A Chicago contemporary thus sarcastically comments on this "plank":—"Of what use is it for a lady to go to church if she cannot show her new bonnet and good clothes, and if she cannot show a handsomer bonnet and clothes than her neighbor in the next pew? This reform will touch the universal female kind in a tender spot, and disturb an ancient prerogative which has been exercised since the time of the building of the first meeting-house, whenever that was. We have no faith that the women of Des Moines will ever adopt such an innovation upon long-established rights. What will become of the minister's conventional harangues against female vanities when there is no finery to offend his eye? What will become of the young fellows who hang about the church doors to see the styles?"

## HINTS FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

APPLEDORE CRULLERS.—A piece of butter, size of an egg; 1 cup sugar; 1 nutmeg; 3 eggs. Make stiff with flour, and cut in fanciful shapes. Fry in boiling lard.

PORK PLUM PUDDING.—One teacupful salt pork free from lean or rind, chopped fine; one teacupful molasses; one teacupful raisins, chopped; four teacupfuls flour, one teacupful milk, one teacupful soda, two teacupfuls cream of tartar. Boil three hours. Eat with boiled sauce or wine sauce.

BREAKFAST DISH.—Chop very fine either cold beef, mutton, or veal. To one teacupful allow the same quantity of grated bread, and if the latter is stale, soak it a few hours in warm milk, and chop with the meat; to this quantity add one egg, yolk and white well beaten together, salt, pepper, and, if liked, a very small onion chopped fine; mix well together, and, flouring the hands, make into balls and fry in hot lard.

ALMOND CUSTARD.—Place over the stove one pint of milk, in which put one large handful of bitter almonds that have been blanched and broken up. Let it boil until highly flavored with the almonds; then strain it and set it aside to cool. Boil one quart of rich milk without any thing in it, and when cold add the flavored milk, half a pint of sand sugar, and eight eggs, the yolks and whites beaten separately, stirring all well together. Bake in cups, and when cold place a macaroon on top of each cup.

CHARTREUSE OF VEGETABLES.—Line a plain mould, or a two quart tin basin, with very thin slices of raw bacon; have prepared some half-boiled string beans, carrots and turnips; cut the latter into small dice, and scatter them all around the edges and bottom of the pan about an inch thick; fill up the middle with some chopped veal, or with mixed chopped potatoes and cabbage or cauliflower. Put a plate over the top of the mould, tie a cloth over that, and put it into a steamer for an hour and a half. Turn out upon a platter, and serve with cream or white sauce.

MOCK GINGER.—Take the stalks of lettuce that have just gone to seed (don't let it ripen); peel off the fibre, cut in nice lengths, and wash in water; make a syrup of two pints water, 1 lb. sugar, two heaped tablespoonfuls of ground ginger; boil the lettuce stalks in this for twenty minutes, let it cool; repeat this four times, then drain the syrup from the lettuce. Make a fresh syrup of sugar candy and whole ginger, boil until clear, then put in the stalks; boil for half an hour, let it remain twenty-four hours, then boil again until the stalks are transparent.

PREMIUM CHARLOTTE RUSSE.—Take a box of sparkling gelatine, pour on it a scant pint and a half of cold water; when it has stood ten minutes add same quantity of boiling water, and stir till the gelatine is dissolved; stir in half a pound of white sugar; have ready six eggs well beaten separately, and then together, and when the jelly is cool, but not congealed, beat it into the eggs; whip very lightly three pints of rich cream, flavored with vanilla or almond or both, and when the eggs and jelly begin to congeal, beat it in as rapidly as possible, and pour the mixture in a bowl lined with lady fingers or sponge cake.