

turing Company, of Hamilton, Canada, the hydraulic work being supplied by Watson & Stillman, of New York.

Mr. Hobson, to whom so much credit is due in connection with this great work, is a native of Guelph, Ont., where he was born in the year 1834. He served an engineer apprenticeship at Toronto, was engaged in private practice as civil engineer, was for several years employed on location and



SIR HENRY TYLER.

construction of railways in the United States, Ontario and Nova Scotia. He was resident engineer of the International Bridge, Buffalo. In 1873 he took a position as chief assistant engineer of the Great Western Railway. He was appointed chief two years later, and still holds that office. He is a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, England, of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and of the Canadian Institute of Civil Engineers. We cannot better conclude our reference to Mr. Hobson than in the following words from the *Toronto Telegram*:

Hobson, the engineer, is one of earth's useful heroes. He has not achieved the popularity of an athlete who can pull a boat or run a hundred yards the shade of the second faster than the record. He has not shone on the really low plane of empty achievements, but his genius has ennobled the name of Canada by identifying the country with a great



MR. JOSEPH HOBSON.

railway work. Hobson's task was not that of a theoretical engineer who leaves to practical skill the work of changing his dreams to realities. He not only sketched the outlines of the gigantic enterprise, but invented new means of working out his ideas. His daring achievement is one that any country might be proud of. The tunnel is a triumph of Canadian genius, and the success of Joseph Hobson is proof that Canada does not need to import talent even to design or execute the greatest engineering works.

Our views of the construction of the tunnel are reproduced from the *Scientific American*.

A noted Scotch professor on strolling in the Glasgow necropolis, stopped at a newly dug grave, and turning over a human skull, asked a daft fellow, "How long can a man live without brains?" The idiot's answer came dryly but readily: "I dinna ken, maun, but how old are you yourself?"



A Country Ball Costume—A Preserving Apron—The Late Hot Weather—To be Healthy—Is Alcohol Necessary for Women?

A country ball costume is quite a necessary part of a visiting outfit, and as nearly all the young ladies of my acquaintance are going on their annual tour of country house receptions, it behoves them to have a thoroughly useful dress for this particular purpose amongst others. To have a ball gown that travels well, it is very important that it should be of a material that does not crease, or crush, and for this, if a thin texture is required, there is nothing better than crêpe de Chine. If a more substantial one is advisable, then I should recommend anyone of those thick rich silks that are also quite soft and fall into lovely folds, without cracking where they are pleated to the dress. A combination of both these charming stuffs is possible in the

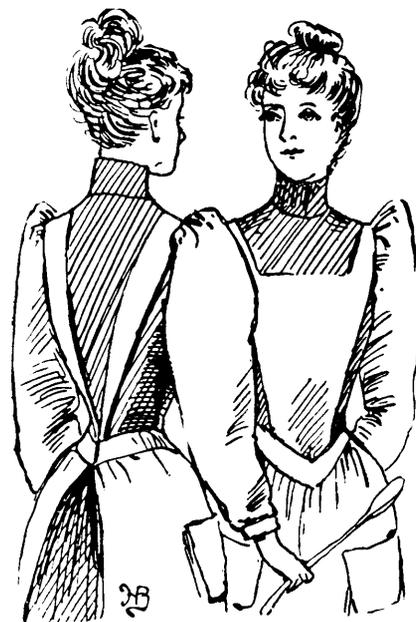


dress model I give you this week, though I do not think the mixture altogether advisable. The colour of the silk is entirely a matter of choice which should be directed by the colour of the hair, and the complexion of the wearer. It might, with good effect, be made in pale fawn, or a primrose yellow, with pink roses for the former, and very velvety deep red ones for the latter. A pale blue with *Gloire de Dijon*, or yellow tea roses, or a light pink or willow green with deep crimson roses for the pink, and purplish pink for the green. Any of these mixtures would look pretty. I should advise, if the dress is mainly composed of crêpe de Chine, to have the fold of the corselets

of satin as well as the straps over the puffed sleeves. The folds across the chest to be of crêpe de Chine. If the dress is made of a richer, thicker description of silk than the crêpe de Chine, I should have the puffs of the sleeves and folds across the chest made of the most glossy brilliant silk gauze possible—always, of course, of the same shade exactly as the material of the dress. With careful folding, such a dress, from its very simplicity, ought to pack and carry beautifully. The roses, of course, would be packed separately in a box where they would stand no chance of spoiling.

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A preserving apron I give this week, because it is not only of great service and protection for the dress when making the many jams and jellies that there are yet to be done before one's store cupboard is properly stocked, but because it will also be found a thoroughly useful overall in all sorts of housewifely duties. You may make it of what material you like, all provided it is strong, and washable. Strong white linen, or brown holland is the most suitable.



The plan of the apron is very simple, and with the most ordinary measurements might be made by quite an amateur seamstress. The plastron, in front, should be cut in one with the braces. The upper part of the sleeves is filled into this band far enough to be quite firm in putting on, and to entirely cover the dress sleeve from the chance of splashing when jam or jelly is poured out into the pots. The band at the wrist should be large enough to slip the hand through. To make it sit well, the waist-band should be shaped and the lower part of the apron gathered into it, so that it nearly meets behind and entirely covers the skirt. I think you will find this as practical an apron for the purpose as you can have, and, of course, it is capable of any amount of elaboration and beautifying in its decorations, but for ordinary hard wear I believe that plain things are the best.

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The late hot weather makes the careful housekeeper think very anxiously how important it is that the home should not only be a healthy one but kept healthy. We often hear of a "healthy mind in a healthy body," but how can they be healthy if they do not live in a healthy house? This is not always easy to find, for it is unfortunately a fact that building contractors are too often unscrupulous and dishonest—particularly those who build the smaller and cheaper class of houses. That they are dishonest we have ample proofs from time to time in the "shoddy" kind of tenements that spring up around all large towns. A friend of mine was riding in the suburbs of London one day, and he watched a bricklayer building a doorway to an unfinished house. The outside brickwork looked fair, and solid enough, but the man filled the inside with all sorts of rubble and rubbish. My friend exclaimed to the bricklayer, "Why, my man, that will never last!" The workman smiled, and probably more honest than his master, the contractor, said, "Lor' bless you, sir! It warn't never meant to last!" Such houses are generally dreadfully defective in their drain service, therefore in any house that you hire or build for yourself, take the greatest care to disconnect all waste and overflow pipes from the drains, and allow no