OUR FASHION LETTER

GRIP ON NEGLIGEES EACH DEPENDENT ON THE OTHER.

Lace and Embroidery—The Uses of the Tea Gown—Japanese Kimono Now in Vogue—Low Neck, Excellent Style, in House Gowns.

It is an open question whether the tea gown has made possible the prevalence of the grip among women, or whether the grip is accountable for the tea robe. Certainly there seldom has been a time when so many of us are down with small ailments which keep us indoors, but picturesque in attire. Equally necessary is it that they shall be sightly. A formal caller by mistake may be ushered in while one practices at the piano. And whatever sartorial changes are effected later one would perish of chagrin if discovered in an unbecoming negligee. Thus the tea gown has become, and more particularly lately, something other than a robe in which to sip tea late in the afternoon between the doffing of visiting and the donning of dinner dress. Lacey, silk, linen or beribboned negligees are known as "robes d'interieur," "morning gowns," "breakfast robes," "tea coats," "tea jackets," "peignoirs," "matinees," and so on. Some women have enough originality to think up special terms for their lounging gowns. And the further removed from the notion "wrapper", the less a woman minds being found in her loose garment of lace and ribbon.

For the Summer.

The organdies this year as usual are exquisite. Large floral designs are especially effective and much used. They come in huge trails of wistaria, masses of wild

roses, dogwood blossoms, all in dainty shades of green, pink and brown. The illustration shows a gown of the large patterned organdy, combined with a plain color.

The Reposing Robe.

This reposing robe may be made without a scrap either of ribbon or of lace. No mode is in greater favor than that of the Japanese kimono, especially those handsomely embroidered in gayest butterflies. The kimono is a model, too, which is used for dressing jackets of domestic make. Cut off just at the hips, loose back and front, and made with flowing sleeves, the kimono jacket from Japanese or foulard silk, outlined altogether with a three-inch band of white wash silk, makes a simple and becoming little wrap. In its Japanese effect it is especially good when worn by women of dark hair and modified pompadour. For they themselves suggest the Japanese women in appearance. What, then, more natural than the adoption of their dress? A certain dealer makes a specialty of short kimonos in solid colors, from French and American wash silk. Wonderful are the petticoats worn with our house robes. Indeed, there is no limit to possible extravagances, when a princess underskirt of cobweb linen is finely plaited to fit at the waist and hips, then decorated further with appliques and frills of hand-wrought Valenciennes lace in floral pattern. Such a garment is equally desirable to wear with a gorgeous ball gown or elaborate breakfast overdress of lace—if one may afford it for either or both purposes.

Lingerie, Negligees.

As has been said of lingeries, negligees, which women would have put aside a few years ago as overtrimmed, are favored by those of best taste. Indeed, one finds fastidious matrons spending their earlier morning hours in thin fragile robes oftener than in costumes of which the shirt waist has any part. There is no occasion for apology if a feminine friend comes in and finds one wearing composedly a pretty resting jacket which comes only to the hips, concealing not at all an attractive petticoat of silk or linen, even prettily trimmed cotton.

Low neck, or half low, is excellent style in a house gown. A lovely thing from pongee silk in a creamy tint—more costly sorts are creamy in colorings—has embroideries in the rich Oriental hues on the loose waist and elbow sleeves. The pointed low neck pretends to close with cords of old blue silk. The wide girdle and sash are of dull green liberty satin. A scarf of the creamy pongee silk is a graceful portion of this adorable little bodice. But it requires much skill in managing effectively, and many be put aside as part in a time when women had more leisure for thinking of the pose of their arms.

Irresistible Dressing Jacket.

Women who have time for embroideries and appliques may work out an irresistible dressing jacket from silk or wool, cut in novel lines and decorated. Nun's veiling, pink, is used successfully in this connection. Pink orchids are exquisite embroideries for the pointed tabs and flowing sleeves. For use by real invalids, "nightingales," in cheery colorings, are liked. Wee embroideries of yellow forget-me-nots on white flannel are good. Yellow signifies "change" according to folk who look into such matters, and thus is especially good for use about one who is ill. An Empire peignoir of violet nun's veiling is one of the more fascinating house gowns which may be worn without stays. A certain firmness of shape is obtained by fine tucks running from the bust line to below the hips. An exceptionally handsome fichu of the nun's veiling is trimmed with guipure lace and the veiling cut out underneath, while a bow of silk muslin, violet, is a completing touch of boudoir grace.

Long Tea Jacket.

Bewitching is a long tea jacket done from daffodil crepe de chine, which is narrowly box-plaited and run with ribbon at the waist line. The ribbon is two-inch double-faced satin of the faintest blue tone. And the bolero is of guipure lace in the tint of mellow linen. The sleeves of this pretty affair are box-plaited first, then the plaits are sewed down finely and firmly. The pussycat worn with this luxurious garment is of tawny yellow and black striped. No gray feline friend need hope to be the pet of a mistress who loves yellow hues. Tiger combinations only need apply. Tea jackets, even tea coats, are extreme novelties of a period wherein some variation of this dressy garment is indispensable to the wardrobe of even ordinary use. Tea coats are longish garments, modeled much after the automobile cloak of recent great and now passing vogue. The tea coat's lease of life will be longer than was that of the automobile wrap. Being worn only in private, the public eye has no opportunity to weary of its peculiar charm.

Baneful Smart Society.

The unit of strong nations is the family. All legislation, habits, ideals, policy or ambitions that increase the welfare and multiply the number of happy families are good for the nation. Things that stunt, diminish or ridicule domestic life are bad for the nation. This is copybook commonplace, but bedrock truth. Turkey is what it is mainly because the harem replaces family life in the upper or wealthier classes.

The note by which smart society may be recognized is its contempt for family life—its loathing of home. Luxury and overfeeding seven days a week kill desire for aught else but feeding and luxury. Plays and music halls, restaurant dining, eternal card-playing and the race course produce satiety, and therefore indifference to the calls of national life.

The art of conversation in smart society is extinct. Slang shibboleths, composed of baby talk and Italian or French tags to the Queen's English, form the dialect of the smart set. Disreputable women, who affect the conduct of Lais without her graces, are among the leading spirits of smart society. When the morals of the poultry yard flourish in the atmosphere of the stable it is only natural that the intelligence of the nursery is applied to the problems of empire.

To enter the charmed circle neither brains nor breeding, birth nor influence, are necessary. All that is required is money, and then more money—with an insolent contempt for the laws that are the unseen foundations of civilized society. A "useful adventurer thus equipped can buy his way into illustrious circles as easily as he picks up a yearling at Newmarket.

Every now and then all explosion takes place, and the public learns with bewilderment that cheating at cards is a normal feature of smart society, or that women who are courtesans in all but name are no more tabooed in smart society to-day than they were excluded from the pavilion at Brighton in the days of the Prince described by Thackeray as "the first gentleman and most finished blackguard in Europe."—Arnold White, in the London Chronicle.

New Boleros That are Pretty.

TThe first bolero here pictured may be executed in black or navy serge cloth, with white strapped collar. The second, the Bernhardt, a Parisian bolero, is named in hon-

or of the actress. It appears in the newest shades of faced cloth, with white silk facings and a new design of cloth applique, stitched with white of self-color.

To Keep One's Clothes in Order.

Air bodices thoroughly, wrong side out, before putting them away. When ready to put away, stuff the sleeves with tissue paper, and hang them on coat hangers.

Shoes should be dusted and polished before being set in the closet. They may also be stuffed with tissue paper, which helps them to retain their shape. Very careful people use boot "trees."

Gloves should be peeled off the hand, from wrist to fingers, sprinkled with a little orris powder, turned right side out, and laid smoothly away between strips of perfumed flannel.

Clothes that are not in constant use will be better for an occasional airing and brushing. Dust, if allowed to collect on any article of dress, will soon destroy its color.

Stick to Baptismal Name.

Nothing is more deplorable than the habit some girls have of changing the spelling of their names. Whatever happens, stick to your baptismal name. The Ethel who calls herself "Ethyl," the Blanche who becomes "Blanca," the Caroline who writes herself "Carolyn" are the victims of a foolish fancy. When such a girl arrives at the age of discretion she trims off the furbelows which have adorned her name and returns to the simple spelling which her parents intended.

NATIONAL CAPITAL.

THE HOUSE AT LAST PASSES THE CANAL BILL.

Ten Million Appropriated—Looking to Adjournment—Large Naval Appropriations—Senator Hoar's Speech Considered—The Turkish Claim.

The calendars of the House and Senate are dull indeed compared with the calendar of Nature in this week of the year; for she is making every day a new proclamation through green leaves and opening flowers, and the parliament of sparrows in the parks are having a more than animated debate without fear of being cut off by the "previous question." The effect of the calendar of Nature upon the

Secretary Gage.

calendar of legislation may not be apparent at once to those who do not live in Washington, but it is a fact, now that spring is putting on its robes that the congressional leaders begin to realize that warm weather will soon be upon us, and what is more threatening, the heat also of a presidential campaign. There is a disposition therefore to defer all legislation that is not absolutely necessary until all the appropriation bills are passed.

The Naval Bill.

The Naval appropriation bill, which the Senate will soon discuss, carries the largest appropriation ever reported from the House committee. The total, as so reported, is over sixty-one millions. This is an increase over the bill of last year of more than thirteen millions. But it is explained that this increase is due largely to the improvements of yards and docks, the construction and repair of vessels, and the increase of the navy. The debate has centred not in the amount of the appropriation, but in the question whether the government should establish an armor plate factory and undertake the construction of ships of this character in government yards. Several of the appropriation bills are still awaiting final action in the Senate or in conference. A prominent member of the House expressed the opinion the other day that Congress would be able to adjourn by June 12, but others put the date as late as July 1st. In the West and South it is customary to make nominations early, and already a number of the members have been renominated. The campaign begins in the West earlier than in the East, and this will work for an early adjournment.

Astronomical Observations.

In his speech on the resolution respecting the reorganization of the naval observatory of the United States, Senator Chandler, who had made an official visit to the observatory, turned the Senate into a national academy while he told at length of the achievements of American astronomers. He had a number of photographs, which he exhibited. The speech contains a vast amount of information and in his peroration Senator Chandler spoke of the material, intellectual and religious blessings of astronomy, saying that its discoveries constitute the most potent teachings of immortality and cannot but lead to the faith that the stars of heaven are our future and eternal homes." It was interesting to find the Senate listening attentively to a subject far more remote than the Philippines and in some respects more fascinating. In carrying this theme to the stars, the Senator showed himself to be an expansionist of the highest order.

The Trouble With Turkey.

Diplomatic difficulties with Turkey are engrossing the attention of the State Department. It was believed that our claim was in a fair way of immediate settlement, but nothing is certain when dealing with the Turk. The amount involved in the claim is not so large as to make any great difference to the country whether it is settled or not, but the principle involved makes its settlement imperative. Standing alone, Turkey cannot for an hour resist our navy, but, if a ship attempts to reach Constantinople, we may suddenly find ourselves involved with the European Powers. And in the light of these possibilities, the friendly relations with Great Britain come in very conveniently.

Gold in the Treasury.

Gold! Gold! Gold! Bags of it, boxes, cases, safes, vaults full of it—sparkling, glittering eagles, half eagles, double eagles, probably more than ever before was piled up in one place—is now in the possession of Uncle Sam. The sunning old Yankee has contrived to save nearly a half a billion of it, a sum beyond the most aureate dream of Crocsus. With the tenth of it King Solomon's mines could have been taken over, and there would have been plenty of money left to buy the forests of Lebanon—a sum so stupendous that a regiment of spendthrifts would be kept busy a lifetime squandering it. The Treasury of the United States now contains more gold than any other treasury in the world—more than the banks of England and Germany combined; more than the Bank of France, and even more than the Imperial Bank of Russia. Germany has in its government vaults only $124,875,000 in gold. The Bank of England has paid away $165,[illegible] The Bank of France [illegible]

[illegible] Canal, while [illegible] ment of the area [illegible] $422,000,000, Uncle Sam's [illegible] $10,000.

The Canal.

For fifty years we have had in [illegible] ject of an inter-oceanic canal under [illegible] sideration, but discussion of it [illegible] proposition has not until now [illegible] by Congress. The debate was [illegible] able because of the unexpectedly powerful opposition it developed. Mr. Burton, of Ohio, chairman of the river and harbor committee; Mr. Hitt, of Illinois, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, and Mr. Cannon, chairman of the appropriation committee, threw the weight of their influence against it, not because they are opposed to the building of the canal, but because they considered that the time for authorizing its construction was not ripe. Mr. Burton and Mr. Hitt contended that the bill would revoke the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, which guarantees the neutrality of the canal, and Mr. Cannon quoted Admiral Walker, chairman of the Isthmian canal commission, as saying that the commission was not yet prepared to say which was the best route. Mr. Cannon contended that the authorization of the construction of the canal over the Nicaraguan route at this time would delay its building for years and cost the government $50,000,000. Mr. Cannon said that the proper way to get the concession would be to play one government against the other. "Gentlemen talk of trusts," said he, "God, in His infinite wisdom, could not have created such a trust as this bill creates."

The debate also developed other lines of opposition. Some of the Democrats insisted that amendments striking the words defend and fortifications from the bill were designed to make it harmonize with the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, and therefore objectionable, and Mr. Shackleford, of Missouri, desired the bill amended so that if the treaty is ratified the bill will not go into effect.

The Bill Passed.

The following day the bill was again under discussion, and at the conclusion of the most stormy debate of the session the House by a vote of 225 to 35 passed the bill, appropriating ten millions of the one hundred and fifty millions that will ultimately be required for this great work. All attempts to retain in the bill the language of the original bill for the fortification of the canal and to still further strengthen the language on that line, were balked and the victory of Mr. Hepburn and the committee was complete. A motion to recommit the bill with instructions to report back another bill leaving the selection of the route to the president was buried under an adverse majority of 53 to 271. Mr. Cannon and Mr. Burton, of Ohio, chairman of the river and harbor committee, made a game fight to stall off [illegible] at this session, but their [illegible] in vain, and the members [illegible] shod over all their arguments [illegible] tests. Much excitement [illegible] several times bitter words were [illegible]

What the Bill Does.

The bill authorizes the President to acquire control of territory [illegible] to Costa Rica and Nicaragua [illegible] to construct and protect a canal [illegible] ficient for ships of the greatest [illegible] and draft now in use, from a [illegible] near Graytown, via Lake Nicaragua to Brito, on the Pacific ocean. [illegible] lon is also made for the construction of harbors at the termini, and for the construction of such works of defense as may be necessary for the protection of such canal and harbors. The San Juan river and Lake Nicaragua are to be used so far as the same may be available, and the use of the canal and harbors is guaranteed to Costa Rica and Nicaragua on terms to be agreed upon. The sum of $10,000,000 is appropriated toward the project, the cost of which is limited to $[illegible] 000.

Senator Hoar's Speech.

Sufficient time has [illegible] permit the speech of Senator [illegible] the Philippine question to be [illegible] ed the people, and they [illegible] here is now waiting [illegible] tellectual work of the [illegible] Senators. It [illegible] was an extended [illegible] from the Senator [illegible] abounded in [illegible] gal and politic, was [illegible] sarcasm, and was not [illegible]

Senator Hoar.

level of moral appeal. No one who listened or who has carefully read the speech can fail to be impressed with the belief that the Senator was speaking from the depths of his convictions. Why then did it fail to change a single vote? The answer must be that the men who are the peers of the Senator and have no less love for liberty and justice than he, take a very different view of the situation. The duty under such circumstances is to [illegible] sides to respect each other's [illegible] tions, and follow the path [illegible] they see it.

The Movement of Gold.

The anticipated [illegible] causes no alarm or anxiety in financial circles, as it is known that the United States can [illegible] with a considerable [illegible] of low metal. It is observed that the balance of trade is [illegible] vor of the United States [illegible] in the rates of money [illegible] this country is a [illegible]