CHILDREN'S FASHION

DANCE IN FANCY DRESSES—ALL WANT TO MASQUERADE.

Some Pretty Continental Costumes—The Queen and all the Fairies Come Out to Greet Their Friends—How the Fairies Dance.

Lady Colebrooke, who is visiting at the home of William C. Whitney, has started an entirely new fashion in hair dressing. At a dinner given by Mrs. Ogden Mills the other evening her hair was dressed unlike that of any other woman present. The new coiffure which she has introduced is simplicity itself and is therefore in striking contrast to the fashionable coiffures of the moment. It shows the hair parted in the middle and then slightly waved and puffed out a trifle

on both sides. The effect is that of an extremely low pompadour parted in the middle. The back hair is twisted into a rather high coil. Three curls are fastened to this coil, but instead of dangling from it, as is the usual custom of curls, they are pinned to the hair in such a way that they have much the same appearance of small puffs. Lady Colebrooke wore no hair ornaments whatever, which in this day of bows and flowers and feathers and combs for the hair was a striking innovation.

Jewel Studded Gold Epaulette.

There seems to be no end to the new fashions which Mrs. Ogden Mills is originating this season. Gold epaulettes decorate a gown which Mrs. Mills wore at a very informal little dinner. The costume is of pale blue panne velvet, with a transparent yoke and long sleeves of creamy lace. The epaulettes are made of filigree gold, edged with a heavy gold band. They fall over the top of the arm in a shower of gold threads, and at the end of each thread is a tiny gold ball. To add to the beauty of the epaulette, the filigree portion is studded with turquoises.

Children at the Theatre.

So much theatregoing for the children was bound to have its influence upon their lives outside the playhouse. What with Christmas patnomimes and a couple of new comic operas especially dedicated to the little folk, the young ones have multitudes of new ideas, and of old ones brought to date, for frolic. Mothers who would not have dreamed of taking their hopefuls to the play have seen no harm in allowing the little ones to behold Red Riding Hood, her very self, though the footlights separated her from their darlings. The line, "Children in arms not admitted," which usually appears on our playbills, has been inoperative since Red Riding Hood came to town. A good proportion of them arrived at the theatre in arms. And many who did not come that way were so sheltered when events upon the stage became alarming. "Isn't he funny?" called one shrill little voice, heard all over the house, when the wolf came into sight. And other timid playgoers in equally clamorous tone begged to be protected from the hungry beast.

"Boy Blue," what a beautiful being in satin blue, like an afternoon winter sky! What a big, green-trimmed hat, and how wonderful for it not to be crushed by the sleepy boy wearing it! Red Riding Hood is redder than the nursery rhyme. Her shoes and half stockings are scarlet, and so is her dress. And her black curls tumble all about her smiling face. The Queen and all the fairies have come out to greet their young human friends, and how the fairies do dance! The Queen is too dignified. In my neighborhood, one afternoon, sat a small boy who disclaimed his admiration of the dancing of the fairies in most ungallant language. He never had visited the theatre before. "Kicking machines!" cried he in annoyed tones whenever the short-skirted bevy appeared. But some of us guessed that he spoke disparagingly, as grown-ups do not uncommonly, to conceal their appreciation.

"This isn't a real theatre, is it?" whispered a yellowhaired beauty to her mother. "Why not?" "Because they are all children on the stage. I thought that actors in a real theatre were men and women." And this is why small folk can go to the plays now offered to them, since they may have their own ideas of what they see. No wonderwe are going to have many little masquerade parties during the remaining winter weeks. For some of them quite elaborate costumes will be planned; others will be informal gatherings, with impromptu costumes.

A Suggestion.

I know of one young girl who gave a pretty copy of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" to each of her young friends as a holiday present. She has just sent out invitations for a dancing party to her playmates, bidding them come to her house on a certain date, dressed to represent any character in the book. There are rumors that out of fourteen girls invited at least ten will go as little Alice. One boy certainly, maybe more, means to dress up like the savage queen, so that he can say, "Off with his head!" A geisha party has possibilities. Any gayly figured cotton material done into a gown such as is worn by Japanese women converts a little girl into a bewitching grown-up. Especially if great paper chrysanthemums are arranged at the ears. The character Harlequinette is a taking one for a sprightly child. She may have a gown as gaudy as her fancy suggests. One of orange satine has two lace frills at the skirt bottom. Green blue and red rosettes trick out the waist, while a very saucy hat of orange, with tricolored rosettes and white feathers, tops the curly head. A mild-mannered cavalier in white, with black rosettes, pays pretty court to the gay little Harlequinette. Fancy dress parties the fashion, ingenious mothers may think of many happy ways of making merry for the children. Especially after a visit to one or another of the plays especially given for them now.

Accordion Plaiting.

Nothing has been found to take the place of accordion-plaiting as the body of frocks worn for fancy dancing. And nearly all children who dance are taught to take little steps with which they may entertain their friends at home. Some mothers doubt the wisdom of allowing children to become conspicuous in this way, urging that it teaches them to be self-conscious. Other mothers are quite as certain that children dance almost as naturally as they breathe, and that their shyness is relieved in the freedom of a few pretty steps. Picking up the skirts daintily is certain to be a feature of the rhythmical movement. And no design allows so much manageable fullness as the simple-yoke and long accordion-plaited skirt. Conventional dancing gowns, even for very little persons, often are cut slightly to define the waist. A lovable tot living not many steps from Central Park, New York city, has a party frock of fine sheer lawn, concluding at the hem with a ruffle edged by Valenciennes lace. There are a couple of insertings of lace above the frill, then comes the dearest little sash from forget-me-not blue satin ribbon, the least bit more than an inch wide. Who shall say that this is not the choicest width for small girls' sashes? Every sensitive grown-up must have felt at one time or other that wide sashse are too heavy in appearance, if not in actual weight, for small folk in gossmer-thin gowns.

The inch sash which I am writing about and of which we have a picture, ties twice, and is from four length of ribbon. In putting them on mother twists them cunningly about the waist, securing thme before tying with wee safety pins. The result is sash ends back and front, doubly gay! For the childish heart has yet to be found which is superior to the gladness of sashes.

The neck of the dress is a bit low, showing that the costume is for gala occasion. And the hair is parted at the left side, then tied back over either ear with forget-me-not blue ribbons. For slippers there are little things from white kid and half-stockings of white silk.

Dressing the Babe.

Blue slippers and stockings are worn by children at parties sometimes. But mothers who think a good deal about these matters say that it is not well to have too much scattered color on a child—as hair ribbons, sashes and shoes. Colored slippers and hose are prettier, then, when the remainder of the costume is quite white. But to return to the accordion-plaited silken gowns. I know of one small girl with a love of dancing who has a charming frock in which she does some fine stepping for her father. The frock is white, fine China weave, and there is no lining to the plaiting. The little yoke has white ribbon appliqued in points on the edge, and the twist and knots all white, where skirt and yoke join. Any thin, lightweight fabric which keeps its body without starch may be used for a plaited dancing gown. A party frock for a girl of twelve years is from rose-colored taffeta silk. The skirt is edged with cream-colored lace. A dozen inches from the bottom two tiny ruf-

fles of the taffeta pretend to head a flounce. The bloused waist, opening at the left side, is tucked in clusters and finished at the belt line with some fluttering pink ribbons. Mademoselle is being coaxed to dance by a miniature gallant in black velveteen. Her gown is a pretty model for a party dress made from cashmere or veiling, or any of the many lightweight stuffs sold so reasonably during this bargain month. Black cloth of a fine texture forms the attractive evening clothes of another youth who delights to dance. A white waistcoast is from washable fabric. A white lawn tie knots from under the turned-down collar. Black silk stockings and patent leather dancing pumps complete the neat party suit.

There is a time for all things. And this is it to dance.

Dainty Clothes Hangers.

Gowns wear so much better when hung away properly that every woman should make it a point to do so. And since such dainty hangers have come into general use the custom can prove but a joy. A successful and charming hanger can be made from a quarter of an old barrel hoop, cleaned kled with sachet powder, is fastenthoroughly. Cotton batting, sprinned to the frame, which is then covered with two widths of ribbon, run together and housequetaired. Ribbon sufficient for a long top (for hanging) and a bow is then fastened to the centre, and this dainty addition to a woman's wardrobe is complete.

Dull hair may be brightened in this way: beat up the yolk of an egg with a cupful of strong castile soapsuds, one teaspoonful of salts of tartar and the juice of a small lemon. Add a little warm water and rub through the hair and in the scalp. Rinse, with a spray, if possible, and dry quickly in the sun

NATIONAL CAPITAL.

THE CONTEST MADE OVER THE MONTANA SEAT IN THE SENATE

The Situation at Puerto Rico—Governor Davis Gives His Views—The Value of Our Corn for Home Food—Its Palatability Recommended.

The struggle of Mr. Clarke for a seat in the Senate is attracting much attention because the evidence taken before the Senate committee which has been investigating the election reveals some of the methods by which the certificate was secured for him. Mr. Clark is now making his second contest for a seat in the Senate. In 1889 Mr. Clark was a candidate and received a certificate from one of the two rival organizations claiming to be the Legislature of Montana. He presented his claim to the Senate at Washington, but was rejected and his Republican opponent, Wm. T. Sanders, was seated. In 1892 the State elected a Democratic Legislature and Mr. Clark secured the senatorial nominat on. But he was defeated for election through the active efforts of Marcus Doly the Butte copper mine king. In 1894, the Republicans controlled the Legislature and Lee Montte was

Senator Clark.

elected. In 1898, a Democratic Legislature having been elected, Mr. Clark again secured the Democratic nomination, but again his old enemy, Marcus Doly, appeared on the scene and endeavored to force another dead-lock. But after a warm contest in which money was spent, Mr. Clark marshalled the necessary votes in the legislative joint assembly and received the senatorial certificate. His opponents within the party have now carried their losing fight to Washington, and are seeking to have his seat declared vacant, on the ground that his election was procured by the wholesale buying of votes. The investigation which has now run for nearly two weeks at the capitol, has thrown a vivid light on the methods, and standards of politics at Helena. But it can scarcely be said to have implicated Mr. Clark in any of the corrupt practices which much be proven upon him to invalidate his election.

Affairs in Puerto Rico.

Governor General Davis, of Porto Rico, recently gave the insular affairs committee a pointed view of some of the difficulties about making foreign races capable of self-government, as Americans understand the term. He declares only a small proportion of the inhabitants of Porto Rico have any adequate conception of what popular government is; the town elections under American sovereignty were a series of burlesques and the people of the island have not the Anglo-Saxon fortitude to face an unfavorable situation.

The Military Governor is obviously of the opinion that the people of the island have not the Anglo-Saxon capacity either for organizing government or meeting industrial difficulties. He is not alone in that opinion. The history of Spanish America is confirmatory of that idea. But it does not follow, because this radical weakness is admitted, that Spanish-Americans are altogether incapable of self-government or that they are not entitled to manage their own affairs. The difficulty in the case of Porto Rico is to get them to manage those affairs according to the highly organized methods of the United States as a part of this country. On this score General Davis is apparently hopeless. He can only offer the suggestion that island affairs must be conducted by a body composed of equal numbers of islanders elected for the purpose and Americans appointed by the President, with the deciding power vested in an appointed executive.

As a measure of representative or popular government the General's suggestion cannot be regarded as a success. The franchise under such a system is absolutely worthless, except as a concession to mollify those who cannot understand the effect, or as a means of educating the voter in the art of choosing representatives. Obviously, the most important recommendation of General Davis is a large appropriation for the schools—a possible means of creating a future generation capable of being sovereign citizens.

The Value of Our Corn.

The elaborate preparations of the American Commissioners for the Paris Exposition to educate the European palate to appreciate Indian corn, or maize, as food, are praiseworthy. Corn in some of its multiple forms is palatable and in all it is wholesome. Being rich in the hydro-carbons it is especially suitable as a cold-weather diet, but at any time it is superior to the cheap rye consumed by the peasantry of the interior of the continent. It contains more fuel for the vital fires than oats and has the additional merit of being cheaper than either of the cereals named. It will not be surprising, however, if the Commissioners are more successful in introducing corn as a food for the rich man's table than for that of the peasant, for the most positive of its recommendations is its palatability. A breakfast of hominy grits, Maryland style, with Cumberland Valley creamery butter, has qualities to fascinate the king, regardless of expense, while as for the peasant, he needs the knack of making hoe cake on his hearth as well as a taste for the product and molasses with which to cover the morsel.

New States.

The committee of Congress which has put in a pleasant inspection of Arizona and New Mexico, hunting their qualifications of Statehood, is understood to have made the discovery. They are that New Mexico will furnish two Republican Senators and three Presidential electors. The argument is a sound one—to the practical politicians—and yet here are strange slips in it sometimes. For instance, it may be remembered that four States were admitted at the last incubation, on the same expectation, and for two Presidental elections they voted nothing but free silver.

"WAR OF EXTERMINATION."

Failing to Conquer, the Achinese the Dutch are Striving to Exterminate Them.

White men turned head hunters—that is the story of another war in the East Indies. It is older than our war in the Philippines, for it has been going on since 1873. The scene of these atrocities is the island of Java, where the Dutch, failing to conquer the brave Achinese, are striving to exterminate them.

To what extent white men can be converted into fiends by prolonged warfare on an inferior race is shown in recent correspondence of H. Van Kol, member of the Netherland States General, who is making a tour of the Dutch East Indies. Here are passages from his letter on the war in Java:

"'Cut off their heads,' seems to be the watchword of this eternal war. It occurs even in the dispatches of the Governor-General.

"I quote His Excellency's own language:

"'Two Achinese, who continued fighting, though wounded to the death, were deprived of their heads.'

"And again: 'Nja Makan, the rebel chief, was found in a dying condition. Two soldiers cut his head off to make sure of his identity; the head was presented to me with due ceremonies.'

"Heads, heads, heads! The Government of Batavia is hungry for heads. It raised the premium on Achinese heads to twenty-five florins. Yet these colonies are administered in the name of a sweet girl.

"Head money is paid only upon the delivery of the corpus delicti, and as parts of the human body quickly decompose in the hot sun our soldiers 'smoke' the captured heads like so many hams, afterward forcing women and children to carry the trophies in baskets to the next Government post.

An Achinese Settlement.

"Many a time have I met these sorry processions of blood and gin drunk whites urging on by whip and point of bayonet stolid, solemn, proud Achinese women, whose shoulders bled and ached under burdens that contained perhaps the head of husband, father, brother, son or lover.

"Once, when 'doing' the slums of Batavia, I ran across a Dutch sergeant, who boasted of having personally corralled 126 heads in a single village. I spat in the scoundrel's face."

Pewter Again in Fashion After Fifty Years.

There is a passion for pewter just now; pewter made into all the knick-knackery that we have for the past few years been seeing in silver. There is about pewter a softness and pliability which makes it a fascinating material with which to model, and therefore, besides its use for small pieces, artists are working out some of their best designs in it. In fact, reduced figures from life and after the antique are being exhibited, along with those of bronze and plaster. Smaller pieces, happily within reach of many are bonbonieres, trays and ash receivers, mugs, plates and small figures. All of these are presented in innumerable shapes and designs.

Collectors of mugs are being made happy by this revival of the use of pewter, and little short of a madness is about regarding the number and rarity of those seen at informal evening parties, or at other times decorating the side walls of dining rooms. The plates also are mostly seen as wall decorations and produce a stunning effect when well hung against a brilliant background.

It is not difficult to keep these pewter ornaments clean.

The Skating Baton.

Parisians have revived a picturesque fashion of the Second Empire. When Eugenie first held her court in Paris, skating was popular and the Empress was fired by an ambition to learn the art. Unfortunately court etiquette stood in the way of skating lessons, and forbade that an Empress should be held up and guided by a skating teacher. Cartier, then the greatest of French skaters, solved the problem for the Empress, and introduced a new fashion by inventing the skating baton. It was a strong rod, padded and covered with brilliant hued velvet. The ends were held by expert skaters, and the Empress, holding the centre of the rod, could be supported and guided without touching her teachers.

She soon learned to skate, but the baton became a fashion. Later some of the batons were decorated elaborately with richly ornamented ends and fluttering streamers. The fashion went out with the Empire and was not revived until this season. Quite recently the baton appeared in the exclusive Cercle des Patineurs in the Bois and was adopted with favor.

THE BEAUTIFUL LAND

THE FOOT HILLS OF THE LITTLE SWITZERLAND IN LOUISIANA

The Rice County of the State—Remarkable Climate in the Southland—There Snows Bloom in Midwinter—The Wonderful Umbrella Tree.

In Southern Louisiana you may sit under an "umbrella tree," look at green roses and eat white blackberries. You may watch the chameleon turn scarlet, blue, green, brown or gray, or hear the mocking bird pour forth its wild melody from the roof of a veranda, or see a flight of white cranes descend, like great snowflakes, on a distant ricefield.

This subtropical land, with its trees ghostly with Spanish moss, its bayous ablaze with scarlet leafage, out of whose fire of color leaps the Louisiana red bird, its pale green prairies, its intense sunlight, orange groves, swift

Overflowing the Rice Fields.

twilight and brilliant moonlight, is weird and enchanting. It looks as if it had been borrowed from a fairy book and did not belong to geography at all. It is midwinter, yet the dooryards of Acadia, St. Landry and Calcasieu parishes are ablaze with roses. Christmas trees of live oak or holly or mistletoe, still bright in the little farm houses, were dressed on Christmas Day with fresh flowers gathered out of doors.

The umbrella tree is common. Every farmer has half a dozen to lend. It is easy to borrow the use of one on a rainy day, and as it is chained to the ground by its roots no one ever forgets to return it. Its branches radiate from the trunk like umbrella stays. Its foliage forms a waterproof covering like an umbrella top. Its trunk is the handle. It will keep one entirely dry in a subtropical storm. In summer it affords perfect shade from the sun. A tramp once explained his wanderings through Louisiana by saying that he was a traveling tinker, mending umbrella trees.

The green rose, the only one I have ever seen, is not as large as the red rose, nor does it display its petals fully, but it is that nearly a rose. If some Northern horticulturist would develop this green rose further it might become a prized and unique bloom in the beautiful sisterhood of flowers.

White blackberries are much esteemed in Acadia and Calcasieu, because they are superior in flavor to the black kind. Some regard them as a concession of nature to the color prejudice. They differ from the black blackberries mainly in complexion.

In Louisiana is what popularly is known as the "dishcloth plant." It produces a green pod, which yields, when opened, a large piece of cellular vegetable tissue, often used in kitchens as a "dishcloth."

Horses That Refused Oats.

The native horses and cattle in this part of the State formerly lived on sweet potatoes, grass and hay. When Northern farmers came here to settle they found that the Creole ponies would not eat corn or oats. Both remained untouched in their feed boxes. In some cases the native horses had to be starved for days before they would touch either. A Northern farmer threw an ear of corn among a herd of wild cattle. They came up to it, looked at it, sniffed it and walked away again. Not a steer would eat it. The colonists from the North intimated that to the horses and cattle of some parishes corn and oats were an acquired taste.

The bread fruit of Louisiana is the sweet potato. It will grow anywhere in any kind of soil. The varieties of sweet potatoes are almost innumerable. They yield from 200 to 500 bushels to the acre, and usually sell for fifty cents a barrel or twenty cents a bushel, though in season of scarcity they are thirty and even forty cents a bushel. They are the daily food of the farmers, and are fed to horses, cattle, swine and poultry. The Louisiana sweet potatoes are wholesome, but lack the fine flavor of those raised in Virginia. Irish potatoes are regarded here as a luxury, and the people have them on Sundays and holidays.

The Mountains.

It is supposed generally in the North that Louisiana is a swamp country, a network of morass and bayou, and that there is little ground in its limits that is firm beneath one's feet. This is a mistake. North of the Red river, in the northwestern part of the State, lies the famous hill country of Louisiana. Here the land is upheaved in innumerable little mountains, which rise sixty or seventy feet above the surroundings landscape. The highest peak in the State is in this wild district, and it towers 150 feet above the Gulf of Mexico. The hill country might make the mountaineers of the Alps or the Andes smile, but it is as serious a fact in this State as are the Highlands in Scotland or the Catskill Mountains in New York. This mountainous country is the lumber belt. It is full of sawmills, and turns out vast quantities of handsome yellow pine lumber for the Northern market.

In the southwestern part of the State lies the Acadian country. It is a land of beautiful prairies and of magnificent yellow pine forests that in the distance look blue. This is the upland of Louisiana, the foothills of the little Switzerland to the north. It is the rice belt and cattle country of the State.

In Acadia the prairies are small, being ten or twelve miles long and five or six miles wide. [illegible] by yellow pine [illegible]

[illegible]

Here the land is dry [illegible] during while the [illegible] dinner in Bad water [illegible] Wisconsin. The land [illegible] city or sixty feet above [illegible] Mexico, what some its [illegible] takes a great deal of [illegible] are sometimes dry within [illegible] hours after a [illegible] There is no little mud, except [illegible] limy to rice marshes, that [illegible] ride a bicycle along a highway [illegible] ered with water.

This is the upland, yet it is [illegible] rice country. The explanation is simple. From a foot to two feet [illegible] the soil has a bed of clay which [illegible] impervious to water. Wherever [illegible] lies in a shallow basin, sharp [illegible] its edges are slightly higher than [illegible] interior, the falling rain will fill [illegible] the rim and form a marsh, because the water cannot percolate through the underlying bed of clay and [illegible] In Louisiana you often will find [illegible] low grounds hard and dry and [illegible] as on the ridges. This [illegible] led the Northern soldiers [illegible] "Banks's Red River expedition." They were in a country in which [illegible] were likely to get lost. The [illegible] land which lies in the [illegible] tem seems to be plantations [illegible] the time and part of the time [illegible] sippi river. Swamps are not [illegible] there.

A Blizzard.

"We are having a Louisiana [illegible] ard," said a Northern settler in [illegible] parish. "The thermometer has fallen to seventy degrees above zero." The children in the country go [illegible] school barefoot all winter. In a [illegible] log school house on a [illegible] day, there was only one child [illegible] wore shoes. All the children [illegible] shoes at home, but they did not care to wear them. The rule is for [illegible] farmer, with land by the [illegible] cattle by the roadside, with [illegible] buried in the ground or [illegible] low trees or deposited in the [illegible] great hardness the year round. [illegible] when he visits the parish seat [illegible] winter dress is a cotton [illegible] shirt and a pair of blue cotton [illegible] ers. He goes without collar, [illegible] and shoes. His feet are so [illegible] to cold as try the hands of a Northern man who never leaves home [illegible] is a common sight in Acadia on a [illegible] day, to see a mule team [illegible] in a heavy water, [illegible] floated. French farmer is [illegible] sleeves.

Probably the school children [illegible] never saw a sled or a pair of skates, but it does get colder than seventy degrees above zero, for [illegible] it snow on the [illegible] who never saw it.

[illegible]

[illegible] Louisiana [illegible] yet at Memphis, St. Louis, [illegible] Fleet and New York. [illegible] Central Park is [illegible] than I saw in Louisiana [illegible] a year.

[illegible]