

Courier des James.

Our lady readers are invited to contribute to this department.

THE FASHION PLATE.

We copy Figs. 1 to 7 from the *Queen*, the English Ladies' Newspaper.

FIG. 1.—POINT LACE FAN.—This fan is of modern point lace and lined with mauve silk. The sticks are ivory and gilt; the tassels mauve silk and gold thread.

FIG. 2.—WHITE SILK PAINTED FAN.—The sticks are ivory and gold. The white silk leaves are painted with a wreath of bright flowers. Tips of marabout feather border the leaves.

FIG. 3.—WHITE SATIN FAN.—The sticks are black and lacquered, and the leaves are decorated with gold and silver rings. Black lace is added round the edge of the fan.

FIG. 4.—THE MARQUEE SASH.—This sash is made of rich grosgrain, striped with white and maroon alternately; the four ends—two long and two short—are cut in pointed points. The traverse at the top is composed of the same ribbon; a white and maroon mossy fringe edges the ends.

FIG. 5.—HAIR AND THROAT BOWS.—The air bow is composed of three loops of green faille, one above the other, and two narrow-plaited traverses, one horizontal and the other diagonal. The neck bow corresponds.

FIG. 6.—BOWS FOR HAIR AND THROAT.—The bow for throat is composed of two shades of blue ribbon. The single fringed end is embroidered with a spray of roses in natural colours. The hair bow is likewise made with two shades of blue ribbon, and a hair pin is inserted in the stiff net on which the loops are mounted.

FIG. 7.—WAIST HOOK FOR UMBRELLA OR PARASOL.—This small instrument is very useful both for an umbrella and a parasol, but more especially for the former, as during the winter the hands are usually encumbered with the muff. The hook is inserted in the waist-band, and the chain attached to it terminates with a snap. These chains are made in gilt, steel, and silver.

FIG. 8.—BUFF PONGEE DRESS.—This dress is made of buff pongee. The trimming consists of a kilt-pleated flounce and gathered ruffles of the material, and of tabs, folds, and revers of brown gros grain. Tucked Swiss muslin collar and sleeves.

FIG. 9.—GROS GRAIN DRESS IN TWO SHADES OF BROWN.—This dress is made of gros grain in two shades of brown, and consists of a skirt and basque-waist. The skirt is trimmed in front with box-pleated ruffles of dark and light material and with bows of the latter. The back of the skirt is trimmed with wide gathered ruffles of dark brown gros grain edged with narrow ruffles of the same, which are bound with light gros grain. The waist of dark brown gros grain is trimmed with ruffles to match the skirt, and with revers and bows of light material. Tucked Swiss muslin fraise and under-sleeves.

ON ARRANGING PHOTOGRAPHS.

Some little time ago, when the monogram mania was at its height, several ingenious and very pretty designs were invented for the arrangement of crests, &c.; and I think a few of these, with a slight alteration, might be adapted for photographs. This idea may have occurred to anyone possessing a collection of this kind; but if not, it will be found useful for giving hints and aiding the imagination. I had a large collection, and have found it very lucrative in providing me with ideas for the arrangement of my cartes, &c. For instance, pages containing military monograms had often groups of banners, swords, guns, and other warlike emblems, and naval ones, anchors, cables, &c.; and what could be more appropriate for these sort of photographs than designs like these? I may add that for a naval or military carte it looks very well to arrange it in the centre of a page, as if it was lying on a flag, with the pole on one side, and the flag furling down on the other side. Several flags might be arranged much in the same way. For naval ones, shells, coral, seaweed, &c., look well. For large cartes, cabinet or otherwise, it has a good effect to outline the frame in strong broad lines, and draw a flower or a group of flowers on one side, a large rose with buds and leaves, a spray of lilies or convolvulus, or jessamine, a cluster of currants, or a bunch of grapes. A few leaves might wander along the outline, or it is apt to look hard and stiff. Or again, the photograph placed in the centre of the page, but rather high up, with long leaves and stalks surrounding and emerging from underneath it, and below a little sketch of some kind, or even figures in miniature. Long stalked leaves are very graceful and effective if well grouped, and a foreground of weeds, wild plants, and a few stones add to the general effect. Arum lilies can be arranged in the same way, or bullrushes and other tall water plants, with water in the foreground, and perhaps some water lilies. Wreaths and sprays of flowers always look well, whether

in water colours or pen and ink. A most effective way of etching round a carte is to imitate lace. It is not very difficult, though requiring patience (for it takes some time) and delicate penmanship. Place the photograph in the centre, leave a space of card between that and your etching, and the effect is as if you have thrown it down on a lace pocket-handkerchief. Peacocks' feathers, in ink or colours, look well, and other sorts of feathers may be made use of; a few thrown down carelessly, or tied together with a ribbon bow. Cartes cut into small ovals or rounds, and arranged in a circle, with twigs twisted in and out, and a spray of small flowers between each, look well; so they do, cut into the shape of a locket, surrounded by some sort of fancy setting, and suspended on a ribbon or chain. Several might be arranged thus, as it is now so fashionable to see many large pendants on a velvet round a lady's neck. A brooch in the centre, and a pair of earrings, all having faces set in them, would complete the suite, and make an effective page. A fan looks very well in an album, and is particularly suitable for cartes the corners of which may be damaged in any way. It should be more than half opened, with the larger cartes arranged first in ovals or medallions, with the smaller ones lower down in little patterns designed for them, and one or two very small ones inserted in ovals in the outside stick. The best way to arrange this is to open a real fan before you and copy from it, colouring it in sepia or Indian ink, as you please, and adding Chinese white to mark out the pattern and give brilliancy to the picture. Sepia is very effective, and shows up photographs well. I have seen a few cartes, each one a little over the other, arranged fan shape, with a real bow of ribbon gummed on, and as flat as possible; also small feathers in the same way. There is a very original and amusing way of arranging cartes by cutting off the heads and etching bodies to them; also of cutting out the whole figure, arranging them in groups, and etching on painting in neutral tints a background. A great deal of originality and ingenuity may be brought out in this way. Croquet parties, drawing-room gatherings, and groups of all kinds can be designed. Very pretty hand screens can be made with cartes arranged and gummed on. I once saw a large screen composed entirely of cartes. There were, as far as I can remember, four divisions—one for friends and family, another for acquaintances, one for royal personages, and the last for notoriety and celebrities of all kinds. It was not exactly pretty, but it was curious, and had been a great source of interest to the collector. Little labels for inserting in the apertures for cartes are very desirable. They are simple to make, and can be cut out in various shapes and sizes. An edging of gold or colour, or both, finishes them off, and then you write the name in the centre. You take a piece of paper, mark the length and breadth you require, and then draw the shape, which you afterwards cut out with a pair of scissors. You then double it, and insert the plain half into the aperture, leaving the little label outside. These labels can be removed of course at will if the carte is moved; whereas, if the name is written on the page under the carte, there it must remain always, unless scratched out. These labels are to be bought now, I believe, at stationers in packets and of various shapes; but it is so very easy to make them, that it is a pleasant occupation; and even if they are simply cut out in paper, and not coloured or ornamented at all, they are neat little additions to a page. For cabinet photographs they should be larger.—*Queen*.

ON DINNER PARTIES.

Eating is a necessity of life; beasts also eat; but man, civilised man, alone dines. The main argument for a dinner party I think consists in the fact that, as everybody must necessarily eat to live, it is as well to make the operation as pleasing as possible. In this alone consists the *raison d'être* of a dinner party. Well then, granted that dinner is a necessity in civilised society, if dinner can be rendered a pleasure, it needs no philosopher to tell us that by extracting a pleasure from a necessity we are doing our best to make life pleasant. Therefore, it is because we wish to make life pleasant that when we eat we prefer, if possible, to enjoy one another's society, i.e., we dine. There is no one who does not think but that it would be very nice if he could ask three or four friends to dine with him at his house occasionally. My remarks must be taken to apply only to small houses.

"Have a dinner party! well I never," replies Mrs. Blank; "good gracious, what are you thinking of? With such servants as we have too! Well, I never!" Consequently, poor Blank shuts up, sighing over the departure of the phantoms of enjoyment which Mrs. Blank has so cruelly exorcised. Poor Mrs. Blank generally eats at home, but occasionally he dines, that is when he is at his club or is staying in some hotel. There is no earthly reason why visions of untold extravagance should rise in the mind of poor Mrs. Blank on the suggestion of a dinner party, the thing is the simplest thing in the world. Mr. Blank's friends may be *à la* like princes, and without

any great extravagance, if only Mrs. Blank would be reasonable and not become frightened at the very idea of the thing; but Mr. Blank must not expect such a dinner as he could get at his club.

A leg of mutton and a rice pudding would not do for a dinner party. True; but then it is easy to have such dishes as would be suitable, and a leg of mutton and rice pudding are not the sole *plats* which are within the cognisance of even the most unsophisticated *cordon bleu*. Let Mrs. Blank not attempt too much, and confine the *menu* to simple but elegant and *recherché* dishes, and I warrant Mr. Blank's friends will find no fault with the dinner. For instance, soup, perchance, is beyond the capacity of that embodiment of culinary ignorance, Mrs. Blank's cook; buy it in a tin already made. A little fish may surely without danger be attempted. Then we will have the proverbial leg of mutton; it will be found as toothsome as the best of venison, if Mrs. Blank will hang it in her cellar for a few days after it comes from the butcher's; and the rice pudding, too, we will utilise, only instead of baking we will boil the rice till it is smashey, then we will put it into a mould, and turn it out on a dish, proceeding to adorn it with two different coloured jams, and surrounding it with a sea of boiled custard. Perhaps Mrs. Blank will make a rhubarb tart, or the confectioner will supply one. Mr. Blank will see to the wines. Where is the difficulty in a little dinner party of this description? But it must be truly a little dinner party; large dinner parties are a grand mistake, and of course can never be attempted by Mrs. Blank. The theory of the art of dining is simple, and its development practically is remarkably facile, as I hope eventually to be able to explain. The grand idea of the mistress should be not to attempt too much, it is not necessary; for badly served and badly cooked elaborate dinners are not so pleasing as simple, plain, good food, selected and prepared with refinement and taste. A just appreciation of the necessary qualifications of a good dinner would rather suggest a simple, but elegant repast, than a costly grandiloquent *menu*, unaccompanied by the necessary accessories of wealth and state.—*Land and Water*.

News of the Week.

THE DOMINION.—The names of Lieut.-Colonel Masson, M.P. for Terrebonne, and of Lieut.-Colonel Bellrose, M.P. for Laval, are mentioned in connection with the vacancy in the Cabinet, caused by the death of Sir George Cartier. The fifth annual sitting of the Catholic Provincial Council took place at Quebec on the 25th ult.—The terms offered to Prince Edward's Island on entering the Union have been accepted by the Legislature of the Province.—A Committee of the Dominion Rifle Association met at Ottawa, Tuesday, for the purpose of selecting the marksmen who are to compose the next Wimbledon team. As previously announced, Lt.-Col. B. L. Peters, of St. John, N. B., will command the team. Major Otter, of the Queen's Own, Toronto, being second in command. The team will assemble in Quebec on 29th June and sail for their destination by the "Prussian," on the following day. The Rajah of Kolapore's challenge cups, won by the Canadians at the last match, were sent to England last week, in order to be competed for at the coming match.—The Ontario Synod met at Kingston on Tuesday.—The By-law granting a bonus of \$10,000 to the Montreal, Chamby and Sorel Railway has been unanimously approved by the tax-payers of the Corporation of Chamby Basin.—Nearly \$8,000 have been subscribed in Halifax, Pictou, and New Glasgow, for the relief of the widows and orphans of Westville.—The Government having abandoned the intention of sending volunteers from a distance, to attend Sir George Cartier's funeral, the officers of the Guards have tendered the services of the splendid band of the regiment to be sent at their own expense.—A proclamation made on Saturday provides that the Act for the establishment of the Department of the Interior shall come into force at the expiration of a month from the publication of such proclamation.—Hon. Joseph Howe, Lt.-Governor of Nova Scotia, died on Sunday morning at Halifax.—A telegram from Gaspé announces the death by drowning of Captain Leblanc and three men of the Government schooner "La Canadienne."

THE UNITED STATES.—The pioneer party of the Oriental Topographical Corps from New York, for the exploration of the Bible Lands, have gone from Egypt to Syria and Asia Minor. A scale photograph of the Nile, devised by one of the corps, has been taken, which it is claimed will definitely settle the vexed cubit question.—The New York *Sun* gives details of an alleged scheme for annexing to the United States Chihuahua and Sonora with 243,000 square miles and 300,000 of a population, adding that the scheme was projected by General Butler and Colonel Thos. Scott, and that it is favoured by the President.—Four thousand immigrants arrived in New York on Wednesday week.—A Newfoundland despatch to New York says the Newfoundland Government have notified the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Co., that they will abandon their pre-emptive right if the Company will abandon their monopoly of landing the cables on Newfoundland, if not, they will exercise

their pre-emptive right.—Friday last being Decoration Day of the soldiers' graves, it was generally observed as a holiday throughout the country, all banks and post offices being closed.

A special says the Counsel for the defendants in the Credit Mobilier suit will, in a few weeks, file a demurrer to the bill in Equity taking the ground that the Act under which the bill is drawn is unconstitutional, and that Congress cannot enact for the benefit of the Government what is denied to individual suitors. This will carry the case to the Supreme Court where the whole question will be argued, and the validity of the Act determined. Those familiar with the case think that this objection of the defendants may quash further proceedings.—President Grant has been sent for to see his father, who is dangerously ill.—Boston has been visited by another devastating fire which has laid in ashes a rich and populous portion of the city, and caused a loss of many millions.—George Francis Train left on Saturday for Europe, after instituting proceedings for fifty thousand dollars damages each against Surgeon-General Hammond, Doctors Clymer, Parsons, Andrews, and Cross, for malicious libel. He also begins suits against William E. Dodge, Morris K. Joseph, Anthony Constock, Judge Davis and others, whom he charges were instrumental in keeping him in prison.—Whitlaw Reid acknowledges subscriptions, through him, to the Greeley statue fund of \$10,683.—An effort is being made to effect a settlement with the creditors of the late banking house of Bowles Bros., by the payment of 50 per cent of indebtedness, free of expense, to the creditors.—A reward of \$300,000 is dependent on the extradition of MacDonnell, the alleged Bank of England forger, and in whose behalf two writs of *habeas corpus* have been obtained.—The investigation into the frauds said to have been committed by the American Commission to Vienna, has ended in the acquittal of the accused commissioner and his reinstatement in his office.—The United States Government approves, it is said, of Colonel Mackenzie's pursuit of an Indian band on Mexican territory, and will propose an arrangement to put a stop to Indian depredations on the frontier.

THE UNITED KINGDOM.—In the House of Commons on the 26th ult., in Committee of Supply on the item for the payment of the Alabama award, Mr. Bentinck declared the Government policy on this question had been humiliating and degrading. The Government should have broken off negotiations at the time when no sense of shame would have been left England. This arbitration, was the greatest monument of human folly. It could not be considered otherwise than as a national degradation. Sir Stafford Northcote admitted that during the negotiations of the treaty he had not examined the consequences for British subjects of fixing the end of the war at Lee's surrender. Mr. Gladstone said the advancement of the indirect claims by the American Government was a gigantic error. In all other respects he defended the course the arbitration had taken. The debate here closed, and the item was agreed to.—The House adjourned on the Derby Day (the 5th) notwithstanding a vigorous protest from Mr. Thomas Hughes.—Austin Bidwell, the alleged forger, was brought up at Guildhall, last week, and formal testimony was taken establishing his identity, and he was remanded to jail.—In the libel case of O'Keefe vs. Archbishop Cullen, the plaintiff was awarded one farthing damages.—A bill has been filed in Chancery against the Anglo-American Cable Company to prevent the amalgamation of its stock with that of the Newfoundland and French Atlantic Telegraph Companies.—The manufacturers of Wolverhampton are importing iron from the United States, in consequence of the exorbitant rates at which native productions are held.—At the dinner of the Royal Literary Society in London, last week, the toast: "The Literature of the United States" was proposed and duly honoured. Mr. Motley, in responding, said he considered the literary men of both countries as fellow-citizens of the great English-speaking Republic.—Sir James Duke, Lord Mayor of London, in 1848, and for many years member of Parliament for Boston and London, died on the 28th ult., aged 83 years.—The run for the Derby stakes took place on Wednesday week, and was won by "Doncaster," "Kaiser" and "Gang Forward" coming in second. Immense crowds were present. Numerous accidents were caused by the running away of horses, falling of stands, and pressure of great crowds. Three persons were killed, and several others quite seriously injured.

FRANCE.—The new French Government has resolved to adopt a free trade policy, and also to reduce the military expenditures.—M. Thiers will resume his literary labours.—The opinion prevails in Berlin, that President McMahon will prove a counterpart of General Monk, the restorer of the House of Stuart to the English throne, and that his election heralds Legitimist restoration in France.—The new Government of France proposes to abandon the Commercial Treaty with England.—It is reported the Bank of France will advance the funds necessary to complete the payment of the war indemnity, and the evacuation of the French Territory by the German troops will follow immediately.—The Orléanists having refused to coalesce with the Legitimists and, also, with the Bonapartists, are said to have made propositions to the party of the Left-Centre, or moderate Republicans, but without success.—It is reported that Marquis de Bonnevillie, Ambassador of France at Vienna, will be recalled.—The Assembly on the 30th ult., voted to rebuild the column of Vendôme, and adjourned until the 5th June.

GERMANY.—The reception of the Shah of Persia in Berlin was the occasion of a great popular and military demonstration.

ITALY.—The Pope in a recent speech declared