

noticing the neat and tasteful way in which these devotees of art were dressed, and the refined freedom of their manner towards those about them. I really fell in love with all of them at once. But at present, I am sorry to say it, the ladies are not always to be trusted in their estimation of matters of artistic taste. One reason for this is that they are too much guided by fashion so that most women of society dare not dress or act except by the established rule, and the principles upon which they select a bonnet or buy a dress, are applied in the collecting of pictures, or the furnishing of a house.

VITRUVIUS.—In that connection, too, I have something to say, for of all the abominable attempts at design the production of the furniture dealers exceed anything that the world has ever seen. The rage for something new, the desire to outdo all competition, and the demand for what is the most popular, has driven out of the market all good design, and the most outrageous things are perpetuated under the name of the "Medallion," or the "Empress," or worse still the "Eastlake." Poor Eastlake, he has had to bear the abuse of the furniture makers in a way that would make Here we were interrupted by a crash and the Colonel's pipe was shattered by its fall. He was asleep, and the entrance of the ladies at this moment entirely broke up all conversation upon the subject, and as the evening wore on we discussed Christmas presents, and new styles of bonnets, the fire went out, and we gathered up the embers.

For the Torch:

FASHION FLAMBEAU.

Ladies' Ulsters are ceasing to be fashionable in St. John, and becoming decidedly common. This is a distinction with such a difference that soon everybody who is somebody, in the fashionable sense of the word, will have reduced her ulster only to the most common place purposes. In spite of that queching fact, though, it is doubtful when Madame Le Mode will devise anything so comfortable and convenient for ordinary wear. There are some wonderfully ugly specimens to be seen, of course, but this is to be expected when a fashion is run aground or needlessly elaborated. Keeping the simple meaning of the Ulster in view, and cutting it by a standard pattern, it can hardly fail to give satisfaction and serve admirably the double purpose of wrap and waterproof.

Last season, it was said, that the different fashionable hat shapes worn amounted to over seventy-five; but as this must have been an exceptionally large number, the millinery establishments and Fashion books do not show any very decided novelties for the present winter. The more popular of those shown, however, have the extra advantage of being adjustable either backwards or forwards. Far back upon the head for dressy occasions and snugly down before the forehead, when Boreas being out "on a time" is likely to be very rough with the wearer's front hair.

Among the new Parisian bonnets are shapes tightly covered with kid or chamois, which are so stylish as to be additional proofs of their being "nothing like leather." As a matter of course, they need very elaborate trimming, and are very expensive, but it is open to question, whether this latter fact does more than them all the more attractive. Six months ago, when imperials and Saratogas lay in burnt or battered heaps upon almost every street, *Sackcloth* seemed the only appropriate material for a city of ashes and extreme denial as to fashion, the inevitable portion of many of fashion's votaries; but now as finer bonnets are taking the places of those departed, to finer clothes must replace those which perished with the trunks. In the matter of dress St. John is more aesthetic than aesthetic, and thus

we have no doubt the bonnets aforementioned will be bought and worn at almost any price.

Just now Christmas presents are the order of the day for shoppers and the dry goods and fancy ware stores are literally crowded from morning until night. In the fancy work department of holiday goods, one of the prettiest novelties is embroidery upon honeycomb cloth with colored darning cotton or bright wools. All sorts of toilet appliances are made in this way, but a more satisfactory piece of work is a piano-cover. A pale, straw-colored piano cover embroidered with pale blue, and a delicate fawn color and having a large monogram worked in the centre, is described as being very handsome and at the same time less tedious in manufacture than many of the good-for-nothing trifles over which dainty fingers so often dwell.

Handkerchiefs, embroidered with colored monograms, are yet another outlet for the embroidery mania. Some simply have the initial or monogram worked in one corner, but more pretentious specimens have a motto or other device surmounting the name. Linen or cambric holds the chief place as a material for ladies' pocket handkerchiefs, but silk is also very much used, and is especially soft and soothing when the owners thereof groan under an attack of influenza.

"Now is the time," as the country papers say, when ends or corners of slippers protrude from almost every feminine work-basket. Apropos of the subject, quilted satin slippers for ladies, and embroidered velvet ones for gentlemen are equally the rage this season, but still more extreme novelties, that is for gentlemen, are those of untanned deer-skin, alligator skin, or silvery colored scales in imitation of snake skin. The latter might very fairly be called a *scaly* sort of present; nevertheless, as they are the latest Parisian furore, any young man receiving a pair will have the satisfaction of knowing that he is ultra-stylish as to footing.

In Jewelry the fancy for the moment are Japanese sets of olive-brown metal with designs in gold. Chateaufort vinaigrettes, belt-buckles, agrafes for cloaks as well as ordinary brooches and ear-rings, all come in this style, and are exceedingly unique; rather too much so in fact to last for any great length of time, oddity being an objectionable thing sometimes when it ceases to be also a novelty.

PORK VEEST'S MOOSEMEAT.

In the winter of 1874 a party of hunters, camping in the woods of the "Black North," were visited one day by an Indian named Newell, who, seeing some fine looking pork in the camp, suggested the idea of exchanging some of it for Moosemeat. They finally concluded to give him two rounds of pork, for which he agreed to give them two quarters of *Moose*. "Where will we find the Moosemeat," said Mr. S. "Know um big hill?" said Newell, pointing in a certain direction. "Yes, we know where that is," replied S. "Know um big pine tree close to big hill?" "Yes," "Well Indian started off with his pork, and the hunter's following Newell's directions, went for the tins of a hoax by "Big Injun." The following winter, Newell entered the camp one day and was soundly berated by S, for "selling" them so badly. The red skin drew himself up with an air of injured innocence, and said, "Find um big pine tree?" "We did." "Find um moose?" "We did." "No red rascal." "Of course we didn't, you find um big hill, and find um big pine tree, and no find um moose. Two truth and one lie way of elucidating the matter disarmed their anger, and Newell left the camp that night with his red skin full of "fire-water."

STAGE SPARKS.

BOICHAULT finding that "Marriage" is not a success will try a "Divorce."

DURING the performance of "Henry V." at the Arch Street Theatre, Rippeil became incensed at one of the "snaps," whom he picked up and hurled about a dozen feet across the floor. As "Our Joe" would say, he must have super-human strength.

HAPPY CRISP has scored a success as Asa Trenchard, in "Our American Cousin," at the Park Theatre. New York. His 145 Savors was also warmly applauded for her lively and intelligent impersonation of Florence Trenchard.

JAMES LEWIS is engaged to act Oliver Magnus in "Baby" at the Park Theatre—Jimmy ought to be a good Magnus for "Baby."

MAGGIE MITCHELL opened in Cincinnati on the 17th inst.

JOHN MURRAY'S Metropolitan Company opened in Mechanics Falls, Me. on the 17th inst., in the new Yacht Hall. Harry Basecomb and Grace Garland are still in the party.

LOUISE POMEROY has been playing at the National, Washington, in "As You Like It."

OLIVER DOND BYRON is scalping "ingins" in Cincinnati.

RACHEL NOAH has been doing Shakespearean business with Edwin Booth in Buffalo, N. Y.

BILLY SCALLEN and Jas. A. Meade are at the Arch street Theatre, Philadelphia.

HARRY LESLIE is at the Adelphi in Buffalo.

THE Dramatic News noticing a scalping drama called the "Fox and Ranger," at the Box on Howard says: "The principal object of this extraordinary production appears to be to give Joe Dowling an opportunity to murder people, which he improves to the utmost. He rosiestly raves in glee. Everbody in the piece is continually running away from him. But it's no use. He overhauls and kills 'em all before the end of the piece. Glory be to Allah, there is not a man left except Dowling and the Dogs."

THE "Amateur Minstrels" will give burnt cork illustrations in Bangor, Dec. 28th and 29th.

BYRON IN CHICAGO.—Oliver Dond Byron has crossed the Continent here nightly during the week, and fair sized audiences have witnessed the startling, blood curdling, hi-rioting gun and burning. Acts that seem a cessary to effect such a feat of trans-continental.

LOUIS ALDRICH is supporting McKee Rankin in the "Dimites," at G and Opera House, Milwaukee. The following extract from a review on the performance will please the numerous friends of Louis in "St. John": "Ed. the Pastor," by Louis Aldrich, was especially well taken.

THE Champion bare-back rider of the world Jimmy Robinson, is a St. John boy. His right name is Toby Lyons. He went away with Rowell & Stone's circus about thirty years ago and is now the acknowledged champion equestrian.

FRANK ROCHE is playing "Sir Wagstaff" in "Pink Dominoes" at Bulfinch's in San Francisco.

ROSA D'ERINA is giving Concerts in Richmond, Va.

M'LE ALENIS, the fire queen, is announced as now on her way from Europe, and to shortly appear here in her special, described in the card in another column.—*Opport.*

Let not the above be a mistake? We always thought that Kate Claxton claimed the "fire queen" eb uniposition.

THE Dramatic and Sporting News says "Blind Tom" played to tight houses in Nashville, Tenn. on Dec. 14th and 15th. He must have been somewhere on the coast if he played to a "Light House"—Perhaps Tom won't see the gook.

CAMILA USHO has been doing a good Concert business in Indiana. We like Ur so well that we hope she will always be successful.

MR. W. J. STANTON has resigned his position on the Boylston & Union Company.

THEY purr-puss having a cat show in Boston Music Hall on Jan 21. It will be a Mew-sick Hall, shouldn't they have it in the Talby-mole?

THEY are going to have the Devil Fish in Boston. Let the Devil Fish in Boston and he'll be sure to catch some fish.

BOARDING-HOUSE SCENE.

Place—Elliot Row

Landlady.—Mr Jones you have a little more stuff in with your chicken?"
Jones.—No, thanks, it's tough en-ough for me."
One of the irreverent boarders said something about Jones's very hen genious reply, and other fowl remarks were freely indulged in, much to the annoyance of poor Mrs Snuffkins who threatened to feed them on lard for the balance of the week.