

## GOWNS AND BONNETS.

NEW STYLES THAT COME IN WITH DECEMBER.

A Bride With a Store Full of Gowns and Dresses, Some of Which are Illustrated—Costumes for Christmas Dances—New Paris Head Wear.

To most of us it seems that the lack of money is a lot worse than the love of it. That there is a fortunate many who do not lack the fashions of the minute sufficiently attest. A bride of this week had in her trousseau just eighteen evening gowns, not one of which came under a hundred dollars. One of them illustrated here was of the richest pink satin brocade veiled with pale blue embroidered chiffon caught up on waist and



WRAPS OF THE SEASON.

skirt with chrysanthemums formed of pink and blue baby ribbon. The neck in draped modestly high with a mass of pink and blue forget-me-nots nestling at the right side.

It is reckoned rather swaggy, indeed, to wear a high gown semi-occasionally. A good model had a skirt of rosy heliotrope brocade, plain, but exquisitely cut, and sweeping out in a moderate train. To wear with it there was a longish coat of the softest fine woolen cloth, exactly matching the brocade ground. It had long sleeves with deep cuffs and ruffles of cream lace, a rolling collar, a neck frill and very handsome jabot down the silk front, from which the cloth rolled back in double revers. Beyond question it was a mighty fetching combination, but one that would require for its successful wearing the temper of a cherub and the complexion of a seraph. For only a bodi-



FOR CHRISTMAS DANCES.

less wearer could hope to escape spoiling its trickiest tint—which has a further habit of making most wearers who put it on look pale purple or greenish yellow. Frigths.

Having exhausted the odd, the bizarre, the impossible head-gear gives signs of returning sanity. Witness these three heads. The bonnet is of soft fluted velvet with a high puffed crown and handsome heron feathers. Wide very rich passementerie is laid flat over the brim and ribbon velvet strings come out from the back. The wide hat is of cloth laid smoothly over a shape and trimmed with lace plumes and a row of gold galoon. The third, a French felt, is very small and



NEW PARIS HEADGEAR.

flat, with a wreath of tips, a spotted black and white wing rolling back, and a cluster of velvet loops moderately high at the back.

When we have "a nipping and an eager air," you see seal skin galore. This close sitting saque is much affected by girls well in the twenties. Buds wear the jaunty and more youthful looking cape. Combinations of seal and sable are popular—also seal and Persian lamb. Mink has gone up in price and in fashion that to wear it is well nigh a patent of gentility. The girl who must be "striking" or nobody gets her a much-beplumed hat and a "whole-back" coat with big carved buttons and collar and cuffs of Alaska sable—which is a polite name for the integument of the malodorous skunk.

ELLEN OSBORN.

## "ASTRA'S" TALKS WITH GIRLS.

[Correspondents seeking information in this department should address their queries to "Astra," Progress, St. John.]

JESSICA, LADY MACBETH, AND HERMIONE, CHATHAM.—(1) There is nothing that will remove moles from the face, except cutting them out, and I fancy the scar left would be much worse than the mole. Perhaps they might be electrocuted, as it were, but I do not know. Neither do I know that they are a "sign" of anything, but they are supposed to be beauty spots. (2) A diamond, or pearl solitaire, is supposed to be the regulation engagement ring. (3) Read travels, history, Bulmer Thackeray, and Dickens. (4) I know very little about the summer resorts of New Brunswick, and I should think that six or seven months hence would be quite time enough to turn one's attention in that direction. Florida, Georgia, and North and South Carolina are popular winter resorts, or nearer home, Virginia. A pretty engagement ring, is a plain, thick band of gold with the wearer's initials in raised old English letters.

New Brunswick, Moncton.—That has a very cart-before-the-horse sound, and it is a very sonorous name for one so young, to choose. No, it is not proper, because girls seem to grow up more rapidly now than they used to do, and a girl of fourteen is really no longer a child though she is very far from being grown up. (2) Yes a girl of that age should give up her childish ways, so far as frolicking with gentlemen is concerned, for you know what is perfectly permissible and correct, for twelve or thirteen is scarcely the thing at fourteen, so great a difference does a year or two make. At twelve you are a little girl, and at fourteen you are growing up, and should feel that a gentleman's knee, unless he is an old gentleman, is scarcely the place for you. (3) It is much better for young girls not to go out driving with gentlemen at all, especially with such a very young gentleman, and in the evening. Young girls cannot be too careful and the less they go about alone with their masculine friends, the better.

OWN DARLING, ST. JOHN.—So you think he is going to ask the momentous question soon? Well, I hope he will, if you like him, and what a lovely Christmas gift he will get if he has his "own darling" for his very own! And you don't know exactly what to say? Do you think you would remember anything I told you, at the supreme moment? Should it not all go out of your head at once and leave you looking rather foolish from trying so hard to remember? I think the best possible thing you can say my dear, is yes, it is such a short word, and so easy to say when you want to do so. Of course you might bury your blushing face on his clean stiff shirt bosom, and gasp out a smothered affirmative from that sanctuary if you like, and I dare say he will like it too, but after all perhaps he will write his question and then you can answer it calmly, decorously, and mind, not too eagerly; make it rather a favor, and he will appreciate you all the more. Do write and tell me about it, for I shall be anxious to hear how you get on.

LILLIAN, ST. JOHN.—You were most considerate, my dear, to put off writing for so long, because you thought I might be busy, and tired answering questions, but you must not be so particular again, the only trouble about my being so busy, is that the girls have to wait longer for their answers, as it has to be "first come, first served." So, whoever gets her letter in first, gets her answer all the sooner. (1) There is nothing in the least improper in saying to a friend that if he has a photograph to spare you would like to have one. You know he can scarcely offer you one for fear of seeming conceited, so you would have to ask. (2) If you are in the midst of a conversation with your friend, and it is too late to ask him in, there is no harm in standing a moment at the door till he finishes what he was saying, you see he might be relating a story, or making some remark, and you could not check him in the midst of it, but, do not stand and talk as if you wanted to keep him as long as possible. If he is quite a stranger do not linger at all, if you can help it.

(3) I must say I do not approve of gum chewing. It may be because I never cared for it myself, and therefore I cannot understand the fascination it seems to possess for some people; but I don't think it is ladylike, and I am sure it is not healthy. There is nothing in the world so good for the skin as common mutton tallow; it is the favorite remedy in England for keeping the skin smooth and white. Take the fat from a loin of mutton, raw, and melt it carefully over a slow fire; pour the melted fat into a small cup, or something that can easily turn it out of, and keep it in a little cake on your washstand. Rub it on your hands, and even on your face, too, every night, and it will keep them soft and white. Glycerine and rose water mixed half and half is good too, and ten cents worth will last you nearly all winter. A little pot of vaseline cold cream is another excellent investment, and only costs fifteen cents.

(5) I do not know. I am sure. I really think I should call her a fair brunette; the type you describe is very unusual, and I should think the girl must be very pretty. Your letter was not too long at all. Thank you very much for your own and your sister's love. Your writing would improve with practice, that is all you want. I will ask Geoffrey if he is proud of me; he never said so, that I remember.

TORSEY, BATHURST.—Of course I can spare you any reasonable amount of time you want, you ask for it so nicely that it would be strange if I could not. (1) She should put her real name on her card; you know when a girl is old enough to have visiting cards, she is too old to be known only by a pet name, and a pet name would look a little silly on a visiting card. (2) My dear child I am afraid there are a good many "gentlemen" like those you describe, but far from giving them that title I should spell them up with a capital C, and finish up with ad, which gives us the little word, cad, which is so expressive. I am afraid you cannot do much, but treat them with the silent contempt they deserve. (3) I should not think of such a thing, once a man is engaged he should give up the corresponding with other girls except the one he is engaged to, and of course his sisters and near relatives. You know your sister would not like you intended to write to would not like you? And you should do as you would be done by. (4) I

should think he did not know enough to raise his hat, and as you have known him so long, I should really take an opportunity of telling him that it was customary on meeting a lady to lift his hat in salutation. I think he will feel a little ashamed of himself if you do. Perhaps he thinks he knows you so well that it does not matter, and if so, a lesson in good manners will be beneficial to him.

JENNIE, ST. JOHN.—I think you were quite right in making up your mind at last to write to me, and I will give you the best advice I can. How odd about the three lovers, and how sad about the first. The third, I suppose, we need not discuss, as the second seems to be the "point at issue." How modest you are in thinking it "strange" that his parents were fond of you; depend upon it, you must be a nice girl or they would not have been. You do not tell me why your parents were opposed to the match; surely they must have had some reason to give you for their opposition, and to his family also? There must have been some better reason than those you speak of, for they are really no reasons at all. I cannot advise you to give him up, if you really love him, as you say, and he loves you; neither can I advise you to disobey your parents, but still I do not think they have any right to spoil two lives, and as they do not know your lover, surely it is unjust to be prejudiced against him. I think if I were you I would take an opportunity of telling him the truth, tell him that you love him, but cannot go against your parents' wishes, and if he cares enough for you to wait until you can overcome their dislike to the idea of your marrying, you will wait for him. Do not throw away a true heart, because I think you are quite old enough to know your own mind, and true hearts are not to be picked up every day. Send him the card by all means, and a few words of comfort with it, and be sure you write again some time to let me know how things turn out, for I shall be interested in hearing.

C. B. C., YARMOUTH.—What a short and modest little letter you wrote! The name of the house is very pretty, of course you have a number of the trees about the house, and it is very suggestive and calls up a very pretty picture before one's mind. (2) It seems very young to me, because you know a boy of that age is really much younger than a girl a year older would seem, and I agree with your mother so far. Of course I did not think it was you, why should I! (3) I am afraid if I were the young man I should answer, "I am sorry I cannot call you a lady," because it was most unladylike of her to say such a thing. (4) It is very good indeed, and very manly, but I should like it a little larger. Write again. I shall be glad to hear from you.

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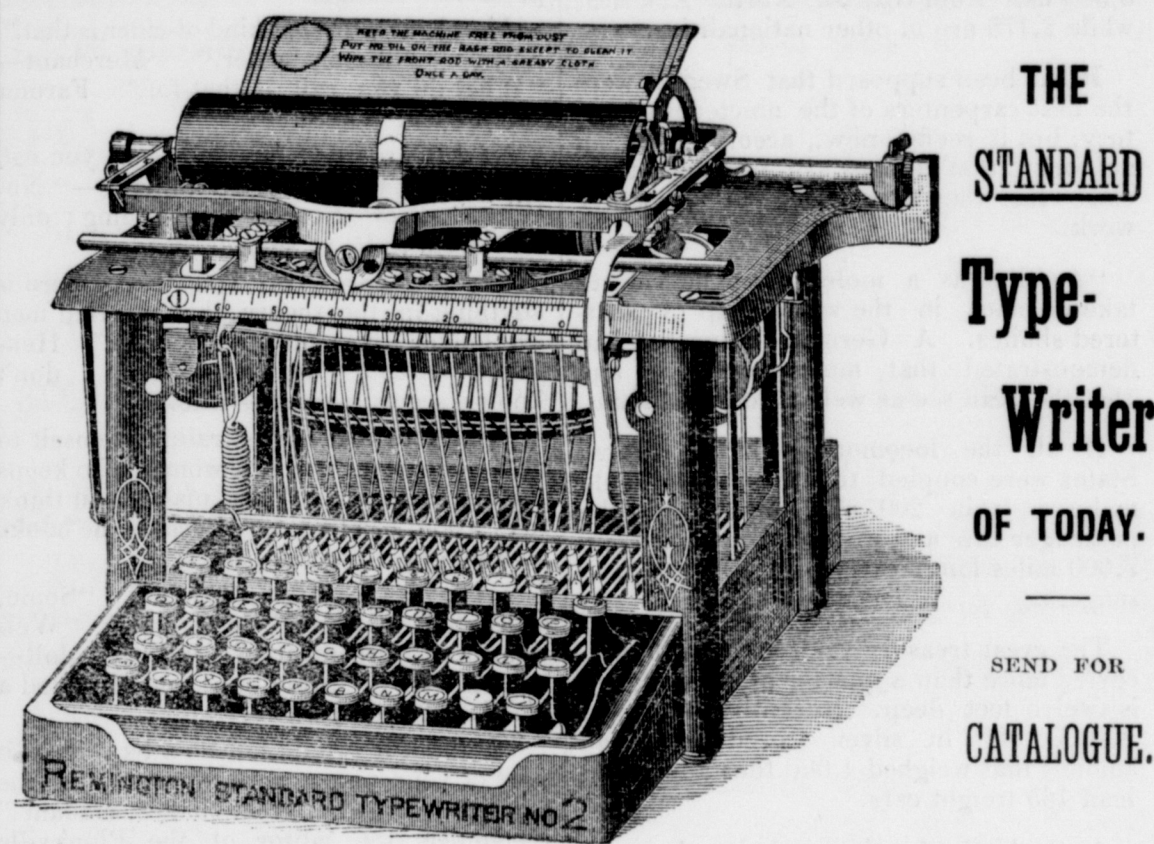
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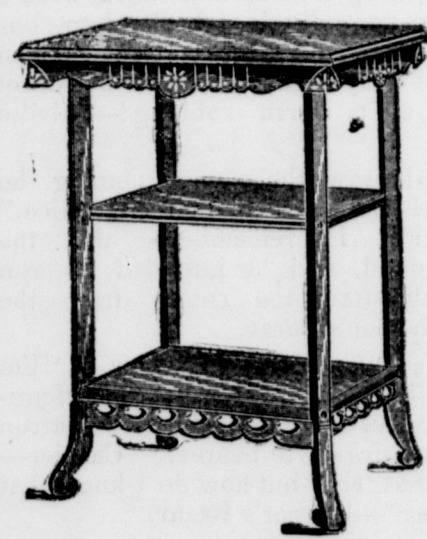


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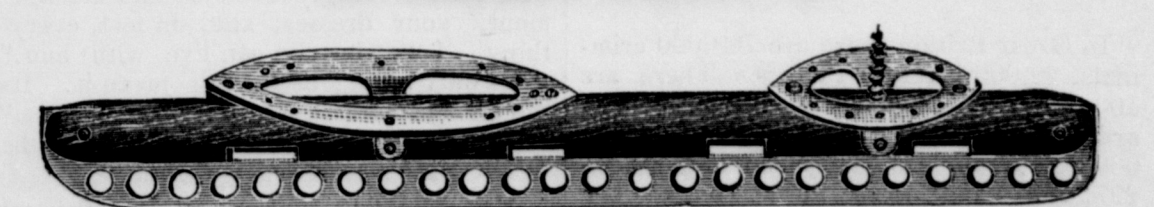
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