

Kensington Gardens. The fashions that are taking in London are bodices with sleeves puffed at the top and clinging towards the wrists, and short skirts. Cedar-brown crepon and cerise velvet have accounted for some nice catches in Hyde Park; and black and white check silk and spring-green velvet are proving very effective.

The importance of the bride's "wedding jewels" in view of Hindoo law and custom is amusingly exemplified by a case which has been decided on appeal in the High Court in Calcutta. A young Hindoo lady, with an interest in an estate which was being legally administered during the minority of the heirs, had been allowed 5,000 rupees under her father's will, for the expenses of her approaching marriage. This sum was paid to her by the official receiver of the estate, and she expended the greater part on such jewels as were necessary, according to Hindoo rite and custom, for the proper solemnization of her wedding; but the jewels, together with a sum in cash, were unfortunately stolen from her, and the hapless bride had to come up and ask for more out of the estate. Counsel on her behalf feelingly urged that the young lady, who was nearly 10 years old, could not possibly be married without jewellery, that she would be condemned to premature spinsterhood if she missed her present opportunity, and that an indelible blemish would in consequence attach itself to the family escutcheon. The other side, representing the infant male heir, was willing to admit the force of all this, but expressed a sarcastic hope that "there would not be another theft between this and the date of the wedding." Ultimately the judge decided to allow a fresh supply of jewels to be purchased out of the estate, but having regard to what he termed "the obvious suggestion that the jewellery might be stolen again," he directed the treasure to be retained in the custody of the official receiver until the wedding day.

PEDDLERS, CHINESE AND WHITE

To the Editor of THE HOME JOURNAL:

DEAR SIR—I, for one, was pleased to read your remarks against "Chinese peddlers," and in this part of the city their name is "legion." They come with dry goods, tea, fish, plants, fruit, vegetables, etc., etc., and very often ten cents or a quarter would buy their stock in trade. I, unlike "Jam," find them very offensive, for they come week after week, blocking up the door with large baskets and small stock, harping in their broken English about things being "very cheap." "Jam" may think them "quiet and inoffensive"—she surely can't think them

pretty. Still I think "Jam" is a man, and not a woman, as the letter would lead us to believe, for surely no woman would think of bringing the white peddler down to the same level as a Chinese peddler.

I don't find the white peddler at all offensive as "Jam" would have us believe. Certainly they bring around a great many things we may not want. But I have always found them mannerly and polite.

First on "Jam's" list is the teamen. Now, my grocer is a good, all-round man, but could never satisfy me in tea, and the first good tea I have had since coming here I got from a tea agent, or, as "Jam" said, a "peddler." Now, I find my tea "peddler" is about to open a store on Government street, after having canvassed the city and worked up a trade. And for a real good business man, gentlemanly and honest, I could recommend my tea "peddler."

Then the machine men and picture men. I do give in they are "pushing." But of what use is a business man unless he has some push in him—I have not met one agent yet who was either rude or unmannerly. The old man with tape and cotton has not called my way yet. If he does, and I should be in want of a spool of cotton, would I not be justified in buying one?

Among the list of peddlers "Jam" has given, I notice the man with "the twisted piece of tin, he called a sink strainer." Now, that strainer was a good, useful article, and cheap at 25 cents. I did not buy one—funds were short. But the man, I found, came from the same part of England as myself. He was a man of education, having been in a good position, and had lived in the Province two years. He has a wife and family in Vancouver. He came to Victoria to sell those "strainers." He had two aims in view, one to see Victoria, the other to meet expenses; he thought of staying in Victoria as he thought Victoria far ahead of Vancouver. I am sure "Jam" will own he was a polite, well dressed man, even if he was a "peddler." This is only one or two instances to show the average peddler to be a gentleman, and not to be compared to those horrid looking Chinese. And even if the swarthy, (I cannot say insolent) Greek women should ask for an apple, what harm does it do? If the poor soul, tramping over the hot dusty street should ask for a little fruit, we who have gardens should remember the temptation. I do wish some peddler would come round with vegetables. Why can't some white gardener compete with the Chinese. I have to take my vegetables from a Chinaman simply because no white peddler comes my way, and I have too many babies to run to town very often. I

would hardly like to ask my husband to bring them home; he is generally too busy to go shopping. I think if some white peddler would bring nice fresh vegetables round he would do well. We are not like "Jam;" we believe in "living and let live." And if "Jam" would meet "white peddler" more like a lady and like "Slavey" in "Our Boys," she would find nothing to complain about. A little charity and a polite answer do wonder some times. Apologizing for the length of this letter,

I remain yours,
M. I.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Munroe, celebrating the tenth anniversary of their wedding by giving a card party to a number of friends Tuesday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Munroe were the recipients of quite a number of tin presents and the hearty congratulations of their friends. The evening, which was quite enjoyable, ended with a short programme of dancing.

R. Hill Myers, M.P.P., and wife, Minnedosa, Manitoba, are in the city on their way to San Francisco on a pleasure trip. Mr. Myers was in attendance at the meeting of the Masonic Grand Lodge at Banff.

The garden party under the auspices of the Victoria Lacrosse Club at Caledonia Park, Monday evening, was well attended. Dancing was kept up until a late hour and the music was all that could be desired.

Mr. P. E. Irving, of Messrs. Bodwell & Irving, has returned from a visit to England, where he accompanied Master Irving to his English public school.

A concert and social dance was held at Saanich Agricultural Hall, last Friday evening. The proceeds were in aid of the new church.

A children's lawn party was held Tuesday afternoon at the residence of Dr. Davie, Belcher street.

Mr. Thomas S. Begbie, brother of the late Sir Matthew B. Begbie, arrived in Victoria last Sunday evening.

Mrs. E. E. Blackwood and Miss Jackson have returned from a pleasant visit to the Sound.

John Boyd has returned from an extended trip to his old home in Scotland.

Ald. S. T. Styles and Miss Styles are visiting San Francisco.