

Mollie May in New York-V.

My Dear Julia: I have just returned from a short shopping tour to New York and am fairly exhausted, for it is rather wearing to chase around town and try on



A FALL GOWN.

all kinds of cloth and velvet gowns this kind of weather. Many of the shops are exhibiting their new importations, giving one a fair idea of the fashions for the coming season. It is to be a "velvet one," for nearly every model is either lavishly trimmed or wholly made of it—and exquisite creations they are, too. Gold braid of an untarnishable quality is generously used on these gowns, deftly combined with laces and ribbons. Of course the velvet gowns are wonderfully smart and rich, but I think a chic little Eton or bolero made of velvet and worn with a cloth skirt matching the jacket in color, is quite as effective and more serviceable. The Eton still holds its popularity, and nearly every fall costume has one, cut up very high in the back, and with long, rounded tabs falling quite a bit below the waist line at the front. These Etons appear in all kinds of material and are elaborately ornamented with braiding, fancy buttons or cloth of gold with lace applique. With these short-backed jackets, deep draped belts are worn, fastening at the front or side with fancy buttons or buckles.

In regard to skirts, it is rumored that we are to have gowns of sensible length for street wear and that trains will be seen only on house gowns. Let us hope that this is really true, although as yet no models of this kind have been seen. The front breadths of many gowns are highly decorated and draped, this fashion having met with great favor, especially in designs for evening gowns or reception costumes.

Green seems to be "the" color, and will be worn a great deal, next in favor being the rich, warm shades of brown. Cashmere is again in favor and can be obtained in the most ravishing shades in plain colors and exquisitely embroidered breadths. No other material lends itself so gracefully to the present modes of tucking and draping, and it will be welcome news to many to know that with the return of smooth-faced cloths, cashmere stands in the lead. As for its wearing qualities, it is unsurpassable.

Separate waists are still in great demand, although whole gowns of one material are decidedly better form. Taffeta is no longer used for fancy waists as its stiff qualities make it rather undesirable. All soft silks are used, peau de sole or surah, with much better effect.

I have sketched a fall costume which is being made for me, copied from a recently imported model. It is of soft, pliable black cloth, with revers and collar of white cloth, strapped with narrow black satin bands and highly ornamented with buttons. The skirt has a panel and yoke effect over the hips, fastening at the back under an inverted box pleat. The side seams are pleated, and the joining seams are strapped with stitched bands of cloth. The jacket is quite chic and has rather a military effect, with the strappings on the revers and collar. The draped belt of black satin made for this Eton is very wide, as the coat is cut up into a deep point at the back. A coat cut on these lines will be quite good form for the coming season, as the latest models shown were of that order.

I am told there are hundreds of bewitching model gowns just waiting to be unpacked and exhibited, and you may be sure I shall see them all and write you about them. Fondly yours,

MOLLIE MAY.

VARIOUS SUBJECTS.

Patchwork Opinions.—The many opinions of the many writers remind me of a crazy patchwork quilt, no piece being especially attractive until united with many others of various shapes and colors. Some of my favorite books are St. Elmo, In His Steps and A Watt. Lillenne Ardell, you are living in my native town, I lived there until the spring of '89. I have lived in Illinois, Iowa, Montana, Alabama, and am now living in the beautiful state of Texas. This part of Texas consists of large, rich, black land valleys, bordered by long, low mountain ranges, or bluffs. As most of the Y A's like flowers, they should see the wild flowers of Texas, many flowers, which are cultivated in the northern states, grow here wild in countless numbers. I will name some of them. Several varieties of cactus, snow on the mountain and bear grass. During the spring and summer months, the valleys here look like one perpetual flower garden. I propose that the Y A's describe the different points of interest where they live. I think questions and discussions about oil wells, trees, coal mines and similar subjects would be more interesting than kissing and flirting. Can anyone tell one the use of the towers over oil wells?—[Fannie Allen.]

Rheumatism.—"I observe that in many cases rheumatism disappears when the stomach and digestive organs are put in proper condition," says a regular physician. "Many of the patent medicines relieve the disturbance of the digestive organs and help along the cure of rheumatism in this way. The Christian Scientist gets his mind in such a condition that he is relieved from nervous dyspepsia. This helps nature. The man who takes no medicine at all gets well, demonstrating the fact that some of the other cures attributed to medicines and Christian Science might have occurred without their aid."

Coins.—E. D. S., a \$3 gold piece, date 1878, is worth \$3.50 to 5, according to condition.—J. L. K., there is no premium on the Mexican and Spanish dollar you sent. It is very common.—Ira V., the 1853 quarter without arrows off is rare.—C. E. K., the half-dollar you described brings no premium.—W. D. D., the 1821 10-cent piece is valued at 15 or 20c.—E. T. B., a half-cent of 1804 is worth 5 or 10c, 3-cent 1863 paper currency 25c, and the Swedish silver coin of 1780 described 20 to 30c.—Miss G. R., are the copper cents you mentioned U S money?—A Reader's 3-cent silver piece is common. You may be able to obtain an old coin book from the New York Stamp and Coin Co., 85 Broadway, New York.—Mrs R. B., your copper coin of 1787 is a N J cent, worth from 15c up, according to condition.

Relationship.—"If B married M's daughter and M married B's daughter, what relation would their children be?" is the knotty question asked by A. and H. If B married M's daughter, he would have two sets of children, his daughter and the children of his union with M's daughter. The children of the latter marriage would therefore be half-brothers and sisters of B's first daughter, then if this daughter and M should rear a family, the children naturally would be nieces and nephews of the above-mentioned half-brothers and sisters. This is a sort of cross-relationship, for if you start with M, the progeny of his daughter and B will be nephews and nieces of the children of M and B's daughter.

The Woman with the experience of many years has found life to be a very different thing from what it seemed in her girlhood, and early womanhood. And, though many pleasant memories may cluster around those early days, she has little desire to go back to the immature years, for she now lives in a world so much larger than formerly. There is still so much to enjoy. She is not old, if no longer young. She has reached the prime of her life, when all her powers are, or should be, at their very best. If marriage has come to her, she realizes what a grand thing it is to be a real home maker, to help upward and onward the young lives that may be growing up around her. And in no more pleasant way can she live over again the days of her own youth than in taking a deep interest in the work and play of her children,

directing and shielding them as none but a wise mother can do. If home making and its cares have not come to her, she has no cause for grieving. Her life may still be a very full one, so many avenues are open to women at the present day. The limits and restrictions that once hampered the single woman have no longer to be combated. She is free to carry out her own plans and to take her place with the world's workers, happy in the knowledge that she is not a superfluous being, but that she can be of use to others, and that the world has need of her. [Alice Brown Cutler.]

The Dead Line.—Undoubtedly there is a dead line. Some men have already passed it at 30; others never reach it till they follow a clergyman feet first out of church. For the professional man whose study lamp still burns, 50 is but a milestone on the road to greater power. And for him there is always something to be won and a new way to win it if the old one will not do. At 70 he is learning and planning and executing. He is climbing trees, like Gen Wheeler, to see what the enemy is up to; or drumming up wheat, like Mr Armour, to freeze out the other youngsters; or planning a great home rule program like that lively octogenarian, the late Mr Gladstone. The ability to see new conditions and to meet them is the secret of youth's power in the world to-day. And so long as a man has that ability, the years count for nothing. You can draw a dead line behind him, but you can't catch and push him over it.—[Saturday Evening Post.]

The Crow.—He is lazy, and that is human; he is cunning, and that is human. He thinks his own color the best, and loves to hear his own voice, which are eminent traits of humanity. He will never work when he can get another to work for him—a genuine human trait. He eats whatever he can get his claws upon, and is less finichious with a belly full than when hungry, and that is like man. Take off their wings, and put them in breeches, and crows would make fair average men. Give men wings, and reduce their smartness a little, and many of them would be almost good enough to be crows.—[Henry Ward Beecher.]

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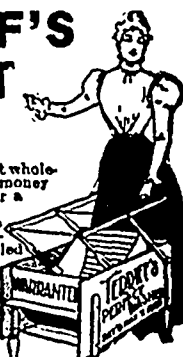
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