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Believing that there is always demand for a given product, the Mason & Hamlin Company has held steadfast to its original principle, and has never swerved from its purpose of producing instruments of rare artistic merit. As a result the Mason & Hamlin Company has received for its products, since its foundation in the present day, words of greatest commendation from the world's most illustrious musicians and critics of tone.

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FOR EVENING GOWNS

FROM VELVET AND CLOTH TO GOUSE AND NET ARE NEW EFFECTS.

Evening Waists-Dinner Gowns-Shirt Waists Still Popular-Popular Jewels-The Floral Kingdom Contributes Odds-Ends-The Latest Fad.

Even for people who do not go out a great deal in society there are festivities to be attended during the holidays and on until Lent. This year there are many new designs for evening gowns, and more new styles constantly appear. Velvet and cloth are used for evening gowns, and while these two materials would seem to be rather heavier than the fabrics usually designed for such occasions, they are so beautiful in coloring and design and lend themselves so well to the popular fashions, that it is not to be wondered there is such a demand for them. The princess effect still re-

maines popular—indeed, is growing in favor every day, and some modifications of the original style are particularly good. It is a fact to have the back of a gown cut in princess design, and the front opening over a skirt of some different material, such as cloth or tulle or net. In pale pink velvet a gown is made with a petticoat of white satin, the front of which is covered with accordion-plaited chiffon or net embroidered elaborately in gold or silver; or again, a gown of spangled net has the front breadth and the front of the waist of velvet. Handsome velvet dinner gowns have side panels of accordion-plaited net or tulle or heavy gypure lace applied on to white satin.

Utilizing lace. Every week sees a new way in which handsome lace can be utilized. A band across the top of the waist and the top of the sleeves, the front breadth of lace or a V-shaped point across a low necked waist with point hanging down on to the skirt, are fashionable and add greatly to the beauty of any gown, while the entire gowns made of lace have acquired a new beauty and much more expense by having the flowers or design of the lace outlined in colored embroidery silk, or applique of velvet flowers put on the lace. Much depends upon the right shade of lace being used. The blue white is not seen often excepting in the laces that look like blonde lace that are used on white silk or for young girls. The ivory white and the cream white are much more fashionable and are used with odd contrast of color. A cream white velvet gown with the front breadth of satin embroidered in pearls and gold thread has the entire front of the waist and the upper part of the skirt covered with a point of gypure lace in one shape of a lace shawl. The bands of the lace go across the sleeves, that are so short that they only reach to the elbow, and the contrast of the two shades of white is sharp.

Evening Waists. Many waists made for evening wear are with skirts of the same or with separate skirts. When these waists are cut low they are fanciful in design and trimmed elaborately. One of a pink brocade has an odd network of chenille on which are sewed iridescent beads. This network covers the front of the waist and is finished with a deep fringe that hangs down onto the skirt. A waist of white satin cut square in the neck is covered completely with an embroidery of cut jet beads. Across the front of the waist is a band of jet passementerie, finished with a fringe of jet beads arranged to form a point in front. It was said a week or two ago that fringe was fashionable no longer, but apparently it has taken a new lease of life, for it is seen on all the evening gowns made up in these beads and is also used in the narrow widths of silk fringe on some of the newest cloth gowns. It is said that the new gowns for the spring will have trimmings of the same shade of the cloth of which they are made, and the fringes will be dyed to match. This sameness of color is rather artistic when it is not carried too far.

Dinner Gowns. Crepe de chine evening gowns are used a great deal for dinner gowns. The skirts are long and trimmed with a band of embroidered velvet around the bottom, or with a full ruche of chiffon. The waists are made entirely in the draped style. One gown in especial has folds of drapery crossing each other below the bust, then tied in one loop with long ends. The space between the folds is filled with a V-shaped piece of shirred chiffon, the exact color of the crepe de chine. The straps that do duty for sleeves are of sable fur, and a narrow line of the fur goes around the top of the

waist. In the light colors of crepe de chine much embroidery is used on the waist, and the embroidered crepe shawls are utilized again for this purpose. Though the embroidery on them is rather too heavy, for it interferes with the skirt hanging as well as it might. A black crepe de chine, embroidery in steel, is one of the handsomest dinner gowns of the season. It is embroidered and is trimmed with a fringe of steel beads, deep on the waist and narrow on the skirt, where it is put down on either side to the front breadth.

Vogue of the Shirt Waist. Not even the winter weather can move femininity to discard this most convenient and comfortable garment that ever fell to the lot of woman-kind. Dress waists are almost old-fashioned and dressmakers scarcely make them any more. Indeed I am told they say that their customers demand the shirt waist and with two or three of the latter a tailor suit can be transformed into many different costumes. There are shirt waists of silk, crepe, of cashmere and of flannel, and among them all the cotton shirt waist holds its own. Once a starch waist would have seemed altogether unreasonable after the warm weather days had passed, but now in this month of December there are plenty of them worn. The popularity of the starch waist has been gradually on the increase for the past two years or so, but it was never so much in favor as the time of the year as this season. You see it worn by bookkeepers, stenographers and all the offices where women are employed. You will notice that shirt waist makers display the chevrons and stripes in their windows along with the other goods. There is not, however, quite the rush of business in this line that there is in the spring, for the majority of the cotton shirt waists worn in the winter are the assortment that have been in use during the past summer. The change of the shirt waist to a chemise, the manufacturers whom I have talked with, is the modern steam heat that keeps offices and stores and houses at a summer temperature. They say that for indoor wear no heavier garments are needed in one season than the other. Besides the shirt waist of either flannel or cotton is cheaper and affords a variety of

Popular Jewelry. Popular jewelry is the sort one does not wear with full dress. It is gold, silver, or any other metal, suiting in color and spirit the costume with which it is intended to be worn. One has grades in jewelry now as she has varieties in gowns. The winter woman insists that her metal knickknacks shall mean something; she is done with mere purposeless twirls of silver and gold. These being times of human fraternity with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air, the whole animal kingdom is made to parade in woman's ornamentation. Dogs and cats form her stickpin heads, rabbits fasten her ties, squirrels poise on her watch fobs. Last year a silver bangle animal bracelet was brought out, and strangely enough for a novelty this little article continues in vogue. Link cuff buttons are in extraordinary demand, and no design is in greater favor for common use than one worked out in oxidized silver, showing a rampant bear against an oval ground.

The Floral Kingdom. The floral kingdom contributes to the oddities in jewelry. Pretty circles of enameled green leaves with pearls for berries are plentiful. So are brooches representing ivy leaves, and, again, holly berries, while the modest daisy comes out in mock gems as dazily as any of the flowers with less reputation to be concerned about. But the snake and the butterfly are the leaders of fashion, with all the other creatures for bodyguards. Butterflies are silver, gold, enameled, oxidized and used for any of the cunning purposes to which jewelry is put in feminine costume. A taking design shows a trace or token chain, with butterflies the handiest things in the world to keep in place the rebellious ends of ribbon and lace on afternoon gowns to which no dressmaker can give the final touch. Other examples show the turtle and the lovers' knot doing sentinel duty on token chains.

Monogram Bracelets. There is a great demand for heavy silver, or sometimes gold, bracelets. These are invariably purchased by girls, who, after wearing them for a short time, request their friends to honor them by having their initials engraved upon the face of the bracelet. From one friend to another the silver band is passed until its outer surface is filled with the monograms of the young woman's acquaintances. It is then returned to the owner and placed among her jewels as a memento. Economy and friendship are aided by this recent custom. A silver bracelet, such as those required for the engraving, costs from fifty cents to two dollars. If gold is desired the price paid, of course, must be much higher.

General Lawton. The death of General Henry W. Lawton brings home the realities of war in the Philippines. He fell like the brave soldier he was, shot in the breast while in the front of his troops, leading them in an assault upon the enemy's entrenchments. He was distinguished for gallantry in action in defense of the Union in the civil war, and afterwards in fighting the hostile Indians. He also participated with great credit in the Santiago campaign. In the Philippines he has been conspicuous as a fighting General, and was greatly admired and beloved by the officers and men of his command. Every step in his promotion was won by genuine service, and his death is truly a loss to the army and to his country. All honor to his glorious memory.

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NATIONAL CAPITAL

CONGRESS WILL HAVE A BUSY TIME OF IT TILL MARCH.

The Two Parties' Positions on the Philippine Question—Prompt Work With the Currency Bill—The New Committee—Facts From the Directory.

Senator William F. Fry, as President pro tem of the United States Senate, with all the powers that were employed by the Vice-President, will possess more power and exercise more influence on Congressional action than any other official of the Government, except President McKinley and Speaker Henderson.

Being asked "What do Republicans propose to do with the Philippines," he said:

"First, restore peace there. Then give them a good government, security in all their rights, employment, decent wages, arouse in the people an ambition to become good citizens, supply them with modern agricultural implements, construct railroads, and highways, making access to the sea easy, build schoolhouses, supply teachers, educate them so as to fit them for the exercise of governmental functions, then trust them with the control of local and municipal affairs."

Ultimate Self-Government. "Possibly in time they may become fit to establish a republic, stable and strong enough to preserve order and peace, to protect life and property, to make treaties, observe their obligations under them and compel others to do likewise. Possibly when that time arrives, we being the judges, might surrender to them the sovereignty, reserving to ourselves the naval and coasting stations necessary for our naval merchant marine. So far as I am personally concerned, I would never surrender the sovereignty to any people within the islands, or to any nation without."

The Democratic Position. Two joint resolutions were introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Williams, of Mississippi, which are the result of consultation among a number of Democratic leaders in the House, and are understood to be expressive of their general position on the Philippines. The first resolution declared the intention and purpose to recognize the independence of the Philippines and withdraw our land and sea forces, provided the independent government agrees to refund the \$20,000,000 paid by the United States to Spain, to give us suitable naval and coasting stations and grant in perpetuity free access to their ports. Another section pledges our friendly assistance and advice, pledges support against foreign interference or aggression for ten years, during which time the foreign affairs of the island are to be under American control.

The other resolution asks for information relative to the conclusion of a treaty with the Sultan of Sulu, and provides for an inquiry by the Judiciary Committee as to whether the constitutional provisions against slavery and the statutory provisions against polygamy apply to the Sulu people.

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The Great Telescope. In an old sketch in Harper's Weekly there are two drawings of the telescope, one showing the whole instrument, and the other a detail of the object glass, and each end of

because as now constituted, a member's opportunity for distinction depends very largely upon his position on committees. The legislation is practically in the hands of the Speaker and five or six committees, and the plain members are of very little account.

Congressman Glynn. Mr. Glynn, of New York, is the youngest member of the House, and a new man at that. But he found his voice on the currency bill and made the maiden speech. His intimate relations are with the gold Democrats, but he would not desert his party on this question, and while commending many things in the bill, he found enough to condemn to influence his vote against it.

There are some queer facts in the Congressional Directory for this year, as usual. Every member of Congress furnishes a sketch of his own life and describes himself as he would like to have others see him. Willis Brewer, of Alabama, says in his autobiography that he "has been a journalist, has practiced law, has written books, and is now a planter." James K. Jones, of Arkansas, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, says he "was a private soldier during the late unpleasantness on the losing side." James M. Robinson, of Fort Wayne, was a new boy. Macanah E. Benton, of Missouri, says he "was the original offensive partisan removed for parallel activity" while United States Attorney for the western district of Pennsylvania. William Connell, of Pennsylvania, worked in the mines when he was a young man, but is now the president of a bank. James W. Ryan, of Pennsylvania, says he used to be a mule driver. Mr. Noonan, of Chicago, gives a picturesque view of his past career, and says that "during the years 1893 and 1894 Mr. Noonan modestly was the subject of newspaper comment, as he held three offices at the same time—viz., State Senator, Colonel and Park Attorney, and was a candidate for Congress."

Observations and Candidates. The action of the Republican committee of Brooklyn in formally endorsing the candidacy of Lieutenant-Governor Woodruff, of that State, for Vice-President, and the further announcement that the Republican organization of the State will also give its zealous support, is a little surprise here at the Capitol where it had been supposed that the road had been smoothed out for Secretary Root to travel. There are many indications that the New York Republicans will be almost a unit for the Lieutenant-Governor, and if such is the case, it will be very difficult for the West, or any other combination of States, to pick the man. Aside from the shaping of the platform, all interest in the Republican convention will center on the nomination of Vice-President, as it is conceded that no name will be mentioned in opposition to McKinley for the first place. Philadelphia was fortunate in securing the Republican National convention, and New Yorkers are still hopeful that they may get the Democratic convention. It does not now look as favorable for them, because Chicago is active and the West is in sympathy with Chicago ideas. The decision will be made by the Democratic National Committee February 12.

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