

# STYLES OF SHIRTS TO EARLY DATES

France Takes Over a Fashion Inspiration From English History.

## SUIT FROM CROMWELL'S RULE

Coat and Stuart Collars Returned to Favor and Henry II Straight Loose Gown With Loose Cord Girdle Is Worn.

New York. It is a long cry from Henry II to Cromwell, but fashion jumps that length in seven-tongued boots and regards it as a trifle. Fashion, indeed, asserts a fashion critic, places the two periods of the world's history together without apology. She takes a bit from one and a slice from the other, and calls it a frock.

History has been ransacked for three years for inspiration, strange to record, when one realizes that a few decades from now fashion will probably start in to register the impressions of these days, and throughout all the ages to come, if there are such things as fashions for women, those who build them will go to this era of world war as an aid to fabled brains.

Possibly Napoleon was sufficiently an egotist to foresee that the period he created in the world's progress would last the fashion designers at least an hundred years, as it has done, but he might have been startled at the fact



Street suit taken from Cromwell's rule in Britain. It is of dark blue cloth with two rows of tiny silver buttons down the front, a battlemented hem, and wide linen collars and cuffs.

that in a tremendous time like this, which makes his mighty battle's purpose events, we should go on playing variations on the theme of clothes which he brought about through his Marston of ventures in other lands than his own.

Some of the designers have gotten very far away from the Napoleon era, and their models are that much more distant from the Napoleonic era, being the sign of this one, and that it would be difficult to find something which had been created. Very true.

**We Turn to England.**

There was once a time in the beginning of the Consulate, when fashion in Paris was turned toward the ancient enemy across the channel and borrowed ideas for dress. This was done in a spirit of perversity by certain sections of society, but the Paris designers now turn there in a different spirit—one of intense gratitude and friendliness, and instead of looking among present fashions for inspirations, knowing full well by practical evidence that they are Parisian, she has gone back to British history. Later she may remember Mesopotamia and Palestine, and linking them to Alibey and Marshall swirl back to Holy Land costume.

At the moment she is interested in eras of which she has thought little and cared less. It seems a strange thing that the temperamental designers of Paris, on whom the world depends for the movement of the season in clothes, should revive the fashions of Cromwell. Curious juxtaposition of lines. None has ever existed in French history who could be likened to this Puritan, and we may find the reason for this singular reversion in the pleasant fact that Cromwell was sandwiched between two Charleses whose frivolous is historically foreign to Paris.

The Cromwellian inspiration is new; the revival of these fashions, which were adopted before the word had any significance when Henry II was king of England. In looking over a book of old costume the similarity shown between the frocks of then and now is startling. And this is all the further we have gone in dress, is the excitement that comes first.

Those were severe fashions when

Charles II came to the throne. He had a taste for the soft and the light, and he showed that she wore a soft one beneath.

Just recently there has appeared several sorts with battlemented hems, a strange sign of those times and a double row of buttons on each side of a long straight front opening. The white linen collar and cuffs are added, and one sees that it is a new fashion.

Not so new, but equally Cromwellian, is the sleeveless blouse or short tunic that our shops sell as usually as they once did the American shirt waist. These, also, were battlemented at the hem, while ours are not, but they also showed the full sleeves of the shirt beneath. In those days the man whose the undershirt is broad yellow and red-barred stripes.

As we wear this other coat, the battlemented one with long sleeves, fastened at the neck, but not below, the effect is good. It provides a variant from the accepted styles of jackets. It is beltless, which is a fashion the French designers are striving hard to establish. The slim lines of this coat keep the widths from exaggeratedness and the small armholes add the clean-cut look.

**Sinuuous Hips of the Orient.**

It may be a happy fact one that gives cause for rebelling that designers have no objection to "bunching" the countries when it comes to fashions. To put the oriental hip draper alongside the coat of Cromwell and the chemise of Adele of Lausanne is legitimate business.

All's well that ends well, and it might be their motto and they go on making a sartorial Tower of Babel, for if a costume could speak, this is what would happen in any representative gathering. The Orient is always too seductive, too easy of imitation, to escape constant usage; there may have been periods in social history when it would not have been possible to persuade well-placed women to appear in the clothes of the Temple girls and those of the Buzars, but we don't happen to belong to one of them.

We have stopped at some things in the last six years, but we have gone far, very far.

Sedateness has entered into costume, during the last two years, but now we may see a return to license in costume that may make pre-war fashions appear anemic. Let us hope that they won't be too unbridled.

If there is a pleasing sedateness with freedom from demureness and drabness, then we will see good costumes. Already there is a gracious way of employing orientalism which cannot be objected to by conservatism, even in this hip-drapery whose swaths are the sign and symbol of the Eastern divo.

There is a tendency to combine colored satin with black thread lace in the oriental frocks which takes away the suggestion of the East except in the swirl of fabric that goes about the hips.

**The Square Figure.**

These are minor changes, however important they may be to the mass of women who have no intention of swinging their clothes into every procession that passes, in comparison to the subtle transformation going on in



Down of sweet-gum colored velours showing the square contour for which fashion is headed. The back of the skirt is plaited, the front plain. Under the square bodice there is a sash of Indian-red crepe.

the contour of the figure. It is getting square. If it succeeds there is another blue ribbon of victory to the house of Calbot who moves along a mysterious way toward changing the fashion of the civilized world.

When Calbot sent to this country those primitive garments without belt, or curve, cut straight from two pieces of cloth, or so it appeared, and sewed up at each side, women simply uttered an emphatic negative and passed them by. Even that little group of extremists which can be depended on to try out everything once, at least, were too doubtful of the experiment to put money in it. And yet here it is creeping in among all the best gowns from important houses and promised as the ruling contour for spring.

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## NEW YORK NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

**Paragraphs of Interest to Readers of Empire State.**

News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points in the State and So Reduced in Size That It Will Appeal to All Classes of Readers.

East Virginia gas supply has been cut.

Scarcity of water is worrying Dundee.

Herbert's fur this year made \$1,000 profit.

Fluents has closed its Red Cross store.

Amherst is again the victim of influenza.

Dundee reports a decrease in electricity.

No coal has been received in New York since Nov. 20.

Blackport says its influenza situation is not improving.

Higha's country has suspended operations owing to influenza.

Higha's school building program may cost the expenditure of \$500,000.

Batavia's new postoffice will be opened for business some time next month.

Milk prices in Rochester will be investigated by the state food administrator.

It is denied that Tonawanda firms have refused to give jobs to returned soldiers.

Over \$2,000,000 has so far been raised in New York city for Jewish war relief work.

Ladies of the Dundee Study club will be obliged to pay \$100, an inheritance tax, on a house given to them.

Influenza and pneumonia caused 40 deaths in Lockport in November, according to City Clerk J. L. Greenman.

There is talk in Niagara Falls of building a ten-story hotel on the site of the Cataract and the International.

Frank M. Erick was chosen president of the Tri County Fair association at the annual meeting at Cayuga Falls.

There is a N. E. man, Niagara county superintendent of highways, favoring keeping 80 miles of road open this winter.

According to Inspector Mirel of Onondaga, Buffalo milk dealers are taking an unfair advantage of the public.

Unless the shipment of more eggs can be made to Buffalo within two or three weeks that city will face a serious shortage.

The state game farm at Dexter, according to a report sent to the conservation commission, hatched 3,000 pheasants this year.

Ontario county will have to invest approximately \$275,000 in war saving stamps during the month if it reaches its quota of \$1,000,000.

Christmas cartons, which have been started overseas from Dansville, number 84. Three of these were filled in the name of the Red Cross.

It is expected that Company K, 65th regiment New York state infantry will soon have an armory in Warsaw. Its present quarters are inadequate.

The Ransomville chemical storage is now shipping six to eight carloads of apples weekly and the movement will continue until after the holidays.

There is a chance that work may be resumed at the plant of the Bata via Steel Products corporation which shut down last week and released 900 employees.

Niagara county's commercial yield of apples this year was 1,700,000 barrels, 2 1/2 times the size of last year's crop, and one of the greatest yields in recent years.

Nelson Harper of Darien was chosen president of the Genesee County Agricultural society at its meeting in Batavia. R. J. Lumley of Alabama was elected vice president.

The Western New York Rabbit Breeders' association will hold its annual show in conjunction with the Genesee Poultry and Pigeon association in Rochester on Jan. 6 to 11.

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