

# OUR FASHION LETTER.

**Tints in Laces Have Been Slightly Altered.**

**GRASS LAWN IN A NOVEL GUISE.**

Beautiful Robes Made From This Useful Material—The Serviceable and as Popular as Ever—The Small Stripes Lack Style.

Laces are as popular as ever, but the tints are slightly altered. Ecu is toned down and labeled straw or champagne, but the old tint is just as fashionable. The ecru shade with the slight greenish tint is still to be patronized, as it is shown in handsome Irish crochet and in lovely embroidered robes of net. Medallions of embroidery are introduced on thin gowns and are generally inclosed in lace. Grass lawn has returned in a new guise, and there are robes much embroidered and incrustated with lace which have the smartest air. In



THREE-QUARTER COAT.

fact, the tussore tint is much in the foreground, and the silk is to be used both for dust coats and for gowns.

The new dust coats in tussore silk, alpaca and lawn are trimmed with flat embroidered galloon and a good deal of lace, but very handsome effects are obtained with spreading collars of the deep Richelleu shape and either broad insertion of lace or diamond shaped motifs in combination with tucks.

A handsome gown of champagne colored crepe de chine is inserted with stripes of lace to match and appliqued with a bold vandyke design in black chandilly lace. The full bodice has a pretty pelerine of the crepe with a plisse frill and a collar arrangement of the black lace, and there are stole ends of the crepe drawn and finished with tassels.

A smart three-quarter coat is here shown. It is of tussore silk, with a needlework collar and cuffs.

**THE ACCORDION SKIRT.**

The accordion platted skirt appeals to many, and some of the leading houses are selling smart specimens ready made.

The economically minded will do well to consider the purchase of the ready embroidered linen and cambric blouses, not to speak of the muslin robe.

The popularity of red is great, and nothing can be more serviceable. There is a new kind of hopsack linen which is prettier than the stiff fabric of yore, inasmuch as it does not crease, but instead falls into charming folds. Most of the linens boast of the little loose bolero or sack coat with the blouse



A GOWN EFFECT.

collars trimmed with tugs and tassels. For all practical purposes the skirt is shown, though not aggressively so, and the bottom has the wide flare which is a necessity. Homely have made their appearance.

The tendency is toward the 1830 shape, which may be large or small to suit the individual taste.

The illustration shows a very pretty cape effect, which may be carried out in lace or in any other fancy material.

**VOGUE OF EMBROIDERIES.**  
Embroideries still prevail, and the newest are on velvet, but in silk they now take the form of connected motifs or strings of medallions in two or three sizes. In fact, all trimmings aim at being detachable and are repeated in varying widths, so that the modiste can use the same pattern throughout the toilet.

Canvas is quite a smart material for a summer wrap, and lined with taffeta



GOWN OF CHALLIE.

and bedecked with embroidery or incrustated with lace it is really delightful for summer wear. The bust and petty tints are mostly favored but a soft pinky gray is charming if bearing as well a few touches of black in its decoration of lace.

The new cotton goods are less effective this season, and there are many small stripes which invariably lack style when made up. There are any number of delaines with exquisite designs of the floral and pompadour order, but somehow delaine never suggests a smart gown, and it is more suitable for morning gowns, home tea gowns and the less dressy type of blouse.

The sketch shows a simple little gown of figured challie. It is trimmed with lines of fagoting.

**EVENING COATS.**

The new muslins and semitransparent hotnettes are as charming as ever, and the finer ones are strewn with floral sprays and groups, which appear as if painted. The new chiffon of heavier make is like an extremely fine voile and is termed chiffon de soie and voile de soie. This has more substance than chiffon and is admirable for gauged skirts.

Evening coats are of various types, but a rich satin much powdered with



COSTUME OF MAUVE PASTEL CLOTH.

face motifs and bordered in the same fashion makes a recherche garment. There should be of course a deep pelerine cape liberally enriched with lace and some fussy ruffled frills of chiffon. Handsome evening coats are of accordion platted crepe de sole over a shaped lace lining, and these have the inevitable deep cape and stole ends of lace.

Sleeves are growing fuller and wider. The latest Vienna and Paris models show a very long shoulder and a sleeve actually gathered at the top. The cut shows a pretty gown of mauve pastel cloth. The toque is of wall flowers. **JUDIC CHOLLET.**

## MAKING THINGS HOMELIKE.

Traveling Men's Brilliant Idea of a "States Hotel"

"There is anything more than a tourist that appeals to the traveling men of these United States," remarked a New York drummer who had been on the road for as many years as he had teeth in his mouth. "It is the hotel he must put up at and put up with, for his home life is chiefly confined to hotels; which reminds me that the oddest thing I have seen in that line I found not long ago in this very town of Washington. A hustling Chicago fellow showed me the plans of a new hotel he proposes to erect in the spring for the especial benefit of the cosmopolitan class of visitors to the national capital always attracts. The man has the money subscribed, or told me he had, and he will go to work on the building as soon next year as he has secured an eligible site.

"The hotel will be known as the States, this title attaching to it intrinsically because it is to be of the States—that is to say, it will be composed of forty-five compartments of five rooms each, though possibly some of the apartment will have ten rooms, and each apartment will be named for a state, and a guest from that state will be assigned to quarters under his own vine and fig tree, so to speak. Naturally there are more people in Washington from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois than elsewhere, and apartments for those states will probably contain ten rooms. Now, when a guest arrives and registers he will be sent to his own state room, and instead of landing in the midst of strange sights he will find pictures of familiar things from his state on the walls, engravings of his state capitol and other public buildings, portraits of well known public men of the state, and, when possible, various souvenirs in furniture and furnishings, which will be pleasing to the traveler who finds his warmest welcome at an inn.

"There will be other home attractions as well, such as 'familiar drinks at the bar—that is to say, drinks indigenous to the tastes of the natives of various states—as well as dishes on the table which will make a man hungry and homesick at the same time. That idea is a great one, I think, for it isn't always a man takes an appetite to a hotel table with him. There are some other details that I don't recall now but you have enough to catch the idea and be able to realize that when the States is completed and in running order Washington will have the most novel hotelery in the country." Washington Star

**The Human Eye as a Camera.**

The popular notion that the eyes of the dead sometimes retain complete images of scenes that have been enacted before them at the moment of death has received fancied confirmation in late years by experiments, and there are some who, from reading careless or exaggerated accounts of these experiments, might get an impression that science had placed upon this notion the stamp of approval. The following note from the London Lancet gives us the very small medium of truth that is the basis of all such stories. It says:

"Under the title of 'In Dead Eyes' an evening contemporary recently made a statement which carries its own confutation with it. It is to the effect that a physician and enthusiastic photographer, being desirous of testing the amount of truth in the story that dead eyes retain complete images, had fully examined the eyes of a dead person, and, though he saw nothing like a distinct picture mirrored he had certainly distinctly traced both letters and objects on the iris of the eye, and that when the photographic test was applied these images became visible. In one case a capital letter of peculiar form was shown which could be traced to a Testament held in the hands shortly before death. In another case a numeral was distinctly pictured which was traced to a clock face in the room. The chief scientific paper of France only the other day gave full particulars of a case where a woman who died in one of the hospitals had two numbers, 10 and 46, mirrored in the iris of her eyes. These absurd stories originated in the well known experiments of Kuhne on the visual purple of the retina, in the course of which he showed that by making special arrangements the cross bars of a window focused on the retina could be brought into relief. The enthusiastic photographer, if he be not misquoted, ought to have known that no well-defined images of the external world are cast upon the iris, and none, therefore, could be preserved. The surface of the iris is far too uneven to act as a mirror. Moreover, as no arrangements were made to prevent the further action of light after death, they would, if formed, be certainly obliterated, as the image on a photographic place would be if permanently exposed. The only mode in which an image impressed on the retina could be rendered visible would be to adopt the method of Kuhne, viz., by exposing the eye previously kept in the dark for a minute or two to an illuminated object, then extrixating, opening it, and immediately plunging it into a solution of alum. The image develops in the course of twenty-four hours."

"Well, a Kentucky surgeon would have done no better," said the Chicagoan.

"You are right, sah," replied the other; "Kentucky surgeons know nothing about treating wounds in the back, sah."

Kind Party—If I give you this nickel, what will you do with it?

Tatters (sarcastically)—I'll be honest with you boss, I'll spend it in riotous living.

## A MARVELOUS MICHIGAN GIRL.

She's a Musical Prodigy and Her Name is Alice McClung.

Michigan has a marvelous musical prodigy. She is little Alice McClung, who lives with her parents in the village of Coloma. Although she is only seven years old she has astonished musical people, not alone with her playing but with her clever compositions.

Little Alice is a born musician; in fact, it was less than two months after her birth when she first demonstrated that fact. At that age she became so excited while a pianist was playing Chopin selection that her mother could with difficulty hold her in her arms. She is at once a child of nature and of the old masters. She will listen intently to the songs of birds and insects, to the buzzing of telegraph wires, and then imitate them.

When but five years old she composed her Sault Ste. Marie March. She was born in Sault Ste Marie, which there is a United States fort. The beginning of the march is an imitation of the bugle calls which she heard at this fort each day.

The idea that the sole object of every individual is to learn to play on the piano was early fixed in the child's mind. Her mother was a music-teacher and the baby would enter her studio after the pupils had left and imitate the music she had heard. She soon began to compose and when a melody was given to her she would quickly write a bass to fit it. Her sense of harmony and of tone seems to be absolutely perfect.

In very early childhood it was Alice's hobby to sit with a volume of Beethoven's Sonatas before her and spend hours playing bits of the music which her little hands could encompass. Music of an inferior nature has never been given to her. Her taste has been formed entirely by the study of the best composers and of nature's sounds.

Prof Ziegfeld, of the Chicago College of Music, has tested her power and pronounces her ear for music perfect. Her "Songs of Merry Birds" is a musical composition of a very high standard.

Only twice has little Alice been induced to appear in public, both times during last February, first in Coloma and next in Benton Harbor, Mich. Her remarkable execution on the piano of compositions by Krumpholtz, Chopin, Kunkel, Diabelli and of her own music astonished the audiences. Her tone tests on those occasions were noteworthy. Standing with her back to the piano she correctly named the keynote, when numbers of the keys were struck.

**Leopards as Pets.**

Sir Samuel Baker in his recent book gives some excellent advice to those adventurous people who endeavor to make pets of wild beasts, especially tigers and leopards.

Although the case of leopards are charming playthings and exhibit much intelligence and apparent affection, it is a great mistake to adopt such companions for their hereditary instincts are certain to be one developed in full grown life and lead to grave disaster. The common domestic cat is sometimes uncertain with her claws, and most people must have observed that the seats and backs of leather chairs are well marked by the sharp talons, which cannot refrain from exercising their power upon anything which tempts their operation.

I remember a leopard in Khartoum that was considered tame. The beast broke its chain, and instead of enjoying its liberty in a grateful manner it at once fastened upon the neck of a much-prized cow, and would have killed the animal had it not been itself beaten to death with clubs.

All such creatures are untrustworthy and they should be avoided as pests. The only class of leopards that should become the companion of man is the most interesting of the species, the hunting-leopard (Felis jubata). I have never met a person that had shot one of these animals in a wild state, and such an animal is rarely met with in the jungle.

The hunting-leopard is totally different in shape from all other leopards. Instead of being low and long with short but massive legs, it stands extremely high, the neck is long, the head small, the eyes large and piercing, the legs long and the body light.

It is generally admitted that the hunting-leopard is the fastest animal in the world, as it can overtake upon open ground the well-known black buck, which surpasses in speed the fastest English greyhound.

**Child Life in Siam.**

When the Siamese young folks get up in the morning, they do not go to the washstand to wash their faces, for the simple reason that Siamese houses can boast no such article of furniture. So our little Siamese friend just runs down to the foot of the ladder—for the house is built on posts—to a large jar of water with a cocoanut shell dipper. There she washes her face by throwing the water over her hands and rubbing them over her face. She needs no towel, for the water is left to dry. She does not brush her teeth, for they are stained black by chewing the betel nut. Her hair does not require combing, either, for it is all shaved except a little tuft on the top of the head, and that is tied in a little knot, and not often combed.

After breakfast is over, the children go off and find some pleasant place in which to play. The girls play at keeping house, and make dishes of clay dried in the sun. Little images of clay washed with lime are their only dolls. The boys in Siam are very fond of pitting coins, and spend much of their time in this game. They play leap-frog, and very often jump the rope. Now that so many foreigners come to this country, they have learned to play marbles, too.

## NEW YORK FASHIONS.

**SIMPLE SUMMER GOWNS A MERE FIGURE OF SPEECH.**

Fashions Favors in Frocks and Wraps—How to Be Properly Hatted—Useful Hints for the House-wife and Things to Remember.

The phrase "a simple summer gown" bids fair to become only a figure of speech, for the summer girl has not one in her wardrobe. The craze for ornamentation has grown with the lengthening of the days, until now dominates every costume. The fancy for one-tone costumes has produced the effect of simplicity, but a closer examination of the gown will bring to light no dearth of handwork, lace appliques and embroideries.

With the height of the season is to be found, not a crystallization of styles in certain prescribed lines, but a further modification of the fashions of all preceding eras. Sleeves are growing larger, and the French curve waist line is displacing the point of last season. Few other decided trends can be noticed.

Narrow black velvet ribbon is being extensively used on summer dresses of every description. It gives a softening touch to the severe linen gowns and breaks the monotony of the softer, more clinging fabrics.

**Blue Foulard and White Lace.**



A dressy foulard frock of blue, with pinhead white dot, made with full gathered skirt. A novel trimming of blue bands with round medallions of white lace ornaments the skirt.

The bodice is plain and full, with deep cap of material falling from shoulders and finished with same trimming as skirt; also two bands of this trimming form a yoke. Plain full sleeve, with deep cuff of bands of trimming.

The hat is of mixed rough straw, trimmed with rosettes of changeable blue ribbon and blue ragged sailors.

**How to Be Properly Hatted.**

How to be properly hatted seems to be one of the most perplexing of dress problems.

A great many charmingly fresh maidens are at the moment congratulating themselves on being allowed to once more wear the broad bonnets of the old Dolly Varden shape.

But we may well call the modes of the day "fickle fashion," for it is ever changing, and it is with much anxiety we purchase the expensive new gown or hat, for while to-day we feel we have something really up to date and smart, to-morrow we are in the depths of despair, for we awaken to find there has been a complete evolution in fashion.

What more peculiar freak has fashion ever taken than now, when endeavoring to bring forth again the old-time poke bonnet of grandmother's days?

As yet it has not been very favorably accepted, as it is a very trying mode of headgear, only becoming to few.

To the girl with the saucy, bright face it is particularly fetching, its big scoop and soft bow under the chin, or toward the left ear, giving her a very cute and swagger appearance.

These big scoop bonnets are found in all kinds of straw, lace and chiffon, and very beautiful and dainty they are. Some have high crowns and others scarcely any, to suit the individual taste.

One beautiful model which is very chic for one who can wear this style hat, is made of ecru chip. The crown is formed of roses and the outside of the big scoop brim, covered with rows of tiny black velvet ribbon about an inch apart; the inside completely covered with pink rosebuds. Long, delicate pink chiffon strings come from under the roses of the crown, to be tied in front or loosely knotted.

Before adopting one of these bonnets one must think long and wisely, for they will either make or mar one's appearance.

**Care of Steel Knives.**

Steel bladed knives should be cleaned and polished after using. This is best accomplished if a small box is kept on hand containing a raw potato

a bath brick and a cleaning cloth. Scrape a little of the brick upon the board, dip the cut end of the potato into it and rub the blade of the knife until it is free from all stains. Then polish with the cloth and wash the knife in warm, not hot water.

**"Fashion Tips."**

The lace collars have become such a fad they now flare full to the waist line, and over the arms.

Pale pink, blue or any dainty colors centres to handkerchiefs are once again a passing fad.

Wreaths of flowers veiled in lace trim some of the chic little sailors.

The warm days will once again bring forth the embroidered silk and lace gloves and mitts.

Black and white checked parasols, with tiny red dots and borders, are particularly swell with shirt-waist suits.

The flat hat is growing passe, and turbans and sailors are increasing in number and size.

The skirts are growing fuller and more two-piece effects are noticed like the Spanish boucans.

**Maline Bows.**

Maline, so universally worn, seems to be a permanent article of the many accessories which go to complete one's toilet.

There are few things which have held their own against the vagaries of fashion as has the perishable maline, which takes all one's "pin money" to purchase purchase, for one must always have a reserve stock, seeing that fashion has decreed that a bunch of maline must be in evidence either in the front of the collar, in the back or a chic rosette under the ear.

Maline may be purchased by the yard, in all colors, plain or with chenille dots of different colors at about twenty or twenty-five cents a yard. One can then make it into a bow or rosette, as desired, but if preferred it may be obtained already made in a soft rosette with sufficient maline left to go around the neck. This may be bought for the moderate sum of twenty-nine cents.

On a warm day it will be found a splendid substitute for a collar, being put around the neck brought back and tied in a soft knot or bow in front, giving a very cool and comfortable appearance.

**The Useful Lamp Chimney.**

A chimney taken from a lighter lamp is an excellent hot application in case of an emergency. Slip the chimney into an old stocking, take a damp warm cloth and wrap around the chimney. If the required heat is for a cough or the croup, wrap the chimney in a flannel rag smeared with mutton tallow and turpentine. Applied to the chest or throat relief will be had almost at once. The lamp chimney is especially practicable during the summer months, when the fires are out, for the lamp can be lighted and the hot applications secured in a few minutes. Croup, colic, toothache, coughs, rheumatic pains and many other ills flee before hot lamp chimney.

**A Summer Wrap.**



This extremely dressy garment is of white cloth, with ecru applique and ornaments. The sleeves are much larger than the jacket and present prevailing fashion. The "all-white-hat" has a garniture of white roses and lace.

**Hot Weather Health Hints.**

Be out of doors as much as possible. Eat plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit.

Do not eat meat more than once a day.

Drink lemonade or take lemon juice in some form frequently.

Do not neglect the daily bath.

Do not sleep in a draught or where the night air blows on you.

Do not forget that a flannel band is a preventative of many summer maladies.

**Hints for Housewives.**

Cover a custard while cooking and a thick skin will not form on top.

Cakes will not stick to their tins if placed on a damp cloth when removed from the oven.

Stains on knives, however obstinate, will disappear if rubbed with a piece of raw potato dipped in brickdust.

White kid gloves and slippers can be cleaned with dry pipe clay. Use a stiff brush for the purpose and rub till the spots disappear.

To whiten clothes, put two teaspoonfuls of turpentine into water in which they are boiled.

If a garment is badly scorched in ironing, lay it in the brightest sunshine you can find, and unless the fabric is burned the stain will all come out.