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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1888.

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BEAUTY.

WHAT HAS BEEN SAID OF IT. The Life of Louisa Alcott More Beautiful Than Her Books.

James Russell Lowell says that, "Beauty driven from every other home, will never be an outcast and a wanderer, while there is a poet's nature left, will never fall at least of the tribute of a song."

"No reason can be given why the soul seeks beauty" still if we look up, and see the purple and violet-colored clouds sailing away over our heads, or the sun sinking into its rosy bed, followed by the evening stars—one cannot help stopping and thinking that "God is the source of all beauty."

An Athenian philosopher, the wisest of men, has said, "that whatever is good is also beautiful in regard to purpose for which it is well adapted, and whatever is bad is the reverse of beautiful in regard to the purpose for which it is not adapted."

It is said of Goethe, the greatest German since Luther, that the love of beauty, which colored his rich and brilliant genius throughout his whole life, was so speedily manifested that when but three years old he could be induced to play with none but pretty or comic children. He also seemed to understand from his earliest childhood, that beauty should be sought for some high purpose, for he not only studied all the pictures that came within his reach, but he also, in his tenth or eleventh year wrote a description of twelve possible pictures in the history of Joseph, and some of his conceptions were deemed worthy of execution by renowned artists.

Lately, I came across a saying of Mahomet: "If I had but two loaves of bread, I would sell one and buy Hyacinths, for they would feed my soul;" now I presume that Mahomet meant that it was not wise to spend all one's money, time and strength on one's body.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

A COLUMN OF GOSSIP AND HINTS FOR OLD AND YOUNG GENTLEMEN.

What Women all Over the World are Talking and Thinking About.

Cost is of course a very unsafe measure of value in many instances, and yet there is a not unnatural curiosity on the part of the general public to know the mere money estimation in which certain more or less beautiful articles are held. Here are a few somewhat remarkable examples of lavish expenditure: The highest-priced piano in America is owned by Mr. H. G. Marquand, of New York city. The works were made by Messrs. Steinway & Sons, and the case, which was built in London, was designed and painted by Alma Tadema. It cost forty-six thousand dollars.

The costliest string of pearls in the country belongs to a New York lady, and cost fifty-one thousand dollars. Another New York lady had a solitary diamond ring, for which she paid Tiffany & Co. forty-eight thousand dollars. The late Mrs. Morgan paid two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for her necklace. Mrs. Hickey-Lord is the owner of a diamond necklace which cost two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

The famous picture by Meissonier, "1807," was painted for the late Mr. A. T. Stewart. At the sale of his gallery Mr. Henry Hilton bought it for sixty-six thousand five hundred dollars, and presented it to the Metropolitan Museum, where it now hangs, the costliest painting in America. Sir Donald Smith is the possessor of the highest-priced painting in Canada, "The Commentaries," by Jules Breton. Cost at the Seney sale forty-five thousand dollars. Mr. W. W. Corcoran, of Washington, paid the highest recorded price for an American picture. It is Church's "Niagara," and the price was thirteen thousand dollars. It was reported that Legrand Lockwood paid twenty-five thousand dollars for Bierstadt's "Domes of the Yosemite," but as, at the distribution of his effects, the picture brought less than six thousand five hundred dollars, the first price was probably a fable.

In the Lenox Library is a perfect copy of the Mazarin or Gutenberg Bible, the first book printed with movable types. It is worth twenty-five thousand dollars, and nothing better has ever been done since. Mr. Brayton Ives of New York has an imperfect copy, for which he paid fifteen thousand dollars. Mr. J. F. Irwin, of Oswego, paid ten thousand dollars to J. W. Bouton for a Bible. It was originally in three volumes, but by the insertion of wood-cuts, manuscripts, engravings, etchings, had been extended to thirty imperial folio volumes. Of the original edition of the Sonnets of William Shakespeare, published by George Daniel, of London, in 1609, there are two perfect copies. One is in the British Museum. For the other Dodd, Mead & Co., of New York, paid five thousand dollars. It is a little book about seven by four inches in size. A somewhat hard-headed clerk in the establishment figures that at this price it cost four hundred and eighty dollars an ounce. A sixteenth-century vellum manuscript, with six paintings by Giulio Clovis, cost the Lenox Library twelve thousand dollars. At the Morgan sale Mr. Walters, of Baltimore, is reported to have paid eighteen thousand dollars for the peach-blow vase, which is about seven and a half inches high.

The newest toiles, prepared for summer wear at the fashionable resorts, have very small toures, and already a large toure entirely destroys the good style of a gown, as "nothing looks quite so old-fashioned," says a writer in Harper's Bazar, "as the fashion which has just gone out." And isn't that true? There is nothing more pathetic than for a satisfied air of the young woman who comes out in some brand new dress that is made in a fashion that the knowing ones of the world are discarding.

There are many little details of costume that add to the somewhat novel effect of summer gowns. A pretty and inexpensive fashion is that of putting a single row of velvet or of gros grain ribbon an inch and a half wide along the edge of the draperies, and even of the lower skirt of solid colored wool dresses, cashmere, crepe, vestings, etc., to give the effect of the woven selvage or border now in such great favor. The new turn-over knife plaiding of silk, for trimming the neck of the corsage, is already being made becoming to long slender necks by placing it at the top of a collar band, such as is usual in high corsages. Full corsage fronts are in such favor that the plain beige of last year is being given a full effect—and also freshened up at the same time—by covering them at the top in pointed yoke shape with lengthwise rows of ribbon or of galloon, or insertion, with bands of the material between in ticks or slight puffs, thus extending the material in the centre to a point, shirred at the waist line; or adding gathered pieces of the material below a yoke, covering the plain fronts down over the darts.

Lawn tennis is a diversion in which the summer girl usually allows herself wide latitude. This season she will pretty generally take to the blouse waists. These are an importation from England, not from Paris or Berlin, and our belles have been slow to put them on for ordinary occasions of dress, but a round of the more fashionable dressmaking establishments convinces one that they will be adopted generally for lawn tennis playing, in place of the bygone jersey waists. They are equally conducive to an expression of pliability, and their seeming looseness conveys an impression of even greater suppleness than the jersey imported. Said to say, however, they are likely to induce tight lacing, instead of the ease of stays which their appearance suggests. The girl who cannot comfortably wear an eighteen inch belt or less with a blouse, manages to do so by means of violent compression, and so the lawn tennis player may not be what she seems as to the untrammeled condition of her clothes.

It is timely to consider the summer girl. She knows pretty well now what she is going to wear. A June specimen can any moment be found on the Broadway promenade. She is a type of current elegance, quite devoid of exaggeration, and yet exemplifying several new ideas in fashions. Her bonnet is one of the approved shapes, and her manner of filling its high, pointed front with a shir of her own hair is an innovation. She also expresses neatly a new notion of using a single material for a whole dress. This is a small fact as compared with the greater one, that of employing different and often incongruous colors and employing them in a toilet. She belongs to the few who dislike to be in accord with the many, and who are therefore ahead of the majority. The fabric of her own gown is wool of a very light gray. The black lace around her neck and down her front is in accordance with the new use of lace as an embellishment. She is a type of the neat and quiet summer girl for 1888. If she were not pretty, she would easily pass unnoticed among many more gaudy creatures in the throng. More than a nod behind her head, the young woman in a sombrero hat, made of very fine, light felt, and with its brim rolled up coquetically in front. Her hair is cut off squarely at the ends, and left hanging loose to a point a trifle below her neck. Thus her whole head looks only a mousethale to be an idealization of Buffalo Bill. Such hats are likely to be worn considerably during the hot weather at the resorts, and they will be serviceable as shades as well as admirable for picturesqueness; but in reality they are decidedly too extravagant, and one is apt to rate the wearer as a social scoundrel.

The traditional bathing costume is a combination of tantalizing, mysterious, enigmatical, uncommunicative blue flannel propriety, with long, full trousers gathered into broad flounces below the knee, with scant skirts, making up in length what they lack in width; awkward blouses, gathered into a shirt at the throat, and a loose belt at the waist, and with close, long sleeves reaching decorously to the hands. A pretty woman forgot to be charming in this garb, and a plain one was a disgrace to the handiwork of her creator, and not only stopped the proverbial clock with her ugliness, but well nigh arrested the mechanism of the entire solar system. If the renowned Helen had ever been caught going down to bathe in the Aegean Sea in a garb of this kind there never would have been any battle of Troy, and if Cleopatra had met Marc Antony clothed in this costume, instead of being clad in her own loveliness, the history of Rome would have chronicled a different series of events. Out of this primeval larvae has flitted from the chrysalis of time the ideal bath robe, composed principally of stockings—and such stockings, silk and alabaster, and transparent, dainty in coloring, starting in design; now creamy in hue, with dazzling flecks of blue or cardinal or whatever color prevails in the suit; now accented up to the top of the leg, with cream white tops, the line of division being covered with sprays of silk embroidery; now blue or scarlet, with black feet in the shape of shoes; now jet black, fine as lace, with strips of open work, broad above the knee, and the whole, which they almost neglect—stockings with broad stripes of the colors predominating in the costume, extending lengthwise for legs in which the adipose tissue prevails to an overwhelming extent, broad horizontal stripes of contrasting colors for slender calves, plain cream-white or thin jet black hose for legs whose faultless outlines and graceful curves defy criticism and warrant emphasizing—all sorts and conditions of stockings, large and small figured, striped, checked, thick and thin, but always and invariably very long. The all-important question of stockings once settled, the rest of the costume, what there is of it, is easily described. A suggestion or rather two suggestions of pantalettes covering the legs of the stockings with a frill of lace or loops of bright braid, over them a girlish fitting like a tailor-made jacket, with a killed depending frill for a skirt, and a tucked or lace drawn up round the shoulders, on bright ribbons, with a puff for a sleeve, and all wrought of the finest serge, silk warped, which gives it a wiry stand-off effect, even when soaked with water, and fashioned of the most striking combination of color ever devised by the ingenuity of man.

When this butterfly costume unfolds its brilliant pinions, or, in other words, when some pretty girl reveals the possibilities of the startling stockings, fills them with curves and slopes and gracious lines of beauty, bends them in supple, willowy grace, and fastens them up taut with never a wrinkle or crease, after the pretty fashion followed by girls, whether their dress hem reaches or their knees or the ground; when the braided girle is fastened about a slender waist, and the fitting kilt reveals little bewitching glimpses of the befrilled and befringed pantalettes, when the lace tucker or broad turned-down sailor collar falls away from a full pulsing white throat, and round white arms shame the snowy, lace with fairness, and are bending and curving in limesome grace, while above it all a laughing, tinted face, with big melting eyes, gleams out from a twisting turban of bright silk, then it is that one, reflecting on the original heavy gown, understands the progress of the age, and appreciates the privilege of living in the enlightenment of the nineteenth century.

Not only should mattresses be turned and aired at least three times a week, but pillows and bolster ought to be beaten, shaken and exposed to the fresh air.

of too daring a character. The number and variety of wide-brimmed hats is as great as the many strange ways in which the brims are bent. They are turned up in front, at the back or at the sides, some have wide wing-like side brims, others have the front excessively wide and straight, and many of the Tuscan straw copelinas have the brim held down by the strings. Masses of trimming, generally ribbon and flowers, are heaped on these.

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BOSTON, IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

Some Curious Historical Scraps.

I often wonder if we are better or happier than were our forefathers of two or three hundred years ago. Education is more universal, without doubt, and facts once established, are established forever through the mediumship of the types, but the increase in knowledge is accompanied by increased capabilities of enjoyment, or an enlarged appreciation of our duties towards our fellow men, are questions that are in abeyance. My own observations show me that the man who knows least is generally best satisfied with himself and his surroundings, while the man whose views have been enlarged by study gains an appreciation of the limitations of human knowledge, and becomes cynical because of the insignificance of human achievements, no matter how far they may be pursued. The world has made great strides in knowledge during the past two hundred years, but two hundred years ago, even on this continent, men were not without quaint ideas of superstition, and some were luminous as well.

In Boston on the 4th of March, 1631, "Nicholas Knapp was fined five pounds for undertaking to cure the scurvy with a "certain water" which he sold at a high price. He was put in duress till he should pay, and to complete the sentence it was ordered that in default of the fine he should be whipped; and on Sept. 27 of the same year "Mr. Josias, convicted of stealing from the Indians, was not only fined, but sentenced to the novel punishment of being deprived of his title, being thereafter known simply as Josias."

On Jan. 4, 1635, "At the court brass farthings were forbidden, and mucket balls made to pass for farthings." That whoever at any public meeting shall fall into any private conference to his hindering of the public business, shall forfeit for every such offence twelve pence, to be paid into the constable's hand for public uses.

The following order was promulgated by the Massachusetts general court: in 1651—"His ordered, . . . that no person . . . whose visible estates real and personal shall not exceed the true and indifferent value of two hundred pounds, shall wear any gold or silver lace, or gold or silver buttons, or any bone lace above two shillings a yard, or silk hoodies or scarves upon the penalty of ten shillings."

In these more enlightened days the rich can afford to dress plainly while the poor are expected, as the old chronicle hath it, to "walk in excess and bravery, and great bootes."

John Dunton, an Englishman residing in Boston, wrote to friends in London as follows, in 1651—"For cursing and swearing they bore through the tongue with a hot iron . . . An English woman for allowing an Indian to have carnal knowledge of her had an Indian cut out exactly in red cloth and sewed upon her right arm, and enjoined to wear it Twelve Months. Scolds they egg, and set them at their own doors for certain hours together, for all comers and goers to gaze at."

It may be that Hawthorne got his idea of the "Scarlet Letter," if the story was not based on fact, from the above incident.

Again, John Dunton says—"Mrs. D. has a bad face and a worse tongue; and has the Report of a Witch; whether she be one or no, I know not, but . . . indeed she has done very odd things, but such as I think can't be done without the help of the Devil! As for instance: she'll take nine sticks, and lay 'em across, and by mumbling a few Words make 'em all stand up on End like a pair of Nine Pins. But she had best have a Care, for they that use the Devil's help to make sport, may quickly come to mischief." The witchcraft of the 17th century would be regarded as child's play by the side of the spiritualism of our day.

N. B. The Poor which are not able to pay for the Medicine, may have it gratis. A Negro Boy about 15 years of age to be sold. Inquire of the Printer hereof in Newbury street, Boston. Any Person that took up a man's muff, dropped on the Lord's Day between Old Meeting-House and the South is desired to bring it to the post office in Boston and he shall be rewarded.

Just Invented from Glasgow by the Jean and Mary, Capt. James Watson, commander, sundry Servants time of service to be disposed of; also Coals, and sundry other Goods. Inquire of Capt. Watson.

A Very likely Young Negro Woman to be sold. Inquire of John Campbell in Corn hill, Boston. As also a very good Calash; and an Iron Grate for burning Coal.

Taken up by John Morey, Esq., between Capt. Jarvis's and the Widow Parker's a Will-Pale, otherwise called Hog-Pale, who pawn'd it at said Mrs. Parker's, for a Three-Penny Dram, the said Pale is supposed to be worth about a Great. If the Right Owner comes and pays the Three-Pence shall have the Pale again.

Whether the Squaw and Papposes were convicted of piracy does not appear, but the men were hanged upon the limbs of the "Old Elm" on Boston Common. In 1722 a droll bit of courtship is recorded. Sir William Pepperell became engaged of Miss Mary Hirst, one of the reigning Boston belles of the day, and finding that he had a powerful rival in the person of a handsome but impetuous pedagogue of the town, won the favor and the hand of the young lady by the gift of jewelry and a large hoop, which he imported to please the capricious fair. The incident deserves an honorable place in the history of the crinoline.

The signs upon the street often afford an index to the character of a town, and it is to be feared that in the Boston was prominently displayed in the Boston street, that good city was even more given to imbibing ardent liquors than at present.

"Richard Roe inhabits here; Prizes and takes a little cheer, Of whiskey, heavily, ale or gin; All which he sweats in 'tween his."

Fashion Notes. The fashion of wearing fur shoulder caps in summer is an essentially English one, which is getting more and more in favor in driving and on the sea shore and yachting, and in truth there are many days in summer and early autumn when the fur shoulder cape is a very grateful garment.

All sorts of nasty little sling sleeved shoulder caps in plush will be worn with thin fabric costumes. Their small and compact shape make them particularly well adapted for the extra wrap needed in summer. The lining of this little garment is in the same color, of silk or satin.

Fine laces will play an important part in the decoration of elaborate costumes for wedding and other occasions this season, the rarer points such as Brussels, Venice and Antwerp are to be as much worn as ever and the most beautiful patterns are being imported again.

Some specimens of church lace from old patterns are sent from the Irish convents, and are beautiful in the extreme, and would compare very favorably with those made in the 17th century, the stitches being almost identical with those of the antique.

The long veil attached to hats for driving and other occasions makes a very dressy addition to the head gear in the directorie style.

Russet calf skin uppers are seen on some stylish shoes for young ladies, but should only be worn with walking costumes.

The rage for antique rugs having in a measure given away to a more wholesome taste, the importations bring us fresh and bright floor coverings, which better harmonize with the coloring of the draperies and upholstery of the day.

Paperings, however attractive in a seaside cottage, are a delusion and a snare as they hold the dampness and give a musty odor to the room. Clean, wholesome, white or colored wash makes a finish which can at any time be renovated at little expense. A very pretty tint is made by mixing Indian red with common white wash and may be applied to walls and ceilings.

Will They Break the Sad News Gently? Will they break the sad news gently? Will they tell the tale with care? When the sorrow had her there, Where a new-made grave revealed What the tongue is slow to tell? Will the angels softly whisper, With thy loved one it is well? Will he then like David murmur, "Thou canst not return to me? But when all life's pangs are over, I shall surely go to thee!" Stranger, 't is thou that crossed the ocean, Shaghad crossed a deeper sea, And in yonder mystic haven She is waiting now for thee. FRANK HAMILTON.