

### ALICE'S BLUE GOWN

By MIZPAH F. BUCKINGHAM

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"But, Lloyd, don't you like it? Isn't it becoming?"

Alice turned around in imitation of the style-show mannikins, displaying to its best advantage the limited glories of her new blue voile dress. It was a pretty dress, and becoming, to be sure, but it lacked the "something" that, well that Vera Demming's clothes had.

She had heard it all her life—how so many marriages were unhappy because men lost interest in their wives when they became careless about their appearance and indifferent to styles. So Alice tried doubly hard to look her best, but it seemed that Lloyd was so "different," he never "enthused" about her appearance. Why didn't he call her a "peach," "classy," and such things? Just to win some word of praise from him she had worked late the night before to finish the blue dress to wear today to the shore party where they, with the other members of the Pawling Avenue club, had been invited to visit Mrs. Carter's summer home.

"You bet. It's prettier than anything Vera ever had."

The answer was all that she could have hoped for, but some way it hurt for Alice knew it wasn't true and believed Lloyd said it just to please her, because she expected him to. Oh, if he would only rave about her the way fellows were supposed to!

"Why, my little girlie, what's the matter? Have I gone and said the wrong thing again? Of course you look nice—you always look nice, to me."

"Yes—and I guess I do to other folks, too. I'm tired of your being so quiet and never noticing," she flung at him, and ran hastily up the beach to the cottage.

A plan of action had already formed in Alice's mind. She had said she didn't care, and she would show Lloyd that she really didn't.

Not a bad looking "object," either, was Carl Houghton, arrayed in the sportiest of white flannels, and—but his eyes were what Alice noticed. What admiration she read in them as she knew he was taking in every detail of her dress.

"Oho, my sweet Alice of the Allee blue gown, why dost thou waste thy fair beauty here alone? Sit you here by me and regard the laboring classes, tolling for our suppers in your clam bed."

"I would give me greater pleasure than all other joys combined to while away the weary hours for thee," replied Alice, laughingly, glad to find that her purpose was so easily to be accomplished.

Yet somehow her eyes kept wandering down to the shore, where she could see that Lloyd was keeping rather near Vera, and that he was enjoying the afternoon more than she was, she felt sure, as the sound of their merry laughter came to her ears.

"Well," she thought, "I guess he'll see now that her sport satin is prettier than my dress."

Soon the group passed from sight behind the boathouse, and Alice felt her spirits sinking lower as she saw that Lloyd and Vera were earnestly engaged in conversation.

After that the afternoon seemed long indeed. It was not until the crowd came back to supper that she enjoyed herself again.

Alice later was carrying things into the pantry when she stopped suddenly by the window. Some one outside was speaking and she overheard her own name. She paused to listen and recognized Carl's voice.

"But, Vera," he was saying, "I didn't say that Alice looked better than you do, I only said she had on a very neat dress, one much more appropriate to an outing like this than yours. Of course I didn't mean that about Alice, because you always look nice, to me."

The familiar sound of those words made Alice smile as she went on with her work. Perhaps it was a tired, sad little smile, for when Lloyd came rushing into the kitchen a moment later he exclaimed:

"Why, sweetheart—what's the matter—all tired out? Where's Vera? Did she go and leave you alone with all this work? 'Fraid of spoiling her skirt again probably."

"Maybe, but I noticed that that same skirt seemed rather attractive to you this afternoon," Alice replied, sarcastically.

"Satin, was it? Humph, I didn't notice what it was. All I know is she put in a pretty unhappy afternoon on account of it. She was bubbling over with her troubles. She and Carl had some kind of quarrel."

"So you took upon yourself the very unpleasant task of heart-healer, or something, I suppose."

"Alice, be sensible. You and Carl seemed to be getting along rather well. I knew he was telling you all the things you like to hear, and Vera was angry because she knew he thought you looked so nice, that—well, we decided to try to make you both jealous and—"

"And didn't you think I looked nice?"

"Why, honey, of course I did. You always looked better than anyone else in the world, to me."

And for some reason Alice wasn't hurt by the familiar words this time. She understood what they meant.

### TAILORED SUITS ARE SHIC



With the reduction in the price of cloth and the large variety of cloths being offered, suits are beginning to regain their lost popularity. This is a smart, spring tailored suit of covert cloth.

### STYLE IN ROBES DE NUIT

Voile Outranks Silks in Paris for Negligee; Net is Used Extensively in Underclothes.

Although the shops in Paris show quantities of colored undergarments, they are more often of voile than of silks such as are seen in this country. Net footing and inset motifs of net are used extensively in the colored as well as the white underclothes.

Ever so many of the new French combinations of corset cover and gilet button down the back. This gives an opportunity of introducing plaiting in the full length of the front—and plaiting appears to be very desirable in the new underwear. Plaited underslips and even chemises of yellow voile are made in this way and often have another shade, such as pink or blue, introduced in the form of shoulder straps or a ribbon trimming.

One wonders if the nightgowns developed in colors were not originally intended to be worn as midsummer negligees. For instance, one is in pale pink triple voile and has narrow band trimmings of mauve georgette crepe and taffeta bows of matching hue. To accompany this there is a little cap in crown form made of the pink material and trimmed in the same manner as the gown.

### DECORATION FOR THE HOME

Seed Pods and Grasses May Be Beautifully Tinted as if by Fairy's Wand.

Seed pods and grasses are popular as a decoration in the home now because of their new polychrome coloring.

Such tints as bronze, silver, gold, green, blue, crimson and brown are painted quickly on lotus pods and leaves, magnolia leaves and are very showy. Two tints are often applied to give a very fascinating iridescent effect. Thus, a spray of leaves is touched with blue and silver, crimson and purple or bronze and gold just as if a fairy's wand had been waved.

These painted sprays are also attractive combined with artificial flowers to supply foliage. Silvered sprays, particularly, are effective added to most any bouquet.

### LATEST PARIS FASHIONS

Paris is showing flower toques for summer wear, most of these shapes being small rather than large.

Dinner gowns of black are most effective when brightened by some brilliant color, in the form of sash or girdle or a flower arranged to adjust drapery, or as a foundation slip. Most of these dresses are of lace or net, or a combination of the two, of beaded net, embroidered georgette or crepe de line.

Hats of crepe de chine, lace trimmed, are a Paris innovation. Taffeta hats are in excellent taste, especially where shot taffeta is used, and hats of georgette continue to be in vogue.

Smart street frocks developed in a combination of taffeta and check gingham are a new development in spring and summer dresses. For instance, one a gingham skirt is posed a straight hanging frock of taffeta with low round neck that shows a yoke of the gingham and skirt slashed into panel to reveal the underskirt of gingham.

Dress hats of malines and of lace are developed in the dark shade of brown and are said to be much in demand by those whose complexions are not well suited to an all-black hat, where the materials lack a brilliant gloss as with fancy luster straws, satin or panne velvet.

Hand-made flowers of self-material are the simple, yet effective trimmings used on some very youthful dresses of colorful organdies, intended for graduation trousseaux, so to speak.

### HOW TO RETAIN YOUTH LONG

Learn to Employ the Passing Years With Constantly Increasing Wisdom and Discretion.

Youth is a quality, a spiritual energy, and, properly speaking, there is no "old age," but spiritual decay. "The foot less prompt to meet the morning dew" is no valid evidence of growing old, any more than to lose a leg, in battle. Fussy physical activities are not the only tests of youth, writes Richard Le Gallienne in Harper's Magazine. That brain of Sophocles which gave us the greatest play at 90, is more to the point, as also that famous saying recorded of him, in reference to the cooling of the passions with the years, that to grow old was like being set free from service to a band of madmen.

Because we grow wiser and stronger, less selfish and generally more useful to our fellows with the passage of the years is not to say that we have lost our youth. It only means that we have learned how to employ it. We do not run in every direction as we did. We know a little better what we are doing, or what we want to do; but the motive force that enables us to do it is that same energy which once drove us to make fools of ourselves at the beginning, and still provides the same "swift means to radiant ends."

Decay, disillusion, weariness; we mean these things when we speak of "growing old," but we fail to realize that these are no necessary accompaniments of the years. We may, unfortunately, inherit them, or acquire them, like bad habits, or through neglect of a proper care and exercise of our spiritual selves. Spiritual and intellectual laziness makes most people "old before their time." If we lose interest in life, life will soon lose interest in us; and it is just as possible to achieve a precocious senility in the twenties as at any later period of our lives.

### HAVE KEEN SENSE OF HOME

Abundant Proof That Birds Return Year After Year to Scenes of Familiarity.

Bird lovers have believed for centuries that migratory birds return to the same home, year after year. Modern science has proved this belief to be right. Birds are caught in traps that do not hurt them, marked with tiny, legbands of aluminum, each bearing a number, and released. Next year, the same birds are caught again in the same locality, often when occupying the same nest.

Evidently, a bird's memory for direction and location must be quite as marvelous as the older writers believed. The catbird winters as far south as Panama, yet catbirds marked in northern Ohio came back to the same neighborhood, year after year. Sometimes they move a few rods or furlongs, but the frequency with which they return to the very spot is astounding.

Cats find their way back to the old home across a township, horses across a county or two, and dogs have been known to pass through several states in returning to a beloved master, but birds find their way across a continent, and sometimes over a sea as well.

### Very Useful Tree.

What is claimed to be the most marvelous of trees grows in Brazil. It is the carnauba palm, and can be employed for many useful purposes. Its roots produce the same medicinal effect as sarsaparilla. Its stems afford strong, light fibres, which acquire a beautiful luster, and serve also for joists, rafters and other building materials, as well as for stakes for fences. From parts of the tree wines and vinegar are made. It yields also a saccharine substance, as well as a starch resembling sago. Its fruit is used in feeding cattle. The pulp has an agreeable taste, and the nut, which is oleaginous and emulsive, is sometimes used as a substitute for coffee. Of the wood of the stem musical instruments, water tubes and pumps are made. The pith is an excellent substitute for cork. From the stem a white liquid similar to the milk of the cocoon is obtained and a flour resembling maize.

### Teak Wood Highly Valued.

Teak, for some purposes the most valuable of all woods, is chiefly produced commercially by Burma, although it is also supplied by India, Siam and Java. As a plant, teak is remarkable for its large leaves, which reach ten to twenty inches in length and eight to fifteen in breadth, and are so rough that they are used for sandpapering. The trees often grow 80 to 100 feet tall, with a circumference of six to ten feet. The largest recorded log cut in Upper Burma in 1898, having measured 87 1/2 feet in length and yielded over twelve tons of timber. The wood varies from yellow or straw color to a rich brown when first cut, darkening on exposure; sometimes it has dark and almost black streaks or veins. It is hard, and very durable.

### Mystery of Egg Lines.

Why are some birds' eggs pure white and unmarked and others variously and highly colored, with all sorts of marks upon them, from minute dots to scraggly lines? asks the American Forestry Magazine. How are these spots and markings produced? Nests of birds run all the way from the female laying a single egg on the bare rock on the coast, to those laying ten or more eggs in a very elaborate nest built in very different localities.

### SCHOOL DAYS



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### FLUFFY'S LESSON

FLUFFY was the spoiled chick of Mrs. Leghorn's brood, and so one morning when Duckie called to her to play with him Fluffy went, although she knew that her mother had told all the chicks that the way the ducklings had of playing was not good for chicks.

"We are going down to the pond," said Duckie. "My brothers and sisters are far down the road now, but we can catch them."

Of course, Fluffy did not know what a pond was like, but she did not intend to let Duckie think he knew more than she did, so she went along.

It seemed a long way to the pond, but Fluffy was brave and she walked along behind the waddling ducklings, but when they reached the pond and



"I saw you running away with the ducklings," said Rover.

all the youngsters walked right into the water Fluffy wished she was back in the nice, dry barnyard with her mother.

"Come along, Fluffy," called Duckie, as he followed his brothers and sisters.

"Oh, she can't swim," said the others. "She is only a chicken."

"I can swim if I want to," answered Fluffy, "but I do not like to get my feathers wet."

"Oh, she does not want to get her feathers wet," laughed the ducklings. "Why did you ask her, Duckie? She can't play with us; she is afraid."

### Monsignor Enrico Pucci

Monsignor Enrico Pucci, the Rome correspondent of the N. C. W. C. News Service, has qualifications for the post which it would be difficult to find in any other possible representative. He is a Roman by birth, received the whole of his education in the Sacred City, and became so well known as a writer for the press that he was made a Domestic Prelate by Pope Benedict XV and detached from parish duties for the specific purpose of advising and encouraging the editors of Catholic newspapers in Italy and abroad. Although he has been engaged in this work for less than two years, he has met with remarkable success. In the very nature of things he has access to sources of news that would be closed to others.

Born in Rome on February 4, 1877, Enrico Pucci pursued his classical studies at the lyceum of St. Apollinaris, from which he obtained his diploma. For a year he attended the civil university of Rome, and then commenced an ecclesiastical course in the Capranica College. He obtained his degree of doctor of philosophy from the Pontifical Roman Academy of St. Thomas of Aquin and that of doctor of theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University. He was ordained priest on August 10, 1901, and after serving first with the Sacred Consistorial Congregation became study adjutant of the Sacred Congregation of the Index—now a department of the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office.

In 1908 he became Canon of the Basilica of St. Maria in Trastevere, remaining in office until August, 1919, when the Pope secured his resignation and made him the intermediary between the Secretariat of State and the Catholic press.

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