

## Courrier des Dames.

Our lady readers are invited to contribute to this department.

### PARIS FASHIONS.

There really have been a few dances during the past month, and some very pretty dresses have shown themselves on each occasion, all of which have, of course, been low-necked, as it is very uncomfortable to dance in high dresses. Many ladies, however, who did not dance were in full evening dress, but, not décolletées—the V and square-cut bodices being adopted instead, surrounded with a high, stiff, Elizabethan frill. These Elizabethan frills are very becoming to some figures, but not to all. Let ladies then beware; let them first try the effect of a *fraise* before a truth-telling mirror, and with a conscientious, critical eye. A *fraise* requires a tall, elegant, slim figure, with a long, slender neck—then it is becoming; but the reverse is the case if worn by short, stout figures and short, thick necks. Velvet, both black and coloured, is more worn than anything else for ladies who do not dance, and often by ladies who do dance. There was one, in particular, which I noticed at one of the late parties, which was composed of ruby velvet, nearly covered with steel embroidery; and over this was worn a long train tunic of rich white lace, reaching to the edge of the velvet dress at back, but scarcely a quarter of a yard deep in front and at sides. A ruby velvet sash was then attached to the back of the waist, and each end of this sash was carried over the sides of lace train, and then was passed under through the opening at back, where it was tied in a double bow and allowed to hang over the back. The body, which was of white lace over black, was made low, and *à la vierge*—with ruby velvet bows and ends on shoulders; rubies and diamonds round neck, and same, for aigrette, in hair. These trains, plain velvet dresses, covered with lace tunics, are considered very elegant and *bon ton*, being rich, yet quite *distingué*. Some are even worn without lace tunics; but then they are nearly covered with jet embroidery, and have a Grecian scarf, tied at the side, also completely studded with jet. Black net dresses are likewise much worn, with foliage and flowers hanging over the dress, in lieu of scarfs and sashes. Here is an evening dress for an economical lady, which perhaps may be worth copying. I suppose, of course, that there is an old black silk skirt in stock, which is too old for outward wear. On this, therefore, place large double *bouillonnés* of black net, which must be wide and full enough to fall in folds one over the other. Between each *bouillonné* a lace flounce will look very rich, if you have any; if not, you will substitute platings of net for the flounces. Then, for tunic, you will make a scarf of the whole width of the net, which you will drape *en tablier* in front, and tie at the back, the ends alone being edged with a plating of net; body, *à la vierge*, with bows and long ends of black *moiré* ribbon on shoulders.

Shoulder-bows and ends are worn almost on every dress, whether high or low.

Young girls invariably wear white at dancing-parties, trimmed with real flowers. I have seen some dresses literally covered, even at this time of the year, with real China roses. In Paris, whenever there is a ball or party on the *tapix*, immediately we send to Nice for our flowers, and they come to us so carefully packed that they are as fresh as if newly culled from our own summer gardens.

Short costumes have quite disappeared, even from the streets, which is almost a pity, as they were very convenient for walking, which the present demi-long dresses certainly are not. Plain skirts, and equally plain pelisses, that is what the fashion-makers are striving at and trying to introduce—it only depends on the ladies themselves to say Yes or No. Since, however, the revival of Marion Delorme there seems an inclination to adopt the Louis XIII. style of dress, especially as it is found to be so becoming when worn by Mlle. Tavaré. As for tunics, they have now been tried in every possible style and shape, and I can scarcely imagine how they can again be varied. I am glad to say that the recent fashion for a contrast of glaring colours (or a mixture of several shades of one colour, with barely the shadow of a difference between each) is losing ground; and there is beginning to be more uniformity in the general ensemble of a toilette.

By-the-by, here is a very charming dinner dress, which I had almost forgotten to mention. It was worn lately by the lovely Marquise de C—, and consisted of a black satin skirt, trimmed up one side only, with a series of lace flounces reaching to the waist. Over this was worn an over-dress, also of black satin, made full, with a long, flowing train, which was looped up on one side to the waist, with a rich jet clasp, so as to show the ladder of flounces on the skirt beneath. The entire train was embroidered round with jet, as also were the sleeves and square body. A jetted scarf was tied round the waist.

Modistes are making one more effort to introduce the mantilla bonnet into fashion, and surely if ever it is to become popular, it will become so now, in these days of high combs. I have one before me at this present moment, and will endeavour to describe it. The foundation is made of a thick ruffling of wide black lace, which is fastened at back under the hair, by bows and ends of wide black *moiré* ribbon, reaching to the waist. On one side of this foundation, nearly at top of the head, is a rich rose, with foliage gracefully drooping on one side; and at the back is a high, towering ornament of jet or steel, in shape of one of the now fashionable combs; so that the bonnet comprises the comb in its manufacture. Then from

each side of the foundation proceeds a long, wide scarf of figured silk net, edged with real lace, one scarf being carried under the chin and fastened to opposite side, whilst the opposite side itself is left to flow unrestrainedly over the shoulder. Any lady could make such a bonnet at home. Real lace, however, is indispensable, or the whole bonnet would look common.

There is much talk at the present moment of the fashionable bleached locks, now being worn in New York. But, if you remember, we noticed this fashion in *Land and Water* last autumn, when it was first seen at Hamburg, Wiesbaden, and Baden-Baden. With the exception, however, of a few charming American girls, this fashion was only adopted by a class of ladies whom we do not acknowledge as leaders of fashion, for English gentlewomen to copy. The fashion itself, however, is not so new as is imagined. In every case bleaching is a most dangerous process, and only to be risked by the most reckless, whose life they value at a year. Time will bleach us all soon enough, and when it does, we shall accept the warning with a feeling the reverse of pleasure. I doubt whether fashion, even, would then have the power to make us rejoice at being bleached by the sun of years.—*Cor. Land and Water.*

### LADY LAWYERS.

A correspondent of the *Graphic* writes as follows to that paper anent the article we reproduced under the above heading last week:—"Your paper has for some time been such a consistent upholder of 'Woman's Rights'—or, as we prefer more truly to call them, 'Human Rights'—that the recent article in the *Graphic*, entitled 'Ladies as Lawyers,' has taken us by surprise. That a legal education should be denied to those women who wish for it, on the ground that it is hard for briefless barristers now, and the introduction of women would scarcely improve their chances of practice, is an argument not in accord with a liberal paper that would give women every advantage as regards property and the parliamentary franchise, when they have no other disqualification but that of their sex.' The press has never claimed a monopoly of its privileges for men, nor closed its doors against women who have chosen to enter its profession. When, therefore, any of its members use the argument that 'if they (women) have all the privileges of brains they should have all the responsibilities of sinews,' we think that they are not arguing from the facts as they exist. In England, where there is no conscription, and where every man who serves in the army or navy does so from choice, there arises no question of 'responsibility' or 'sinews' for women more than for men. Should a time arrive when conscription is needed for the defense of the country, then women will no doubt be able to provide, either by their money or their influence, substitutes to serve for them, as the majority of men have done in times past. Simple justice requires that women should have the opportunity for starting fair with men in the race for a livelihood and distinction; and then, if they are mentally or physically weaker, they will drop behind, and the men will keep the foremost place which they have honourably won—not by the exclusion of women, and outcries about the 'laws of nature,' but by manly and honest competition. I trust you will pardon one of the petitioners for a legal education for women for defending herself."

A correspondent of the *Bangalore Herald* says "a curious custom prevails among the Koravers and the lower class of ryots. When they marry, they compel their women to cut off a part of their two fore-fingers, and I understand that this barbarous practice has attracted the notice of the Judicial Commissioner. It is a religious rite, I believe; but all the same, it should be put down. Clearly the Koravers require to be civilized, or at all events humanized."

The Madrid correspondent of the *Daily News* tells us a pretty little story *à propos* of the latest ex-Queen of Spain: Maria Victoria, who is more ambitious than her husband, and by no means Garibaldiian in her politics, would, if left to herself, have gone on risking life and fortune to retain her thorny crown. She is painfully alive to what the French might term the ridicule of her situation. The poor lady had made up her mind from infancy to be a Queen. A statesman of wide-world reputation has told me that when a very little girl her head was turned by seeing the Empress Eugénie going, in all the peacock splendour of Imperial pageantry, to the opening of the Chambers. The future Queen of Spain was then a pupil in the convent of the Sacré-Cœur of Paris. On describing to some of the nuns the dazzling pomps and vanities she had witnessed, she was informed that Mlle. de Montijo was dedicated from infancy to the Virgin, and a devout worshipper of our Lady, who rewarded her for her piety with an Imperial crown. The following Sunday the youthful Princess della Cisterna went to dine at the house of the statesman who has given me these details. "Well, my little friend," he said to her at dessert, "I see that you will merit some nice recompense, as well as the Empress, since the Sisters have given you a medal for good conduct." "It's not a prize," answered the child; "it's a medal in honour of Notre Dame des Victoires. You know she's my patroness. I am called Maria Victoria, after her." "Indeed! such a powerful godmother ought to send you charming presents." "I should think so. If you knew what I have asked of her?" "The biggest doll that ever was bought?" "No." "Well, then, a *crèche*, with the  *bambino*, the shepherds, angels, wise men, and oxen." "Oh, nonsense! we have plenty of *crèches* at the convent; I am sick of them; I have asked our Lady to give me the half of her own crown, or a whole regal one. You know she gave the Empress, who was only a little Spanish countess, an Imperial

crown—the nuns say *la plus belle couronne du monde*. What could she and should she not do for a Princess della Cisterna, who is called after her?"

## News of the Week.

**THE DOMINION.**—A fire broke out in the Legislative Council wing of the Parliament buildings of Quebec, last week, from the overheating of a furnace flue. The fire was discovered in time, and the flames extinguished before serious damage was done. Mr. Caron, son of the Lieut.-Governor of Quebec, has been elected to represent the County of Quebec in the House of Commons. His majority was 674. Much damage has been done in Quebec by the flooding of cellars during the spring tide, assisted by the gale of Saturday. A new writ has been issued for the election of a new member to the Commons for the West Riding of Durham, in place of the Hon. Edward Blake who has been elected to sit for South Bruce. A grand international regatta is to be held at Toronto about the 28th of June.

**UNITED STATES.**—George Francis Train will probably be released from the Tombs and sent to a Lunatic Asylum on Thursday. Luna-hillo, King of the Sandwich Islands, intends to come to San Francisco to make a tour of the United States. Judge Brady has denied the motion to amend the judgment record in Stokes' case, and said the proper method was by *certiorari*, which will bring the case before the general term. The Modoc Indians are endeavouring to draw a powerful neighbouring tribe into an alliance, and trouble is anticipated.

**GREAT BRITAIN.**—Another attempt to defeat the Government was made in the Commons last week upon the passage in its second reading of the Burials bill. The attempt, however, proved unsuccessful, and the second reading was carried by vote of 230 against 217. At a recent banquet at the Mansion House Mr. Gladstone, in some remarks made in reply to a toast, said the Ministry had a full and a recovery, and were ashamed of neither. Though they had failed to give Ireland a national University, history would prove that the principle was indestructible. Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador to Great Britain, died last week.

**FRANCE.**—President Thiers has ordered the Prefect of the Lower Pyrenees to arrest Don Carlos wherever found. President Thiers has received an invitation from the Emperor of Austria to attend the Vienna exhibition. The Government are sending strong reinforcements to the troops now stationed on the Spanish frontier. The Assembly has rejected a motion made by the Left for the abolition of the state of siege. There have recently been serious disturbances among the cadets at St. Cyr. Gen. de Cissey, the Minister of War, visited the institution and sentenced ten of the students to a month's imprisonment. The newspaper *L'Union*, in its issue of this afternoon, says Marshal Bazaine will soon be released from imprisonment on parole. The Government authorities at Bayonne have seized a quantity of cartridges destined for the Carlist insurrectionists in Spain.

**GERMANY.**—A squadron of German naval vessels has been ordered to cruise in Spanish waters. Bismarck refuses to recognize the Spanish Government, which, he says, was imposed on the Assembly by popular pressure.

**AUSTRIA.**—An International Patent Right Congress will be held in Vienna during the World's Exhibition. The Lower House of the Reichsrath has passed the direct Elections Bill to its second and third readings by 13 votes in excess of the required two-thirds majority.

**ITALY.**—A Naples despatch reports revolts in two towns in Italy against the collection of taxes.

**SPAIN.**—A Madrid letter states that the Spanish authorities are rather indignant at the course of the United States, in encouraging the rebellion in Cuba, and accuse Secretary Fish of insolence and duplicity. It is rumoured that a secession movement is on foot in the Canaries, the leaders of which propose to declare the Islands independent of Spain, and to ask for a British Protectorate. The Spanish Cabinet has issued a circular claiming the sympathy and assistance of all parties in the country against the Carlists on account of the declaration of emancipation in Porto Rico. The *Imparcial* announces that Don Carlos has abdicated his claims to the Spanish Throne in favour of his son, under the regency of Don Alphonso. General Cabral has been appointed to the supreme command of the Carlist forces in Spain. The Government accepted the resignation of Senor Olozaga, Spanish Minister to France. A *levée en masse* of the adult male population of Catalonia and neighbouring provinces to support the Carlist insurrection is probable. Many republicans who have volunteered to fight the insurgents, are already meeting at the appointed rendezvous. It is expected that Catalonia will soon be declared in a state of siege.

### COMMERCIAL SCHOOL.

#### HARBOR GRACE, NEWFOUNDLAND.

MR. JAMES I. FELLOWS.—*Dear Sir:* I am very happy to acknowledge the benefit I have received from the use of your Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites. For upwards of twelve months I suffered most acutely from a severe cough and a most violent *asthma*, for the relief of which I tried everything I could hear of. I at last commenced the use of your Syrup, and after taking one bottle was able to attend to my avocation. I continued according to directions till I had used nine bottles, which effected a perfect cure. With much gratitude, yours truly,

M. SCULLEY, Teacher.

REGISTERED in accordance with the Copy-right Act of 1868.

## THE NEW MAGDALEN.

BY WILKIE COLLINS.

SECOND SCENE.—*Mablethorpe House.*

### CHAPTER XXIV.

#### LADY JANET'S LETTER.

The narrative leaves Lady Janet and Horace Holmcroft together, and returns to Julian and Mercy in the library.

An interval passed—a long interval, measured by the impatient reckoning of suspense—after the cab which had taken Grace Roseberry away had left the house. The minutes followed each other; and still the warning sound of Horace's footstep was not heard on the marble pavement of the hall. By common (though unexpressed) consent, Julian and Mercy avoided touching upon the one subject on which they were now both interested alike. With their thoughts fixed secretly in vain speculation on the nature of the interview which was then taking place in Lady Janet's room, they tried to speak on topics indifferent to both of them—tried, and failed, and tried again. In a last and longest pause of silence between them, the next event happened. The door from the hall was softly and suddenly opened.

Was it Horace? No—not even yet. The person who had opened the door was only Mercy's maid.

"My lady's love, Miss; and will you please to read this directly?"

Giving her message in those terms, the woman produced from the pocket of her apron Lady Janet's second letter to Mercy, with a strip of paper oddly pinned round the envelope. Mercy detached the paper, and found on the inner side some lines in pencil, hurriedly written in Lady Janet's hand. They ran thus:

"Don't lose a moment in reading my letter. And mind this, when H. returns to you—meet him firmly: say nothing."

Enlightened by the warning words which Julian had spoken to her, Mercy was at no loss to place the right interpretation on those strange lines. Instead of immediately opening the letter, she stopped the maid at the library door. Julian's suspicion of the most trifling events that were taking place in the house had found its way from his mind to hers. "Wait!" she said. "I don't understand what is going on upstairs; I want to ask you something."

The woman came back—not very willingly. "How did you know I was here?" Mercy inquired.

"If you please, miss, her ladyship ordered me to take the letter to you some little time since. You were not in your room, and I left it on your table—"

"I understand that. But how came you to bring the letter here?"

"My lady rang for me, miss. Before I could knock at her door she came out into the corridor with that morsel of paper in her hand—"

"So as to keep you from entering her room?"

"Yes, miss. Her ladyship wrote on the paper in a great hurry, and told me to pin it round the letter that I had left in your room. I was to take them both together to you and to let nobody see me. 'You will and Miss Roseberry in the library' (her ladyship says), 'and run, run, run! there isn't a moment to lose!' Those were her own words, miss."

"Did you hear anything in the room before Lady Janet came out and met you?"

The woman hesitated and looked at Julian.

"I hardly know whether I ought to tell you, miss."

Julian turned away to leave the library. Mercy stopped him by a motion of her hand.

"You know that I shall not get you into any trouble," she said to the maid. "And you may speak quite safely before Mr. Julian Gray."

Thus reassured, the maid spoke.

"To own the truth, miss, I heard Mr. Holmcroft in my lady's room. His voice sounded as if he was angry. I may say they were both angry—Mr. Holmcroft and my lady." (She turned to Julian.) "And just before her ladyship came out, sir, I heard your name—as if it was you they were having words about. I can't say, exactly, what it was; I hadn't time to hear. And I didn't listen, miss; the door was ajar, and the voices were so loud nobody could help hearing them."

It was useless to detain the woman any longer. Having given her leave to withdraw Mercy turned to Julian.

"Why were they quarrelling about you?" she asked.

Julian pointed to the unopened letter in her hand.

"The answer to your question may be there," he said. "Read the letter while you have the chance. And if I can advise you, say so at once."

With a strange reluctance she opened the