

**THE STERLING HOME**

By IDA W. GOULD.

Her name was Zarella How, and she was neither young nor pretty. Her dishevelled hair and ink-stained fingers were not attractive. Over her desk hung a motto, "Nothing worth winning except by hard work."

The fruits of this woman's work surrounded her. A bust of "Lytle, earned by the sale of "The Sailor's Revenge," stood near the set of Dickens, resulting from the "Midnight Mystery." Once her energy slackened, then she let her eyes refresh themselves with the sight of her real antique prayer rug, bought by the sale of "Another Child." Over the piano hung a well-earned water color, one made possible for her by selling "The Double Murder." Upon the mahogany table were fine bits of pottery. The very robe Zarella worked in was a Japanese kimono, delicately embroidered in artistic fashion. That resulted from "A Temperance Tale."

With splendid health and a good income from investments, she lived in a top room of a house that sheltered many other business women. Her courage was supreme; no amount of rejected manuscripts restrained her assiduity.

As early dawn glimmered, the woman stung her last production aside, put out the light, and slept till noon. Every afternoon she sent the work off to the editors of a literary contest which had been running some weeks. She aspired to build a small home like one illustrated in "Sterling Homes."

A faint odor of heliotrope pervaded all her belongings. In her plan of a house a bed of heliotrope plants just outside her workroom was indicated. Heliotrope was her mother's best-loved flower. Zarella always bought heliotrope perfume instead of the more common violet.

She remembered her mother, working at the common tasks in the old homestead, and a saying of her mother's brought the most vivid and tender memories to her.

"Always keep something sweet smelling that grows about you, to take your mind off your drudgery."

She would have a Dutch colonial home, box trees (like prim old maids) on each side of the brick wall. She would have plenty of heliotrope plants in her home. She would have a brass knocker on her front door, a blue bush, a shelf for pitchers, and a cupboard like one described in a New England story of long ago. There must be a high shelf with brass candlesticks, and a banjo clock. Outside, she desired a duck pond and a few weeping willows gracefully reflected in the small sheet of water. She knew she could gather fresh material for more stories in such surroundings. She pictured herself lying in the hammock, looking at the seely shapes above her, inhaling perfume from her flower beds.

She would paint her house white, with green blinds. She loved glistening white paint.

She remembered when her mother had taken her to visit a sea captain's wife in Newburyport.

The sea captain had an absolute passion for white paint. How kind everyone had been there. Perhaps she, Zarella How, might pass along those same happy memories to some little girl, when she really owned her Sterling home.

The captain had given her a bunch of catnip and a shell at parting. The shell still did duty as a paper weight. The catnip had long ago been consumed by cats long since deceased.

Zarella's musings were interrupted by a knock, followed by the entrance of the top floor matron:

"Good evening, Miss How. A special delivery for you, just come; boy's wait!"

Zarella broke the seal, read the contents of the letter, exclaiming in a delighted cry to the astonished listener: "Mary, hear this; no, first tell the boy, here's the receipt for the letter."

"No bad news, miss."

"Good—good—nothing like it ever came my way; hurry, then come back, but don't tell anyone."

Mary made haste and was soon seated admiringly feasting her eyes on the beauty of the kimono.

"Listen, Mary."

"Madam—Enclosed find our check for five thousand dollars."

"You are winner, not for the cleverness of your last lines, but for the sustained interest shown. Out of 20,000 answers yours are noted for general merit, but principally for being the only contestant sending an answer every day since the contest began."

"I. Kauff, Editor, The Searchlight."

"Glory be to God, miss, is it writing brought yer that?"

"Yes, Mary, and I'm going to get me a white Sterling Home with green blinds with the money."

**Farmers Live Longer.**

This, on the authority of the bureau of labor, which has been compiling statistics on the subject. Undoubtedly they do. An open-air life, coupled with fairly regular hours, sufficient food and sleep, and lack of opportunities for some of the more wasteful forms of diversion, must needs conduce to longevity. The farmer reaps the reward of this virtue, even if the virtue be only that of necessity. Counterbalancing factors will be found in faulty food combinations, frequent exposure to cold and wet, and long spells of strenuous physical exertion. Rheumatism is distinctly a farmer's ailment.

**THE FULL BUT SHORT SKIRT**



This charming frock is built of flowered cretonne. It is designed with a full but short skirt and quaint bodice. It is exceptionally fetching.

**AND STILL IT'S THE CAPE**

By Freak of Fashion, the Once Popular Garment Now is Playing Return Engagement.

"I am going to have a summer evening cape of rose-colored kumiskumsa," declared a pretty girl at the silk counter. "And I'm not going to line it—just let it float. This will make three capes I'm taking away with me for the summer."

By all of which, one knows that no wrap is so stylish this summer as the cape.

Just about a year ago Dame Fashion announced dolmans for spring. Of course, everyone bought dolmans. In less than three months everyone was sorry. The dolman faded from the fashion picture. And then at about the point where you had your ripped apart and made into a sure enough coat, along comes the dolman and capedecree again.

The wraps of this year are not so different from those first ones of last spring, except that there are more varieties of the wrap, which is neither a cape nor a coat. They are fascinating in their possibilities, and the very nicest thing that could happen for summer wearing. Many are sleeveless, having slits for the hands, while others do not even have slits, nor fastenings, but are meant to be held closely about one.

All materials are being used for these stylish new wraps. Navy blue serge and tulle are popular, and always look conservative, no matter what the cut. Bolivia cloth fashions many, as do duvety and velours. Silks are very good for the summer wrap, and one sees knee-length and tapering ankle-length wraps of heavy satin, crepe de chine, and shorter ones of taffeta.

**USE ORGANDIE WITH TAFFETA**

Combination Mode Not Only Smart, but Adds Simplicity Which American Women Like.

Organdie has found new uses and a new cachet this summer. No longer does it confine its fresh, crisp charm to accessories and a few simple afternoon frocks for young girls. Today it allies itself with taffeta to make the most becoming of formal afternoon frocks.

At the Auteuil races, writes the director of the Harper's Bazar's Paris bureau, have appeared the most effective black taffeta frocks, which open at every conceivable point over an organdie underdress. The taffeta skirt not only parts in front over a plaited organdie skirt, but it is slit again upon the hips. The organdie skirt falls below the taffeta. Snowy frills fly out from the wrist, ripple downward from the throat and often cup the face. The effect is so smart that every Parisienne has at least one such frock.

Sometimes, the taffeta and organdie are reversed. Then the sheer fine organdie in ecru, rose or cream-white is used over a black taffeta slip, opening enough in front to show a taffeta panel.

The taffeta organdie mode is not only smart, but it has in addition to distinction the charm of simplicity, which all American women like.

**Use Small Bow**

On a dark dress a novel ornament to touch up a plain neckline is a small bow, or else amusing little dog's ears of some lovely, rich lace fastened with a handsome old cameo.

**MUST BE SIMPLE**

Modified Styles Replace Modes of Extravagance

Love of Ornamentation Cannot Be Suppressed; Yellow Is Appearing for Mid-Summer Clothes.

It is interesting, comments a fashion correspondent, to observe the simplicity that is replacing the extreme extravagance that directly followed the war—an extravagance in the wake of which came a mass of ill assorted fashions. We have had during the last two years many styles positively grotesque, such as the long narrow skirts so narrow that their wearers looked like cripples hobbling along.

Down through the centuries history shows that every period of extreme dressing has been followed by one of simplicity. There is little likelihood that dress will remain simple for any length of time. While there is always the reaction from an extreme, the love of ornamentation cannot be suppressed. Dress began, not as a covering for the body, but as an ornament. The primitive savage adorned his body with the juices of berries long before he thought of a covering.

Yellow is appearing in a great many of the clothes for midsummer wear. Two shades of yellow and sometimes three or four are combined in the same costume. Yellow is distinctly a summer color, and has always been a favorite in hot climates.

A combination of several shades of yellow appears in chiffon evening frocks. It makes one cool to think of such a dress. One just completed by a fashionable dressmaker has the skirt composed of petals, one shade placed over another. It ranges from palest lemon to deepest apricot, and is slashed with a wide apricot colored satin ribbon. The bodice topping this frilly skirt is just a simple band of satin to match the sash with a wispy bit of lemon colored chiffon draped over it.

An evening hat to accompany this dress is of the apricot colored chiffon. Dripping from the brim are long stemmed pale yellow blossoms and green leaves.

All the nasturtium shades are combined with copper color. Even the florists appear to be co-operating with the dressmakers or else the dressmakers are co-operating with the florists, for one sees the very same shades blended with great skill in the florist windows.

**NEW BLOUSE OF TRICOLETTE**



This blouse of tricolette is odd in its design. It is of blue and white tricolette with half sleeves of navy georgette.

**HATS REQUIRE SPECIAL CARE**

Removal of Dust After Wearing Is Important in Keeping Headgear in Best of Condition.

Not only because it is an economy, but also because the condition of the hat and the way it is worn will make or mar your appearance, your hats should be properly cared for.

After each wearing, the hat should be carefully brushed with a soft brush to remove all dust from the hat itself and from the folds of the trimming. A piece of velvet should be used instead of a brush for silk or satin hats. If the hat is of straw, a cloth dipped in alcohol may be used to remove the dust.

For a hat with a brim which is easily marred, a hat stand is an essential. It may be made from a strip of heavy paper about nine or ten inches wide and rolled so as to be narrower at the top than at the base. Tissue paper laid over the top of the hat will protect it from dust. For the "best" hat a dustproof box should be provided.

Hats that have been badly wet and dried may often be improved by careful steaming. Hold the hat over the spout of a steaming teakettle or over a wet cloth placed on a hot inverted iron.

**An Unusual Garden Hat.**

An unusual garden hat is of brown lace straw trimmed with brown and smoke gray morning-glories.

**SCRAWLED BY GREAT POET?**

Signature of William Shakespeare, Believed Genuine, Found on Wall in Hampton Court.

The discovery of the signature of William Shakespeare, scrawled years ago on the wall of the "haunted gallery" of Hampton Court, has just been made in London. Shakespeare authorities pronounce it authentic.

The disclosure was made when Ernest Law, the court antiquarian, was directing the renovations. On the wall of the old retiring room he found, after cleaning it, the letter "S," followed by illegible letters, concluding "Shakespeare," and beneath the rough sketch of a hand and the date 1606.

It is a matter of history that the Shakespeare company visited the palace at the date set down and played "Hamlet" before the then King Christian of Denmark. The company dressed in the "haunted gallery," near the great hall where the play was enacted.

The gallery, according to ancient tradition, is haunted by the ghost of Catherine Howard, one of Henry VIII's six wives, who was imprisoned there. History tells that she escaped from confinement while the king was praying in his private chapel, and that her flight was discovered by the court guards, who dragged her screaming to the king, interrupting his devotions.

It was long said that Catherine night-walked the gallery, shrieking.—Toronto Globe.

**RELY ABSOLUTELY ON NILE**

Without the River's Annual Inundation Egypt Would Be Literally a Barren Waste.

Usually on June 15 the inundation of the Nile commences, the greatest height being at the autumnal equinox, after which the waters subside until the following April. The great advantages which Egypt derives from the annual rise of the river and saving of the country from barrenness, has caused the Nile to be known by the inhabitants as the most holy river, they believing that it draws its source from Paradise.

In former days it had its appointed priests, festivals and sacrifices, and if its rising were delayed by a single day they took the most beautiful maiden they could find and dressing her richly, drowned her in the waters as a victim to turn away the god's anger and merit his favors. The calliphs abolished this cruel sacrifice. Substituting one less barbarous, they threw into the river a letter in which it was commanded that the waters rise if it were the will of God.

It has been stated that the quality of the Nile-water is such that it is highly extolled for drinking purposes and no matter how long kept it does not become impure.

**First Steamboat in West.**

The first steamboat on the western waters was the Orleans, built in 1811 at Pittsburgh by Robert Fulton, under the firm name of Fulton & Livingston, his partner being Chancellor R. Livingston of New York. It arrived at Louisville, Ky., in October, destined for New Orleans, but the river being too low for its passage over the falls, it piled between Louisville and Cincinnati until early in December, when it descended the river and entering the Mississippi encountered at New Madrid, Mo., the earthquake of December 11, which formed Reelfoot lake in Tennessee, and the lakes in Arkansas, opposite and above Memphis, which remain now. The boat was repaired and reached New Orleans December 29. It remained South, plying between New Orleans and Natchez until July, 1814, when it was wrecked and sunk.

**Blessing the Alpine Ropes.**

Every summer, at the beginning of the climbing season in the Swiss mountains, a solemn service is held among the guides, many of whom are godly men who know they take their lives in their hands when they ascend the Alps. So they bring their ropes with them and lay them at the foot of one of the mountains. Old and new ropes are piled in a heap, and then they are blessed by the pastor. Prayer is offered that the old ropes may still bear the strain safely and that the new ropes may prove equal to all the stress placed upon them. The guides are recommended to the mercy of God that in their daily ascents they may be kept safe and that they may surmount the travelers who trust in them.—F. H. Cheley in "Stories for Talks to Boys."

**Egypt Raised Cotton in 200 B. C.**

Cotton has been grown in Egypt since 200 B. C., but it was not until a hundred years ago that Jumel, a French engineer, suggested the introduction of the commercial varieties. In 1822 the famous American sea island cotton was the first sown. Five years later a Brazilian variety was introduced. The two strains were mingled and from them came the famous "Ashmoun" plant and the still finer "Mutsaffi" which is one of the most productive cottons in the world.

**Whisky Called "Water of Life."**

The art of distilling liquors is first mentioned by Albukassen, an Arabian physician who lived in the tenth century. Whisky, "a potable spirit distilled from cereal grains," probably originated in Ireland, and its Celtic name was usquebatha (water of life) afterward contracted to usquebaugh and then to whisky. It was known as usquebaugh in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries both in Ireland and Scotland.

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