

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.**VIOLET PROTESTS.**

To the Editor of the Victoria Home Journal:

SIR—I read with much pleasure in THE HOME JOURNAL of last week the report of the lecture given in Toronto by Mrs. Jeanness Miller, the eminent dress reform advocate. I have no hesitation whatever in stating that nearly every word uttered by this lady will at once appeal to the reason of women who have been fettered with a style of dress which should never have been adopted, as it is not beautiful, and, from a hygienic view, decidedly hurtful. That the words of Mrs. Miller are taking deep root in the minds of her sex, I might say that already three hundred dauntless girls in schools at Baltimore have resolved in their might that they won't wear corsets any more, and also that they won't wear garters.

Corsets, as every man knows from observation, are bad for the figure, and garters, as his youthful experience tells him, leave a red mark above the knee. The only possible objection to leaving off corsets might be that modesty would dictate the abandonment of the round dance. But there is no doubt that the average man would rather see a woman as beautiful as nature made her than tied up like a chicken or a roast ready for the fire. Most men are tired of round dances anyhow. There is not much fun in grasping a collection of whalebones and piloting it at a respectable distance through the mazy.

It is pleasing to consider that the day of the garter is nearly over.

Honi soit qui mal y pense

is all very well from the moral point of view. From the physical point of view, from the point of view of common sense,

Honi soit qui mal y dosen't pense.

is the motto for to-day.

The years when women had their legs bound blood-tight at the knee and acquired the habit of running with a more absurd action than a hackney mare have gone. We have improved. The Knight of the Garter will soon have to sport as a symbol a piece of elastic long enough to reach from the shoulder to the knee.

I observe in the New York World an interview on this subject with a prominent actress. Here are her own words on the important subject:

"If garters were thrown, phys-

like, to the dogs, and corsets were used for coal scuttles or something women would be 50 per cent. more comfortable and 50 per cent. happier. Of course I wear garters—the long ones, you know, that go over the shoulders—but I never wear corsets if I can help it.

"In the play of Uncle Celestin, I do not wear anything at all, that is nothing in the way of corsets or garters. Have you seen the play? Yes? Well you could see the difference, couldn't you? Why in the character of Gustave, I am almost as full as a man, that is to say as easy in the figure. You see it is unnatural for a woman to cave in in the middle of her body as corsets make her do. You can see that by looking at any good statue. You can tell what an absurd thing a corset is as soon as you find out how pretty a woman is when free

from it. Of course there are times when I am obliged either to wear corsets or to have my waist well boned. For instance, when I wear low necked costumes. But that is no excuse for putting a little child into corsets and teaching her almost from infancy to believe that a backbone in a woman is a luxury and not a necessity."

From numerous interviews with women, I have arrived at the conclusion that the corsets bid fair to be done away with and that people may soon hope to see a quantity of Venuses of Milo prancing along our streets. In the present stage of humanity, the garter as draped over the shoulder must probably endure. Woman cannot take to socks because her gowns admit the cold air, and without a garter no self-respecting stocking will keep a stiff upper lip. VIOLET.

THE SEHL-HASTIE-ERSKINE CO.

Extend thanks to their Patrons and New Year Congratulations, and at the same time invite attention to their handsome line of

**LADIES' CABINETS IN OAK,
Secretaries, Music Racks**

An immense range of

BANNER LAMPS, ETC.

66 TO 68 GOVERNMENT ST.

**THE HOME JOURNAL,
THE GREAT FAMILY NEWSPAPER,**

\$1.00 - - - PER ANNUM.