

AUTUMN FASHIONS.

Lucy Hooper writes from Paris to the Philadelphia Telegraph as follows: At the leading dressmakers' a severer and simpler style appears to prevail at present than that which has been in vogue for some time past. The introduction of brocades and velvet-floated silks for the trains of dresses has necessitated comparative plainness in the skirts of full-dress toilets. The back of the dress is usually formed of brocade or velvet damasked silk or satin, falling in a long train and perfectly plain; the front of the skirt is of plain silk, and is either covered with a long fringe-bordered tablier, or is trimmed with platings and ruchings. One dress recently displayed by Pingot was of steel gray silk, stippled in ribbon-grass pattern with rose pink; the skirt was bordered all round with a full ruching, and was covered in front with a very long tablier of plain gray silk, bordered with a knotted sewing-silk fringe. The cuirass waist was of gray silk, the sleeves of striped silk fitting close to the arm, with a narrow plaited ruffle at the waist ornamented with a small gray bow at the side. The corsage was cut up into a point at the back so as to afford free passage from the train, which was laid in large square plaits at the waist. This peculiarly youthful and elegant toilet was intended for a young American belle. Apron overskirts of heavy net, edged with fringe, are the latest innovation. They come in worsted net for cashmere costumes and walking dresses, and in sewing-silk net for evening toilets. A very handsome costume of brown India cashmere (what is known at home as camels' hair) and brown silk was shown. The corsage was cut very long and square in front, after the fashion of a Louis Quinze vest, while behind, the whole overdress and waist were cut in one in the Princess style, the long end of the overskirt being looped at the side in very graceful scarf-like fashion. The whole of this dress or polonaise was composed of alternate bands of brown silk and cashmere. The skirt was of brown silk, bordered at the bottom with two deep full ruchings, one of cashmere and the other of silk. The apron overskirt was of worsted net, bordered with a worsted fringe, and was so deep as to touch the ruchings around the skirt. A black velvet dinner-dress was also shown. The long train was lined with satin, and was cut in squares along the edge and up the sides where the train joined the side breaths. The front of the skirt was covered with a deep apron overskirt of heavy sewing-silk net; the meshes increased in size towards the bottom of the overskirt, and in each mesh of the last two or three rows was hung a small silk tassel; this overskirt was bordered with a wide silk fringe. A beautiful ball dress for a lady in slight mourning was composed of heavy black silk trimmed with plaited flounces; the overdress was composed of a white Valenciennes inserting and strips of black silk gauze; it was bordered with a wide ruffle of Valenciennes lace, and was drawn in a rich full drapery behind, which drapery was also bordered with Valenciennes.

ECCENTRICITIES IN CHURCH.

John Randolph, of Roanoke, one of the most remarkable men the United States ever produced, was a great Bible reader, and was deeply concerned with religious subjects. He employed an excellent and eloquent man, Mr. Abner Clopton, to preach every Sunday to his negroes in a large chapel he had erected on his plantation. When at home he invariably attended these services, taking his seat by the preacher on the open platform from which the preacher conducted the services. On many occasions while kneeling beside the preacher, who was prone to be carried away by the fervor of prayer, Randolph would slap him on that back and call out loudly, "Clopton, that won't do; that's not sound doctrine; Clopton, take that back," and if Clopton remonstrated, Randolph, though keeping himself on his knees, was ready at once for an argument to maintain his point. No one but Mr. Clopton, who knew the eccentricity and honest motives of the man, could have borne with these irreverent interruptions while in the midst of prayer; but Mr. Clopton, when he found Randolph determined to argue the point, either gracefully yielded or proposed to note the point and argue it at the dwelling-house. To visitors at the chapel—and they were many—these scenes were exceedingly curious, and sometimes absurdly ludicrous. But what that was Mr. Randolph's way. It is said that on one cold Sunday, in this chapel on Mr. Randolph's plantation, while giving out the hymn in the old-fashioned way, two lines at a time, and it was being lustily sung by the negroes, Mr. Clopton, the preacher, observed a negro man put his foot, upon which was a new brogan, on the hot stove. Turning towards him he said in his measured voice, "You rascal, you; you'll burn your shoes." As this was a rhyme of the exact metre of the hymn, the negroes all sung it in their loudest tones. Smiling at the error, the preacher attempted mildly to explain by saying: "My colored friends, indeed you are wrong; I didn't intend that for the song," there it was again, another rhyme in good measure, so the negroes sang that too in pious fervor. Turning to his congregation, the preacher said somewhat sharply, "I hope you will not sing again until I have had time to explain;" but this only aroused the negroes, who sang the last words with increased vigor. Mr. Clopton feeling that his tongue seemed to be turned to rhyme, abandoned all efforts at explanation and went on with his services.

ARABELLA GODDARD.

This great pianist says of herself in the Daily Graphic:—I began to show signs of musical talent when two years old. I became, in fact, a sort of a wonder child—a thing I detest now. At eight years of age I was taken to England to court from Brittany, (I was born in France), but was brought back soon after, and did not leave the country again for several years. I was a pupil of Wallace and Kalkbrenner, and Lablache took a great interest in me. In fact, I was nurtured in the very atmosphere of such great artists as Grisi and Mario. At one time I sang considerably, and became a mistress of the vocal art in all essential things. But my voice began to show signs of weakness, and I gave up the idea. One cannot do two things, you know, and do both well. I travelled in Germany when a girl, and played, too, in Paris. My father met with reverses, and that induced him to put me into the profession. I found that England engrossed all my time and efforts for many years. About ten years ago, Maurice Strakosch made me offers to come to this country, but I declined. I had a horror of the sea then. If I could only have imagined how many oceans I should cross in my lifetime I should not have hesitated at one.

"How long is your engagement with Mr. Max Strakosch?"

"Three months—until January 4. After that I go to Canada; but I shall not return to England until next summer, as I wish to see the Centennial Exposition. You have beautiful theatres here. On Saturday evening I visited the Lyceum Theatre to hear "La Fille de Madame Angot." I was delighted with the representation—every part so well done, even to the smallest—and the opera is charming to me. I had heard it in English, but none but the French have the piquancy for opera bouffe. All others lack the *verve*, the *entrain*. I was brought up in France, you know, and like all French performances. Mme. Nilsson is a great favorite here, I understand. She is a superb artist, and I know of no one, moreover, who has such distinguished manners in a *salon*. As for her impersonation, what could be more perfect than her *Mignolo*? And she has been successful, too, so wide is her range of characterization, in "Les Huguenots." There was the same outcry against her assuming *Valentina* as against Patti doing the same thing. But the latter was triumphant, too; and indeed why shouldn't there be a *petite Valentina* as well as a large one? Mme. Patti is a great friend of mine—we are like sisters. By the way, I noticed in Miss Kellogg, whom I heard abroad, a decided resemblance to Adelina Patti in voice and style. She is a smaller Patti, in fact. You ask me if I have heard Von Bulow. No, but he is, of course, a master. I have played duets with Rubinstein, and I imagine Von Bulow to be very like him in style."

WEBSTER'S HOME.

A correspondent of the Boston Globe has been visiting the farm of Daniel Webster at Marshfield, and writes: The mansion house is a typical American homestead, quite extensive, with an air of comfort and convenience, and in some way impresses one as the abode of past greatness. Sufficiently ornate to satisfy good taste, it has an unpretentious grandeur that accords well with the spot. Though occupied as a private residence and not open for public inspection, still the writer and friend were most politely received and shown the principal rooms by the excellent lady of the house. The first room visited was the library, which is the finest and naturally the most interesting apartment. It is situated in one of the wings of the house, and was designed by Julia, the lamented daughter, especially for her father's use, and in its plan and arrangements, does great credit to her taste and skill. It is left as nearly as possible as it was at Mr. Webster's death—the great massive writing table, the favorite chair, the pictures and ornaments remain mementoes of other days and vividly recall the great life with which they were so intimately associated. Most of the books have been removed from the cases for sale, but their places are supplied with articles of *virtu* and ornaments of great variety and value, the collection of a life-time. The high vaulted walls are adorned with pictures and busts, many of the former being family portraits, the most conspicuous being one of Mr. Webster, by Healy, painted at the time of the signature of the Ashburton treaty, and another of Major Edward Webster in the uniform of the Massachusetts Mexican Volunteers. The staff and white felt hat are suspended in their accustomed place over the picture of their former possessor. Other rooms, the music room, the dining and morning rooms, the star chamber, and Mr. Webster's room, in which he died, were shown us, and the particular features and souvenirs pointed out. They are all preserved in appearance as when the household lost its master and the nation its greatest intellect. In the dining-room many pictures of favorite cattle drawn from life hang on the walls, while in others miniatures of grandchildren and sketches of Webster in rude home garb and white hat attract the eye. From the window of the morning-room, looking out upon the elm, the final farewell was taken two or three days before his death of the herd of 150 cattle, driven up for their owner's last view. Mr. Webster had a strong attachment for his cattle, and talked to them and fondled them as though they were intelligent beings. The rooms have that home-like aspect in keeping with the character of one "to the manner born," who here sought relief from the cares of state and life,

and ever yearned for the peace and pleasures of a beloved New England home in which he was reared.

VARIETIES.

In 1874-75 the total number of pilgrims going to and returning from Mecca amounted to 15,342, an increase of nearly 5,000 over the previous year.

The late Mr. Donaldson is said to have intended delivering lectures on aerostatics this winter, had he lived, illustrating them by flying machines.

It is said that Brigham Young has acquired the title of General from having been called "Briggy dear" so often by his numerous wives.

The Duke of Edinburgh took up the fiddle and the bow at a concert given at the great Russian fair and conducted the band, who were playing his own waltz, "The Galatea." The concert was made so agreeable that it was actually prolonged until five o'clock in the morning.

The following method is used in Germany for the preservation of wood. Mix forty parts chalk, fifty resin, four linseed oil, melting them together in an iron pot; then add one part of native oxide of copper, and afterward one part of sulphuric acid. Apply with a brush. When dry, this varnish is as hard as stone.

A remarkable article called fish flour has been brought forward in the last few years. It is not as yet manufactured in any great quantity, as the article is still new in the market, and consequently there is no great demand for it. The flour is prepared from dried fish of the first quality; it is thoroughly desiccated, and then ground in a mill.

CORN cobs are extensively used in Europe for fire lighters. They are first steeped in hot water containing 2 per cent. of saltpetre, and after being dried at a high temperature, are saturated with 50 per cent. of resinous matter. These lighters, which are sold at from \$3 to \$5 the thousand, are employed with advantage and economy in private houses and for lighting furnaces.

The women of the Karen tribes in Chinese Burmah wear rings of thick brass wire round the wrist and elbow, and again round the knee and ankle, confining them so in every motion that they cannot possibly squat down on the ground in the usual Oriental fashion, or kneel to pray as the men do, while in walking their feet make two separate tracks a foot or so apart.

ANOTHER hard glass, to which the name of metal glass has been given, has been produced at Count Solm's works, near Buntzlau, Germany. The tests withstood appear to be about the same as those to which the Bastie glass was subjected, with the exception, however, that the metal glass is indifferent to cold water when highly heated. The Bastie glass breaks under similar conditions. The treatment to which the glass is subjected in the new process is not made public, but it is probably, like the Bastie method, a system of annealing.

HUMOROUS.

A Canadian Indian has accomplished the feat of running twelve miles an hour. His wife chased him the first two, however.

"I'm two years older than you," said a little eight-year-old girl to a New-England boy the other day. "Well, I don't care," was the reply; "I'm going to wear trousers soon, and that you'll never do."

"WHY, Eliza Mary, I ain't seen yer for I don't know 'ow long!" "No, Mrs. Jenkins, you ain't. I've been that ill I don't seem to get well at all." "But haven't you taken any remedy?" "No indeed, Mrs. Jenkins, but I've taken a power of physic."

A reporter being called to account for the statement that a certain meeting "was a large and respectable one," when only one other besides himself was present, insisted that his report was literally true; for, said he, "I was large and the other one was respectable."

A MAN ran into German up-town savings bank lately, out of breath, and said: "If you don't got it I want it. If you do got it I don't want it." "We do got it, Leyboldt," said the cashier, showing the money. "Dat's all right, den. I shoost want it if you don't got it."

A little fellow, five or six years old, who had been wearing undershirts much too small for him, after having been washed, was put into another garment as much too large as the other had been too small. Our six-year-old shrugged his shoulders, shook himself, walked around, and finally burst out, "Ma, I do feel awful lonesome in this skirt."

SUNDAY night, when a young man drove out of Vicksburg several miles to pass the evening with the girl of his choice, he was met at the gate by her father, who at once proceeded to business by saying:

"Cum to spark Louisa, eh?"
The young man let silence answer the question.
"Expect it'll make a match?" continued the father.
Silence again, while the young man tied the horse. As he was ready to go in, the father blocked the way, braced up, and continued:

"See here, young man, let's have an understanding. If ye mean hitch 'tween now and January, all right, but if ye don't, I want ye to understand that candles is mighty high this fall and crops don't turn out worth a cuss!"

As the young man got through the gate it is probable that he gave the father a direct and an agreeable answer.

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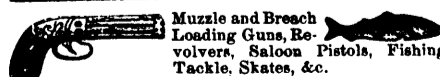
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