

THE RAGE FOR SILKS

THEY ARE CHEAP, PRETTY AND CONSEQUENTLY POPULAR.

Universality of Silk Waists and Ribbons. New Waists For Light Spring Wear. Children's Coats—Light and Dark Serges. Gimpes For Little Ones.

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If silkworms have any personal pride at all, it ought to be its highest point in these days, for never since the world began is silk worn so extensively as now, nor has it ever been so cheap. Almost everybody has silk waists, gowns and separate skirts of silk, and if it goes on like this those ladies who wear gingham and lawn will be the elite. But even she who wears cotton gowns must have silk ribbons, for ribbons are to be used as garniture this season with a hand as liberal as nature's is in the adorning of this earth with green leaves. Everything must have ribbon, from hat to shoe, both visible and invisible garments, all of which makes it good for the manufacturers. The newest style of ribbon garniture is to have enormous bows at the bottom of the skirt, with the ends pointing upward. These are very deep, but overlapping each other nearly to the edge in every case. There are some queer shaped flat oval rosettes made by gathering the round double faced heavy corded satin ribbons in the middle and twisting them round and round and stitching them to a stiff foundation, so that they will lie nearly flat. They look more like ugly buttons than rosettes.

One gown made of Lincoln green satin duchess, with white lace epaulettes over silk of the same shade, had five of these on each shoulder, others set around the neckband and three very large ones down the front of the blouse waist. The skirt was made quite plain, with two bands down the front and two sprawling bows of ribbon of the same color. Green is a very great favorite even in bright tints and shades, and one may almost call it the leading spring color. It is seen in every variety of material. A "goodish" bit of green satin is seen in spring gowns, generally mingled with some other material. It is perhaps more striking than any other silk fabric, as a gown made of a perforated or dress, the gleam of the satin showing through the openings far better than iridescent silks.

Among the new waists for light spring wear there is none prettier or more generally satisfactory than the crystal mohairs in colors or black. Some call them brilliantines on account of their luster. One came under my notice yesterday. It was a pale blue, with a paquin skirt. There were two clawlike plastrons of Prussian blue velvet on the upper part of the skirt, starting at the belt. The belt was narrow, of stiffened velvet and fastened with two silver buttons. The waist was a blouse, with an inset of the velvet, and double velvet cape on the shoulders. The collar was of velvet, with two chased buttons like those on the vest. The brilliantine is not worn very much in the street as yet, but doubtless it will be later. The light gold color looks positively metallic in the sunshine. Given such a gown as this, with fluttering ribbons, a girl would look like a living picture of the very latest style.

The plain faced, changeable taffeta is in favor again, and to out the new skirts in proper style they are made in double widths. The same brilliant tints are shown, and no apparent effect of toning down their brilliancy is made. In fact, this is to be a season filled full and to overflowing with bright color. The plainest goods show daring combinations undreamed of for the last two generations. There is a new and quiet jacquard weave of silk, and silk warp goods called Trilby, which is likely to share in the popularity of the famous book. The material itself is like light colored silk warp hemstitch with jacquard weave, which means a rich sort of self colored brocade. It is quaint and rather medieval in appearance. It is best adapted for street and traveling. In this case it can be made up with a skirt

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THE TOUCH IN PIANO PLAYING.

A Flexible Hand and an Ear For Tone Color Necessary For Best Results.

There are two things necessary to those who would cultivate a good touch: One is a hand favorable; the other an ear delicate enough to detect the variations of tone color. Given a stiff hand no possible will or pains taken by the student will cultivate a good touch. The playing of those unfortunate in this respect will always remain harsh and unsympathetic, but given a flexible hand and an ear for tone color, and there is no goal to which the student cannot arrive with hard work. Nor does it matter, once flexibility is assured, what the shape of the hand is, according to a writer in The Musical Courier, who describes Chopin's hands as thin and small with tapering fingers, and Rubinstein's as coarse, with fingers long and thick. He says:

Judging therefore from Chopin's hand and Rubinstein's, it would seem as if the shape or formation of the hand matters little. The long, thin hand will, for instance, find lightninglike arpeggiato a bagatelle, and the other, like Rubinstein's and Tausig's, with a natural slope from the third to the fifth fingers, will do staccato work in octaves. But for touch flexibility is the chief test, for it is in the stroke of the finger, its lightness or strength, and every gradation of the same, that the secret lies. Once the key is down, no earthly power can produce any effect by the most perfect tremolo ever worked by the finger on the ivory. Once down, the only gradation in tone possible is by the use of the pedal.

As regards a natural touch, it will be most generally found that it is really another name for flexibility of finger. To the student touch is the last and hardest stumbling block in the difficult Parnassus he has set himself to climb. From a bad piano the majority of piano students will never draw forth tones that can satisfy, but in the modern grands of trustworthy makers they will find with study a mine of tone poetry that is limitless.

Making a Plain Omelet.

Beat 2 eggs until well broken, add a pinch of salt and a tablespoonful of sweet milk. Have your pan perfectly smooth and clean. Now put a spoonful of butter in the pan, and when it is as hot as you can be without scorching the butter pour the egg mixture in; keep slipping a thin broad bladed knife under it and raising it up to prevent burning. As soon as the under side is brown and the top is "set" fold it together, shake the spider or pan so as to entirely free it, carefully slide it on to a hot platter and serve immediately. The guests may wait two minutes for an omelet, but an omelet cannot wait one minute for a guest.

Remnants of Vegetables.

Remnants of vegetables are too often thrown away. There is seldom a bit too small to be further use. Several kinds can be united in a salad or a hash. According to Good Housekeeping, a cupful of tomato, cauliflower or green peas, combined with milk or stock, will give a good soup. Rice or other cereals, sweet or white potato or squash may be worked into breakfast muffins, making a pleasant variety and reducing the quantity of flour required. Mashed vegetables like potatoes, turnips or parsnips can be made into croquettes, or with less labor into little balls to be browned in the oven.

Popular Crepons.

Crepons are if possible more in demand than ever. These possess two advantages which women will hesitate to discard. Crepon wears much better than silk in the first place, and secondly, it is equally suitable for morning, afternoon and evening wear when full dress is not required.

The new crepons are so varied in design and beautiful in coloring that they baffle description.

There are china effects in flowers of natural colors and oriental patterns, which are very soft, in prettily blended

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BUDS OF THE SEASON.

WASHINGTON SOCIETY HAS MANY CHARMING DEBUTANTES.

Army and Navy, Diplomatic and Professional Circles Well Represented—Some of the Neophytes Are Remarkably Clever as Well as Handsome.

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There were many additions to Washington's "rosebud garden of girls" last December, one for nearly every day in the month, and the supply was not exhausted, for several more attractive girls were added to the number during the first half of the present month. One of the first to be presented was Miss Lindy Poor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Poor and granddaughter of Admiral Poor. With her mother she spent several years abroad in study. She is a perfect blond, tall, has a beautiful figure and charming manners. About 2½ years ago Edla Coleman McPherson, only daughter of Senator and Mrs. John R. McPherson, went abroad with her mother to finish her education. She was then a fragile slip of a girl. Thanks to much outdoor exercise—she is a fine horsewoman and very fond of walking—she returned the picture of a robust and a very accomplished young woman. She was introduced last



MISS McPHERSON AND MISS BURTON.

year at a ball by a friend whom she and her mother were visiting in Germany, but this is her first season in Washington, where she has spent much of her life. She is one of the tallest of the new girls and superbly formed. Her father comes of the Scotch clan Macpherson and her mother of a fine old English family.

Another tall, handsome girl, whose fine figure and graceful bearing are owing to her fondness for riding and walking, is Miss Martha Hichborn, daughter of Chief Constructor Philip Hichborn, U. S. N. She was born in Philadelphia, but has spent most of her life here. On her mother's side she comes of good old Massachusetts stock. The only daughter of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. Richard Rush was born in Philadelphia, where her father's family has enjoyed social prominence since colonial times. She is a lineal descendant of two signers of the Declaration of Independence, Dr. Benjamin Rush of Pennsylvania and his father-in-law, Richard Stockton of New Jersey. Miss Rush has a fine figure, with fair complexion; blue eyes and golden hair. She returned, not long before her debut, from a long stay abroad, where considerable time was devoted to the cultivation of a sweet and powerful voice. She speaks French fluently and is clever with her pen.

Lucy Lee Call, the only daughter of Senator and Mrs. Call of Florida, has spent most of her life here, for she was only a year or two old when her father first took his abode in the senate. She is one of the very tall and shapely girls with dark brown hair and eyes and bright expression. She has been carefully educated and possesses much musical talent. She comes of good Revolutionary stock on both sides and is connected with several prominent southern families.

A very pretty and attractive brunette is Miss Helen Hay, daughter of John Hay. She is tall and graceful. She spent last year abroad putting the finishing touches to an excellent education.

There were two debutantes in the supreme court circle, Ruth, second daughter of Justice and Mrs. Harlan, and Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Justice and Mrs. Brewer. Miss Harlan is tall and fair, with light brown hair, gray



MISS CALL AND MISS BREWER.

blue eyes and pleasing expression. Her intimates say she has a very sweet disposition.

Miss Elizabeth Brewer is slender, with wavy brown hair, blue eyes, a bright expression and charming manner. She speaks Spanish and French well, paints exquisitely on china and designs her own gowns, which are always pretty and becoming.

A tall, graceful blond, with blue eyes and a most attractive manner, is Miss Helen Steele, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Steele. She is a thoroughly accomplished, speaks several languages, sketches cleverly and is a fearless and graceful horsewoman.

Miss Margaret Gibson Cassels is tall, slender and very fair. She is a graceful dancer and fond of the study of languages, speaking French and German well. Her father, Mr. John Cassels, is a native of Pennsylvania and prominent in railroad matters. Her mother was Miss Fletcher, who was born and has lived nearly ever since on the same square—F, above Nineteenth street. A sister of Mrs. Cassels' father was the wife of Daniel Webster.

Miss Audrey Fannucott, fourth and youngest daughter of Sir Julian Fannucott, the British ambassador, was presented at a very beautiful tea to a large number of friends from the best official and resident sets. She is tall, with dark

eyes and dark brown hair, and, like her sisters, has been carefully educated. She rides well and is decidedly fond of all outdoor exercise.

Baroness Carmen von Saurma, daughter of the German ambassador, is a very charming specimen of the best type of high bred German maidens. She speaks English very well, has charming manners and is cordially liked by all who meet her. A pretty ball was given in her honor at the embassy early in January.

A very handsome girl is Miss Marguerite Claggett, daughter of the late Mr. William H. Claggett, who belonged to one of the oldest families of Maryland, which intermarried with the Carrolls, Brices and Spencers. Her mother belongs to a fine old Alabama family. She has lately returned from her studies abroad and is quite a linguist, speaking French especially well.

Miss Isabelle L. Hagner, daughter of Dr. Charles E. Hagner, is a tall, distinguished looking girl, with fine figure, dark brown hair, put smoothly back from a well shaped forehead, dark eyes and very sweet expression. She sings charmingly, is a pleasing reader and has presided, with grace and rare executive ability, over her father's house since the death of her mother about two years ago. She is the only great-granddaughter of Peter Hagner, who came here with the government in 1800, and her family has been identified with "the District" ever since.

Miss Mary Sheridan, eldest daughter of the late General Phil Sheridan, was introduced by her mother, one of the most charming women in Washington, at one of the handsomest teas of the season. Miss Sheridan is a very pretty, accomplished and attractive girl.

Another good looking army girl is Miss Elise Davis, second daughter of Major and Mrs. George W. Davis. She is a tall, sparkling brunette. Her mother was Miss Atocha of New Orleans, of Spanish and French descent. Quite different in coloring is another daughter of the army, Miss Bessie Emory, granddaughter of Major General Emory. She has an exquisitely fair complexion, golden hair, dark eyes, a beautiful figure and lovely manners.

Lella Ford Burton, second daughter of Lieutenant Colonel G. H. Burton, inspector general U. S. A., is a very pretty girl and inherits her good looks from both parents. Her father comes of good old Delaware stock. Her mother is a daughter of Judge Larrabee of Wisconsin, for some years member of congress from that state, and his wife, Minerva Norton of Cleveland, who was a great belle and also a beauty.

Miss Mary F. Ramsay is connected with both army and navy. Her father is Commodore Francis M. Ramsay. His father was a general in the regular army and Mrs. Ramsay a sister of General Martin F. McMahon. Miss Ramsay is of medium height and well rounded figure; has soft, smooth brown hair, blue eyes, fair skin and pretty dimples. She is well educated and has pleasing manner.

Another navy girl, Miss Emily Carroll Thomas, daughter of Commander Thomas of the United States ship Bennington, stationed at San Francisco, was introduced by her mother to a very large circle of friends at a pretty tea. Miss Thomas was born at Newport, has lived here several years and is rather proud of having received most of her education in our public schools. She is a member of the Art Students' League and has already done some excellent work in portraits. She is of medium height and slender figure, with fair hair, gray eyes and bright expression.

JULIETTE M. BABBITT.

A Dainty Workbasket. Cut one piece of heavy cardboard in a perfect hexagon or six sided piece and six smaller pieces, which fit each one side of the hexagon at the bottom, slant out toward the top and are curved at the upper edge.

Cover the hexagon with a bit of plain old pink linen and out from the same pieces large enough to cover all of the six sides. On these embed in white silk quotations like the one given and bees as nearly like nature as possible or any other simple design you may prefer. Then cover neatly each of the six pieces and line them with soft silk. To the inner side of one attach a full pocket for buttons, to another a small

Vanouwer, B. C., April 22, 1895. Talleyrand owed his success in life to no small extent to the uniform courtesy with which he treated everyone.

Haydn was the personification of courtesy. He once said: "It does not pay to be impolite, even to a dog."

The elder Pitt was extremely rough in addressing those with whom he came in contact, and so made many enemies.

Coleridge was so absent-minded that he often passed his most intimate friends in the street without recognizing them.

Andrew Jackson was rough in his manner, but could be polite when he pleased. He was always courteous to ladies.

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Byron was affable to his equals and to those whom he wished to please, but haughty and distant to most others.

CLARE BURTON.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

TO THE EDITOR:—As there is a great amount of matter being telegraphed over the country by the press associations at present regarding the Monroe Doctrine, the subject is a live one just now, especially in the newspapers of the United States.

To any fair-minded person, Mr. Leeperance plainly shows the untenableness of the position taken by the United States against England in her present dealings with Guatemala and Nicaragua, which countries, by the way, are hundreds of miles distant from their would be protector. Even if the long-talked-of canal is ever built across Nicaragua why should Great Britain not have a voice in its management? Will not British commerce passing through the canal preponderate in almost the same ratio that it did in the Suez Canal? And would it not be safe-guarding the interests of all concerned in the navigation of the canal to have England as one of the guardians of it instead of leaving it to the tender mercies of some of the war-room republics of South America? Mr. Leeperance says:

"1. In the first place it is admitted that, about party politics and international affairs, there are certain great principles, a certain universal policy, which must, and does, rule the world. In this point of view the seas and the continents of both hemispheres are the common property of humanity. The incessant immigration into every corner of the globe and the facilities of travel have made this a physical right. There is, indeed, an European code for European affairs, an American code for American affairs, an Asiatic code for Asiatic affairs, but above these there is a cosmopolitan code, which governs them all. Jefferson and the politicians of his school do not admit this. They draw a meridian of partition through the ocean, beyond which Europe must not venture on the one hand, nor America on the other. But this is the old Caspian doctrine: 'Thus far and no further.' None but God can arrest the waves. Statesmen are powerless to stem the overwhelming of the world's opinion. Americans themselves have been unable to avoid meddling in European affairs. In 1822 they were for interfering in the Greek crisis. A little more and their fleet would have fought at Navarino, with Russia, England and France. They came near getting entangled in the Crimean war. Americans must be honest to themselves and to the world. They were forced to acknowledge the universal code. Mr. Marcy, secretary of state under Fillmore, refused to sign the clause against privateering, added to the law of nations in the treaty of Paris, after the fall of Sebastopol. Scarcely six years afterward Mr. Seward, secretary of state under Lincoln, offered to sign it, and even stooped so far as to ask the retrospective protection of that clause when the Alabama swept the seas, the scourge of Northern shipping."

Always excepting special cases of necessity, the Monroe doctrine has no foundation in right. It has no inherent right, derived from political or geographical position. Not political, for, although a republic must be the best government for the United States, it is an open philosophical question whether it is the best government for the other nations of this hemisphere. The history of South America for the last sixty years would almost show that it is not. Neither does their geographical situation give Americans such inherent right, and it is only in case of danger that geographical neighborhood can confer the right of meddling. Furthermore, the Monroe doctrine is founded on no conceded right. No demand can be produced, no public act pointed out by which it is shown that this American pretension has been demanded or claimed as a right by the nations of this hemisphere, still less has this right been conceded in Europe. If, then, this famous doctrine is founded neither on inherent nor conceded right, it must be on assumed right. And that is precisely the fact of the matter. It was enforced on two special occasions, and justly, and then was gradually assumed by the two distinct groups of authors as a principle of general policy. Even then it was accepted by the Democratic party.

I may add the following argument in support of Systems similar to the "American System" have been tried before, but they were opposed at the time, as well as condemned by impartial history. There was the Holy Alliance, which assumed to take the whole of Europe under its wing. Notwithstanding its numerical strength, its moral influence was never acknowledged, and it died in its infancy. There was Napoleon's Continental Policy, more aggressive it is true, but no less assuming and aggressive in principle. The Pope withdrew it for once and was imprisoned and banished in consequence. Should England proclaim an East India system embracing all the countries contiguous to her vast possessions in that part of the world, is there an American who would justify her? We must look at the Monroe Doctrine in the same light, for the underlying principle is similar.

4. Finally common sense requires that before we lay down a broad principle of protection over the North and South American people, the United States should be sure of two points, neither of which, in the nature of things, we can know to a certainty. They should ascertain whether their services are desirable, and whether they will be productive of greater good. "Lord, save us from our enemies" is not an infrequent prayer among individuals, and this might not be made by Spanish, Brazilian, Mexican or even Canadian people, whose ideas, traditions, religion, language and customs are different from and somewhat antagonistic to ours? And again, how do they know, when they say: "It does not pay to be impolite, even to a dog," that they are not thereby preventing a great national good being done to the former? European nations are no less enlightened than they, and if we are to take as a test the late civil war, no less humane. Why not let them settle their own affairs with American powers in their own way? Why cannot they act on the common sense principle of minding their own business?"

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