

OUR FASHION LETTER

HOW THE BEST DRESSED GENTLEMEN SHOULD APPEAR.

Evening Dress is Now of First Importance
 -Iron Clad Rule of Coat and Tie-Linen for Full Dress-Evening Dress-Gloves
 -The Dinner Jacket.

This is the season of form and fashion—the time of the year when we have the early sunset and, consequently, the early candle light. It is the season of operas, first nights, dinners, assemblages and dances. Man is now called upon to leave behind him all thoughts of negligence and the comfort giving garments that became so dear to him on the links and the beach and the road. He must now look to his broadcloth and his fine linen, for Fashion beckons, and the

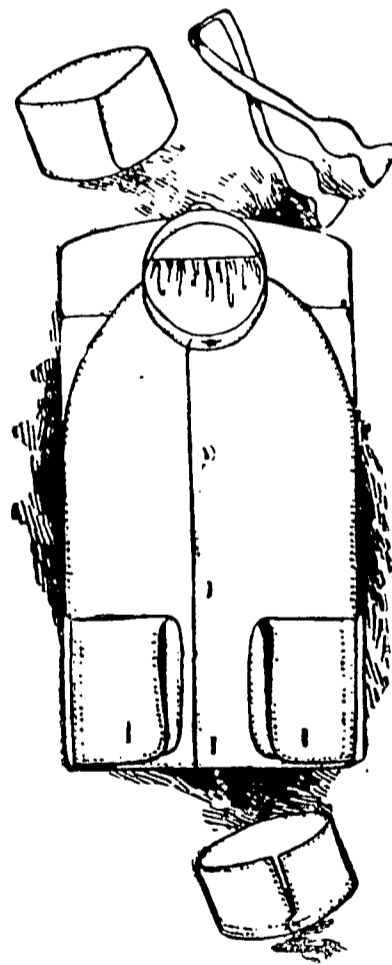
place of these two dominant and positive features. The dress coat which is known in every circle where civilization has obtained a foothold, is of what is popularly known as the "swallow tail" form. It is made of fine, soft slay worsteds and unfinished worsteds, clay diagonals, worsted broadcloths, worsted vicunas, dress Venetian twills and half finished worsteds and Sedan cloths. These are soft cloths of dead black finish. They are best for the dress coat, because they admit of a perfect fit, they sit up better and never wear shiny black. The tails of the coat this season fall to about the back of the knees, and are cut square across the bottom, with slightly rounded corners, there is a slight spring to the skirts, and the upper body of the coat fits snugly;

The dress. The shirt should be of the best linen, with a broad bosom, showing three stud holes and opening all the way down the front. This is what is known as the coat shirt. The advantage of this sort of shirt is that a man may shave and arrange his hair and then put on his shirt just as he would put on a coat and for this reason it is by far the best model for evening dress. The cuffs are always attached to the shirt, and may either have square or slightly rounded corners. The collar should be a straight stander, either slightly meeting in front or lapping. The cuffs, the collar and the shirt bosom have what is known as wide stitching, that is, the line of stitching is quite a quarter of an inch from the edge. The correct cravat for evening dress is made of fine linen lawn or of brilliantine. These ties are made in sizes to fit the collar, and are of either an ogee, a bat's wing or butterfly shape. They must be tied so as to give a small centre and wide ends. The shoes for full dress—that is, if one is going out of doors and not to a dance—are of patent leather of the flat, outswung last model, with a deep plain top and kid button tops. The half hose should be of the plain black silk. If one is going to a dance, then the patent leather pumps are worn instead of a shoe. Evening dress gloves are made of glare kid, with soft backs in silk, and are of a pearl white shade. They close with one pearl button. For wear out of doors there is another glove of white, made of a heavy cape skin. The handkerchiefs should be of a plain white linen, with white initial. The best muffler is of a heavy barathe, in plain black.

The jewelry for evening dress must be very simple. Watch guards and fobs are not worn. The only jewelry in sight should be the plain solitaire pearls in the shirt, or the mother of pearl studs, and the mother of pearl links in the cuffs. The evening overcoat is what is known as the inverness. It is made of a black vicuna, and is generally sleeveless, the large cape covering the arms. The hat is a high hat, of the crush or opera type. It is made of a heavy ribbed silk. There is another coat which comes under the head of evening dress, and which is sometimes called the "Tuxedo," "Coves" or "Newport." The proper use of this garment has given rise to more or less discussion. Now, this coat is practically the civilian's mess jacket. In England, where the regiments have their home stations, there is more or less call for a coat for lounging about the mess. This was responsible for the adoption by the military authorities of Great Britain of what was known as the "mess jacket." Civilians who were called upon to mingle with the officers found that full dress, or the evening dress of civilization, was a little too formal, and therefore the dinner jacket was designed.

The trousers are made of the same material as the coat, the outer seam being welt, or with a very narrow plain black braid. The welt seam is the best. These trousers should measure for the average man about 18 1/2 inches around the knee and about 15 inches at the instep. A good rule to follow in ordering trousers is to add about 9 inches to the size of the shoe worn. If one should wear a five shoe, by adding nine inches he would get a 14 inch bottom to the trousers. The linen for full dress must be very simple. The gentleman does not indulge in any ornamentation in evening

Now, this dinner jacket is not in-



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man who assumes to cut any kind of a figure where the relentless old dame presides must leave his personal ideas and his taste behind him and obey orders. There is nothing so glaringly oddish as the indulgence in dress originalities when one is called upon to don the fullness of civilization. The evening suit is controlled by firmly established rules, and to depart one iota from them is to commit a sin. It is to be ultra, to be of the sea. We use the term "evening dress" because in good society that is considered proper. One must not speak of "full dress" or of the "evening full dress suit."

Evening dress has two characteristic features: one is the swallow tail and the other is the white tie. One must never, under any circumstances, endeavor to force any other garment or cravat to take the