

# OUR FASHION LETTER.

## Something About the Changes in Prevailing Modes.

### SUMMER HATS ARE TRANSPARENT

**New Millinery Built on Pork Pie and Spanish Turban Models—Costumes Are Plain and Simpler Than Ever Before.**

In millinery transparent hats of lace are adorned with ribbon, velvet and plumes. Colored straws in hyacinth blue or parma mauve, champagne or bright yellow straws are fashionable trimmed with tulle or the season's flowers. Transparent tulle toques with long drooping parasite plumes or shaded ospreys are very smart. Colored veils are once more in the fashion, not only in brown, red and blue, but in mauve, pink and green. Reseda or mignonette green has superseded the crude emerald green of

large bow of pale blue ribbon and a knot of rosebuds under the brim.

**Craze for Bordered Materials.** There is much extravagance apparent in the new styles. Yet we must all agree there is far less of the grotesque and more of picturesque simplicity than of old. Costumes are plainer, and better taste is displayed in the matter of trimmings. Moreover, there are styles to suit every one, and many of them may be used successfully in renovating last year's gowns.

The new woollen materials are very soft and supple. The newest specimens all show a white thread or white knots interwoven with the self color. Voiles are very pretty with these broken flecks of white, which are also seen on the new zephyrs and lawns.

All the delicate pastel shades in pale blues, pinks, soft greens and lilacs.



**COSTUME OF COFFEE COLORED CLOTH.**

millinery. The pork pie model of early Victorian days is a favorite shape, as also is the Spanish turban. Lace is again much used for draping brims of hats, and lovely long ostrich plumes form the sole adornment on many of the latest hats.

Tiny button roses are arranged in wreaths to wear as an evening head-dress.

Gray veiling gowns trimmed with taffeta applique are among the smartest things this spring. The applications represent berries and their leaves rather than flowers. Acorns with oak leaves are the newest. The acorns are made over a raised frame so that they stand out in bold relief.

The illustration shows a particularly smart model of light weight coffee colored cloth. The costume has a cape of the same material with diamond shaped strapings.

### New Straw Hats.

There is quite a craze for bordered materials. Sometimes it is a flowered band or a simple branch of roses run across the selvaige. Burred designs and cashmere patterns are most fashionable, after which we can mention quite a new series of glauc, alpaca, mohair and canvas in the new supple make which is required this season to meet the new clinging style in dresses. Trimmings are inset with mother of pearl scales, gold platinum and steel.



**A PICTURE SHAPE HAT.**

Greek lace insertions and Russian embroideries are very smart and much used on white silk or cloth coats. Hanging ornaments, fringes and frogging appear on the three-quarter coats, many of which are of black cloth or black silk. Buttons, too, are a prominent feature on skirts and bodices.

Black chantilly lace is very fashionable, and some fine imitations is being sold in the guise of capes, round or pointed.

The illustration shows a picture hat of cream straw. It is trimmed with a



**SILK NET GOWN.**

these are in various well as every possible tone and half tone of gray, ranging from the darkest iron shades to the delicate over tints. Black and white is as favorite a combination as ever, and much ingenuity is revealed in the blending together of the two colors.

A dainty evening dress is shown in the cut. The material is silk net over silk, and the entire trimming consists of bands of velvet ribbon placed perpendicularly.

### Picturesque Simplicity the Rule.

Many and varied are the new fashions, and it is invariably a survival of the fittest, for not all the new frocks and frocks can be popular.

The sack coat will certainly prevail, and it is made in black silk as a separate wrap and is particularly attractive in penon de sole inset with transparent motifs of purple or in taffeta lace set in wide tucks or accordion plaited.

The separate black coat is a boon to the woman who wears nothing but black and is very attractive with the limp trailing skirt of soft material.

The spring costumes arranged with some species of sack coat are in pale



**AFTERNOON GOWN OF BLUE VEILING.**

shades of cloth hopsack and summer frieze, and the chief tints are almond, mastic and putty, strawberry tints, reseda with a green tone and also some light tints in green. Bright shades of royal and purple blue are shown, but these will probably have but a brief reign, and the sun will no doubt put them to shame.

The cut shows an afternoon gown of blue veiling over taffeta of the same shade. The sleeves have the new full puffs and caps. **JUDIC CHOLLEY.**

### Strike Was Declared.

The hands joined at the hour of 12; in another moment they would strike; No; the works were out of order. The clock stopped. Punch.

# HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Try keeping a brick on the back of a stove to keep things hot without burning.

Very old furniture is much improved if washed with lime water, and a coat of oil immediately applied.

To banish the smell of stale tobacco smoke, burn a little coffee on a shovel, and carry it through the room.

Do not soak fresh fish in water before cooking, as this treatment only ruins the flavor and makes it soft.

Chop lemon peel fine, mix with it a little salt, and store in wide-mouthed bottles, to season meats and soups.

Flour for cakes or pastry should be well dried and passed through a sieve before using. Keep it afterward in a tin in the kitchen.

A few lumps of beeswax wrapped in old linen and placed in close proximity to white satin or silk ribbons, will tend to prevent their turning yellow.

Wash brass ornaments with a solution of an ounce of rock alum dissolved in a pint of water. Wipe dry, then rub with soft leather and fine tripoli powder.

Waterproof glue is made by soaking common glue in water until the pieces are soft, but retain their shape; then dissolve by gentle heat in unboiled linseed oil.

Test bluing with washing soda. If it turns red it is made of Prussian blue, a compound of iron. With some soaps and washing compounds this is decomposed and causes iron rust spots.

The gummed margins of envelopes are excellent labels for fruit cans. Bow old rubber rings in a strong solution of ammonia and water; it will soften them, and they may be used again with safety.

To apply labels to tin use glue softened in water, then boiled in strong vinegar, and thickened while boiling to a stiff paste with wheat flour. A little quinine added will keep the compound from spoiling.

Wash flat-irons occasionally with warm water to every two quarts of which has been added half a tablespoonful of melted lard. Wipe thoroughly and set in a warm place till perfectly free from moisture.

An inept but good cake ring is made by boiling three tablespoonfuls of milk setting it aside to cool adding a teaspoonful of flavoring extract, and thickening with powdered or confectioner's sugar till it will spread in a dry pan.

Spread a cloth on the bottom of the steamer, on it place a loaf of stale bread, cover with another cloth, put on the cover and strain in a pint of fifteen minutes. If served immediately the bread will taste almost as fresh as when baked.

A teaspoonful of powdered borax sprinkled over a clean surface will prevent vermin from gathering under the shelf and the paper. A teaspoonful of borax added to cold water gives lines an added gloss and a cleaness.

The conventional costume of the well bred widow possesses a certain known quality of unobtrusive elegance and dainty dress. Proper exercise while she is mourning is out of the question. Seclusion is secured in ways less barbarous perhaps than inducing deformity of the feet, yet our occidental mourning customs effectually keep women within doors. The heart of the stoutest warrior might quail within his if a quiet stroll required the wearing of two crepe veils, each six feet long, one veil to be worn over the face and the other to hang down the back.

More than this, the materials and dyes in use in the fashioning of mourning materials are often of a very poisonous nature. Not less injurious are the minute house particles of poisonous crepe.

Gloomy garments, darkened rooms, all the subdued life of a house of mourning lower the vitality and reduce the quantity of domestic ozone. The charming young widow in her costume of unvelled crepe is a figure that beneficent will be but seldom seen. While she is doing her best to restore her ruined complexion, build up her demolished vitality and regain something of the beauty that she has lost she is succeeded by the sensible woman who wears light mourning for a few weeks or months simply for the purpose of self-protection, and then tries to brighten and lighten her garb as effectually as she may.

### A Belle at Eighty.

Some years ago there was an old lady in one of the Southern capitals, says the New York Ledger, who not only wore decollete hat dresses, at 80, but actually possessed the lovely neck and arms which they require. She was most innocently vain, and no wonder, for she was immensely flattered, and her townspeople valued her charms far above those of her young and more beautiful rivals. She had a curious way of preparing for a ball, which their multitudinous engagements would find difficult to emulate. The morning before she proposed appearing in full regalia she would take a brisk walk, after which she remained quiet with her work until about three or four o'clock when she would retire to her bed (partaking of some light refreshment at the tea hour) until it was time to dress for her ball. Then she would get up, take a bath and make the most elaborate toilet. All the household regarded these preparations in the light of solemn rites, and would never have dreamed of laughing at them in any way. Her appearance was a triumph, never failing to excite the greatest admiration and adulation.

### The Feminine Cravat.

The stock or cravat, which may be the most acceptable name, is a study in dress which is very important this season, and to choose from the bewildering variety offered you in the shops requires no little amount of consideration. We have the simple scarf of silk passing twice around the neck and tied in a bow in front, the narrow band, like a man's evening tie, in all the plain colors, and various floral and the sailor's knot, sometimes given a touch of femininity by a finish of dainty lace on the ends.

# FASHION NOTES

Unobtrusive styles for mourning are most popular.

In jewelry the emerald is at present the queen of precious stones.

Petticoats are becoming much more exquisite than the gowns themselves. Fancy pins and combs are as fashionable as they were two seasons ago. If corsets were worn in sight, what a revolution there would be in their appearance!

Always fold a dress skirt right side out for packing, and it will not so easily wrinkle.

Striped effects in wall papers and draperies are much sought after in the decoration of houses.

Buckles grow more and more elaborately into their loveliness.

Banded waists are very popular for girls of from nine to fifteen, and becoming to growing girls when the more childish empire style appears unsuitable.

The possessor of an oval mirror of forty years ago will find it metamorphosed into the "up-to-date" overmantel by hanging it lengthwise above the mantel.

Belts of old coins are a novelty of the hour. A hole is bored through each coin, and then they are sewed to a ribbon belt. They make a belt more odd than beautiful.

Ostrich feathers are coming to the front again in the millinery world, not only in single, double and treble mounts, but also rosette shape, with a jet ornament as a finish.

Earrings are once more on the high wave of popularity, not simply the small, round button of diamond or other precious stone, but large, round, beaded ones, and long, old-fashioned pear-shaped filigree ones.

It is well, says an authority to change the way of dressing the hair occasionally, to rest it and restore its vigor. If arranged permanently in one way, it is apt to become thin brittle, and dull. A further caution is to part the hair afresh every day, otherwise the parting will widen most unbecomingly.

### A Help for the Kitchen.

Every well appointed culinary department should have among its conveniences a marble slab for the many uses to which it may advantageously be put, and especially for the few to which after it has become a part of the household effects, it seems an absolute necessity. The most important of these functions is the rolling out of pastry at any season except that of intense cold and even then in the houses kept as most American houses are, at fever heat the cooling of the marble surface is a great help toward its perfection.

### The Spread of Kindergartens.

The little folks of this great and glorious republic are well provided for as far as kindergartens are concerned, according to a writer in the Woman's Journal who says: "There is no class, sect or race now in the United States, for whom there are not kindergartens. The movement has spread all over the surface of the globe. They are to be found both public and private in every country in Europe, in India and even in Japan. In Smyrna there is a well established kindergarten under the charge of Miss Bartlett of America. It was started in 1885 with seven children in a sunny little room while today the association owns a house well equipped. The example it set was so successful that it created a demand for others all over Turkey. A training school was opened, now a whole kindergarten movement is in progress. Greeks, Mohammedans and Jews are of course advancing in this department.

### A Delicious Pudding.

A delicious apricot batter pudding of evaporated apricots is made as follows: Stir two eggs, six tablespoonful of sugar and four tablespoonful of butter to a cream. Flavor with a little grated nutmeg, then add three gills of milk. Mix two heaping teaspoonful of baking powder with four gills of flour and quickly stir it through the milk and other ingredients. If this does not make a stiff batter, add more flour. Butter a pudding mould well and spread in a layer of the batter to the depth of half an inch, then a layer of stewed apricots, then a layer of batter and so on until the mould is full to within two inches of the top. Then cover it tightly so no water or steam can get in. Stand the mould in a kettle of hot water or in a steamer and let it boil or steam for three hours. Turn the pudding out of the mould carefully, and serve it with the juice of the stewed apricots over it and with cream in a separate dish. This pudding may be eaten hot or cold.

### Woman Real Estate Agent.

Miss Martha Moody of Brooklyn, is a genuine real estate agent. She began in her father's office as "office girl," because she wanted to learn all the business. She is now acting supervisor of the company.

### POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

- Experience is like street improvement—we have to pay for it whether we want it or not.
- Buying a ticket for a symphony concert is a sound investment.
- Marriages will often sober a man who is intoxicated with love.
- A teacher who uses the rod is apt to make his pupils smart.
- It is a wise fool that can keep his lack of wisdom to himself.
- Bad storytellers and poor relations are often considered bores.
- Love may laugh at locksmiths, but it never giggles at the plumber.
- The icele and bicycle season are the only ones recognized by wheelmen.
- An "L" road patron says the bustle will give us more elevated trains.
- A farmer says the wearing of shoes with high heels and narrow soles inflicts a big corn crop.
- A man who can stand cold better takes needn't fancy he would cut a dash in Alaska.
- A pessimist hangs over a fire all day and grumbles at people who go skating.

# NEW YORK FASHIONS

## GEMS AND JEWELS OF THE FASHIONABLE WOMAN.

### The Summer Girl's Belt, Rocks and Frills, and a Few Don't in Decoration.

Few women realize the importance of knowing when and how to wear jewels. They should make a study of this for a careful consideration of the few hints given here will add materially to their general appearance.

To insure beauty, jewels must be worn with regard to color. Take, for instance, highly colored gems, such as rubies and sapphires. They should not be worn with a shade of red. Therefore, they should never adorn the ears, hands or neck of the woman with auburn, red tresses, or with hair that is unmistakably red.

Soft colors should always be selected in such cases—turquoise, pearls or diamonds.

Women who complain that their eyes look dull should consider for a moment how they load their ears, neck and hair with brilliant jewels, such as diamond tiaras and huge sunbursts at the throat, and possibly large diamond ear-drops.

The woman with dull eyes should never do this, for putting sparkling diamonds near them makes them appear duller.

The pearl softens the face more than any other jewel. Another stone which is equally becoming is the opal.

A stone called tonkinose, which is a pure blue, makes a sallow skin many shades lighter.

Bracelets are indispensable to a woman. They set off a handsome hand and distract attention from an unattractive one.

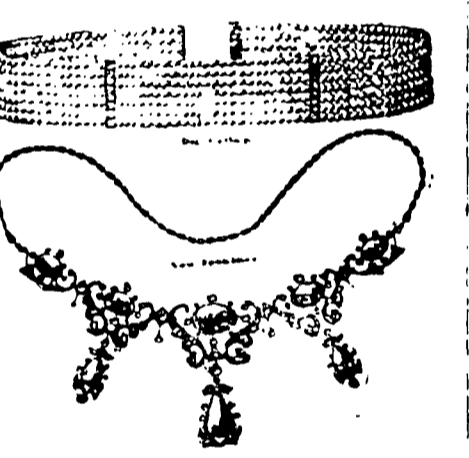
Massive bracelets make over-fat arms appear more shapely.

The brunette can rightly claim curls, they are not becoming to blondes.

The subject of rings is an important one to consider. Many of them, is the motto of many a well-dressed woman, but this is not true by any means. One hand being well set and of a fine form, is in much better taste than a quantity of cheap rings, hunched in for their regardless of cost.

The good sapphire makes a much better showing than the cheap Princess sapphire.

The woman who has a pretty neck and shoulders should not speak for themselves. She should speak for her beauty by wearing necklaces and pendants; but this is not so. The gracious lines



of the shoulders and the sweep from the nape of the neck down the back are broken and have their value lessened by a necklace.

However, if one must be worn, let it be of pearls and of a dainty design—nothing heavy or massivelooking.

A few years ago the wearing of earrings was stigmatized as barbarous, but now the majority of women consider them an effective ornament.

Great care should be used in selecting these. On should not call attention to an unshape ear by a flashy ornament.

Gem girdles define outlines and make a trim waist even more symmetrical.

The time and place to wear jewels are frequently overlooked. Nothing is in poorer taste than to see a woman in a morning negligee with her fingers loaded with jewels.

Again, we see women travelling adorned with an array of diamonds that are entirely out of place. This is almost unpardonable. If you want to take your jewels with you, put them in a little jewel-bag, and hang it around your neck; but don't load your fingers with them. It is in extreme bad taste.

Tiny little jewelled back-pins for the hair are always in good taste, but side and back combs, heavily mounted and jewelled, are in bad taste, except for evening wear.

Summer Girl's Belts.

To be quite proper this summer one must have pretty belts to match their pique stocks that shall adorn their shirt waists.

Stocks, cuffs and belts are shown in sets, and are especially pretty for butcher's linen gowns or soft pongees. In fact, many of the tub suits have stock and belts to match.

Odd belts are shown made of fine white threads so closely woven as to be almost elastic. Some of them are fastened with white enamel buckles and others with a regular Mexican saddle knot, and when thus fastened the ends are fringed.

A great many are shown with gun metal buckles in twisted wire designs.

Leather belts and silk ribbon belts seem to have been shelved for t

# STYLISH AND IN THEIR STEAD BEWILDERING ASSORTMENT OF PIQUE AND CANVAS BELTS ARE DISPLAYED.

## Frocks and Frills.

Soft silk lace is being very much employed for tea gowns and some of them are made of alternate lace and graduate rows of ribbon, placed horizontally. Soft Liberty silk, soft crepe de chine, these are the fabric of the hour, and tatoon of pearls and beautiful buttons figure on most of them. Soft white cloth is also employed with an entredeux of lace and stole ends, and sashes figure on most of them.

Alpaca and alpaca Sicilian have returned to us—mohair, barege, white corduroy, and some of the tabinets and other stuffs of the early part of the nineteenth century under new names. We shall be wearing a great deal of white all the year through, and employ much ribbon for our trimmings, sometimes in lieu of the silk stitched bands we have been wearing.

Blouses are somewhat severe, the sleeves large, the waistband sloping towards the front. We are still indebted to the Chinese for a good deal. We borrow their many garments entirely for outdoor cloaks and we use their embroideries for blouses and their accompanying bolero jackets.

Persian lawn makes very pretty shirts, trimmed with Cluny and kindred laces, and any number of tuckings. Mouseline de sole, tucked and bouillon, make very pretty little evening shirts, as well as charming evening gowns, less expensive than the fashionable pannes. Long sleeves with these low bodies in the thin materials come under the head of blouses, because they can be bought separate from any skirt, and nearly all of them are inserted with fine laces.

### A Summer Visiting Costume.

The visiting dress gives the latest style of bodice and skirt that can be made in any soft material. Here,



there are pleats in the front and at the back, and insertions of silk lace. The crossed effect is particularly happy, the upper portion of the bodice composed solely of bands of ribbon.

### Decorative Don'ts.

Don't buy furniture which has so much decoration that it affords refuges for dust.

Don't have the central decoration of the table tall enough to hide the guests from one another.

Don't put plush or silk centrepieces on your dining table. Embroidered linen squares are more fashionable.

Don't make a narrow doorway narrower by a heavy portiere. A small house is made stuffy by too many hangings.

Don't put chandeliers in a low-ceilinged room. Side brackets are fashionable and are to be had in artistic shapes.

Don't furnish a room facing north in blue or any cold color; yellow or golden brown hangings will produce the effect of perpetual sunshine.

Don't copy the freaks of the cafes in the folding of napkins or table linen. Good ironing and plain folding should characterize the linen of private tables.

Don't put into your room unsteady little tables loaded with meaningless bric-a-brac. They are always in the way, and they detract from the dignity of the room.

Don't have the floor, walls and furniture in a room covered with material which has a decided pattern. Too many patterns confuse the eye, which should have some plain space to rest on.

Don't buy a bright-colored carpet to put into rooms where the furniture is not to be correspondingly toned up. A "cheerful" assertive carpet will often make everything else in the room look faded, and itself become the leading object in the room; whereas a carpet should always be a background, and, consequently lower in tone than the objects placed upon it.

Greater than all else is success! The victor rides above their thousand dead,

They place a wreath about his head, Nor call him cruel and merciless.

But he who paused in pity's name Grown weak when slaughter blocks the way,

To court the cost, has lost his day, And failure greets where once stood Fame.