

# AT AN AFTERNOON TEA.

THE NEW YEAR BRINGS PRETTIER GOWNS THAN EVER.

Costumes Worn by Hostesses and Guests—They Are All Pretty and Attractive—The Danger of Having Too Much Fur on One's Costume.

At a swell afternoon tea given recently, some of the prettiest gowns of the season were worn by the hostess and guests. A correspondent of PROGRESS gives the following description of them:

Hostess number one, one of those many blondes who have usually the eyes of a dove and the temper of a mule, wore the



tea-gown in the first illustration. It is of dull blue silk plush lined throughout with the softest rich cream surah, the loose fronts falling over very graceful folded vest of light, pale blue China crepe, inside of which creamy antique lace came high about the throat. Enormously full jabots of the same lace came down each front, narrowing to a point below the waist and falling in a deep cape at the back and over the shoulders. The pretty girl who poured tea—one of the season's most promising buds was all sombrely gowned—or would have been had not her glowing brunette coloring warmed into



into life the gray cloth and velvet costume that was a miracle of style. The back was cut princess and seamless till it reached the velvet side-forms that were prolonged into deep skirts. Gray silk cord outlined all the seams. The lapping front had one deep rarer outlined with a line of sable, the narrowest possible edge. A wonderful cravat of jonquil yellow crepe came close under the young woman's dimpled chin, and took away all hardness from her scheme of color. Without it the brown fur and gray color might have lacked harmony. Indeed, though it is impossible this season to have too much fur, you can very easily make a muss of your garments if



you do not understand the right thing for the right place. Cloth and fur must either match or harmonize. That is what makes moulton so favorite trimming with the best tailors. It can be dyed almost any shade, and is soft and becoming in them all.

Nobody could doubt that after seeing the young woman whose counterfeit presentment appears in the third figure, most guests left their wraps in the vestibule. She floated in a fiery angel, in biscuit cloth very elaborately applique with daisy brown velvet, all up the street, at whose feet there was a border of moulton quite ten inches deep. It had sleeves and upper waist of spangled crimson velvet. For the nonce they were hidden under a deep cape of moulton, with yoke and collar of applique matching the skirt—and in front long pleats of the cloth falling quite to the foot.

Other gowns were of the brocades, old and new. Still others of Bengaline, in pale, delicate shades sitting very trim and close, but stylish world without end.

## ASTRA'S TALKS WITH GIRLS.

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

I hope that by the time you read these lines, girls, you will have spent a very happy New Year's day, that you will have had plenty of callers, and looked your best in your reception costumes, and that you will have made a good beginning upon the inevitable journals which nearly all girls think they should start out upon the New Year by beginning, and which, speaking in the light of experience, they so soon give up.

By the way, I believe I said a few words to you last week about making good resolutions, and keeping them. Well, since then I have made one resolution myself which I am going to try and keep; and as you are all concerned in it, I will tell you what it is. In future I am not going to answer any letters which come to me written on both sides of the paper! It is a rule in all newspaper offices that communications written on both sides of the paper should be ignored, and as I have spoken upon this subject twice without number, and very few of my correspondents have taken any notice of my remarks, I am obliged at last to take strong measures; I have been very long-suffering in this respect, but the end of my patience has been reached at last. Don't think that I am growing crusty, girls. If you would only write straight along, first one page and then the next, I could stand it, but I confess that I have neither time nor patience to read the first page of a girl's letter and then go hunting around all over the paper to see where the connection is going to be made, and have traffic suspended until I finally discover that the second page is inside, and not one page numbered. Why won't girls use their note paper in the same sensible fashion that men do?

WILFUL MISS.—Thank you so much for the pretty card you sent me, the only one I received from any of the girls who write, and I appreciate it all the more for being a sort of aloe blossom. You and "Lucille" certainly stand out alone, don't you? But as I did not expect anything, the surprise is all the more pleasant.

L. A., St. John.—Do you know, that I could not make out the first word of your signature? It was the only doubtful word in your letter, but I think the name must have been an odd one, for though it was clearly written, I could not make it into any name I had ever heard. So you don't like St. John? Well, you know, I don't consider the St. John girls friendly to strangers, myself, but still, I have been assured, by very charming St. John girls whom I have met, that I am mistaken. Perhaps, before the winter is over you may have changed your opinion altogether. They do seem to have a delightful time of it though and not much to do, but look charming, in which they succeed perfectly. Thank you very much for the kind things you say about me and my column. I should like very much to be considered, even in a small way, "The Girl's Friend." If you think you have a natural gift for the stage, and your people are willing for you to make a trial, you might make a beginning when you return to New York by going to some of the many training schools for actresses and trying what the teachers think of your capabilities. Of course you understand that you would have years of hard work before you are you could hope to earn much money. Another thing, you ask me to answer you plainly, and you must not be offended, my dear child, if I tell you, in your own interest, that I think you should go to school for a year or two longer before you think of adopting any profession. You know an actress must have, at least, a fair education, if she hopes to succeed, and your letter is faulty both in composition and spelling. Forgive me for saying so, I would not hurt your feelings for the world; but I should not prove myself a friend if I did not tell you exactly what I thought. You did not give me any trouble at all, and I thank you very much for your good wishes. Write to me again. I shall be glad to hear from you.

MIDGET, St. John.—I should think the girl in question exceedingly ill bred, and I believe I should really feel sorry for her, because she did not know better. No; very many girls go to school when they are much older, especially if ill health or any other reason has kept them away during their earlier years. I am sorry to say that I do not know of any cure for quinsy, but I will hunt one up, and let you know. I should think anyone who could exist without food for a fortnight must have been very ill. No, I never included the study of medicine amongst my varied accomplishments, but I have always made a practice of eating whenever I was hungry and I am very often hungry at bed time. I cannot hold myself up as an example of its being a healthful custom, for I have nightmare terribly—and often rouse the entire household by my shrieks, but I have no intention of giving it up, all the same. I am sorry that your gentleman friend missed the pleasure of meeting Geoffrey. Many thanks for your kind wishes.

CARLOTTA, Moncton.—My dear child you must not be disappointed because I have not published your verses. I really think them very wonderful for a girl of fifteen, but you see at fifteen one can scarcely expect to understand the many things which must be learned before she can hope to write real poetry. You know it must not only be musical, and have a rhyme about it, but it must also be correct as to the number of long and short syllables each line contains, and it must also scan properly and contain the requisite sequence of ideas, so it shall not seem jerky or disconnected. I do not want to discourage you, and I think that as you do so well now you will be able, if you really study the subject and devote attention to it, to write real poetry some day and see it in print.

LITTLE DORRITT.—St. John.—I am very sorry, my little friend, that you will not get your answer until it will be too late to be of much use to you. I love you for the sake of your name, and I do not like to disappoint you, but there were so many letters in before yours that I am lucky in being able to answer it even this week. (1) No, I really think that a young man who inflicts his presence on a young lady till that hour of the night deserves anything, and I do not think I would blame you if you asked him whether

he would like tea or coffee for breakfast. (2) It would be a very extraordinary thing to do, and I can scarcely imagine any young man asking a girl to do it; ladies are supposed to remain at home all New Year's day. (3) Pearls are made of the tears of drowned people, the old superstition says, and so they are supposed to be unlucky, but you know it is only a superstition. (4) Indeed I do not think it silly at all. I have known plenty of married people who religiously hung their stockings up every Christmas, and I think it a lovely old custom. Keep it up as long as you can. (5) Unless you are very intimate at the house, I think I play but the one piece of music, and then go on playing if I was asked to continue. (6) Both your writings are very good. Thank you for your Christmas wishes.

MARIE, Portland.—You are quite mistaken about my being surprised to get a letter from Maine, I get letters from much more distant points than the Forest city. I am very glad to hear from you, however, and will give you my opinion with pleasure. I do not see how you can think otherwise than that the gentleman you speak of entertains a sincere and respectful admiration for you. No gentleman would show the interest he must certainly feel in you, if he did not. The only thing that puzzles me is his not seeking an introduction to you, as I suppose, from your description that he is an eligible young man. Surely you must have friends in common, through whom he might obtain an introduction easily enough. He may be very diffident and retiring, but yet he might make your acquaintance in some way, and I am rather surprised that he does not do so. Perhaps you merely remind him of some friend, but still I incline to my first opinion. Of course there is nothing you can do, but await results, and remember this, my dear, the more quiet, and unassuming you are, the more he will admire you, men are strange creatures, and they have a way of studying a girl they fancy, to find out if she is all they thought she was. Perhaps it is that very quietude that has attracted his attention, and he will seek an introduction, at the very first opportunity. You have interested me very much, and I should like to hear how it turns out, and whether I am right or not, so be sure you write and let me know; and may you have a very happy New Year.

BLUE EYES, Moncton.—The meaning of the name Josephine, is "increase," or "increasing." Not as pretty as the meanings of some names, such as Sarah, "a princess," or Margaret, "a pearl," is it?

A correspondent asked me sometime ago whether, or not, it was necessary to answer an invitation to an At Home, and as I never saw the answer in print, I have come to the conclusion that it got a mislaid in some way, in the office so I will repeat it, and I hope she will be able to find it this time, as I cannot hunt her up by name just now. It depends a great deal on the kind of invitation you receive. If a lady friend merely sends you her card with the information printed upon it that she is at home on such a day of the week, an answer is unnecessary. But if you receive a card containing the announcement that Mrs. John Smith and the Misses Smith are at home on Thursday, the 15th of February, at 8.30 o'clock, and the word "Dancing" is at the right-hand side, there will probably be also the letters R. S. V. P. at the bottom of the card, and even if they are absent a reply is necessary. This is about the only rule I can give you, because you must know that the etiquette of At Homes is rather complicated and puzzling at first.

ASTRA.

## Under the Sea.

The world under the ocean is not only a world of mystery, but one of twilight and of night. M. Pol, a Belgian scientist, found that at a depth of about 100 feet it was difficult to discover the small animals he was in search of. When the sun had begun to decline in the afternoon darkness would suddenly envelope him when he was in thirty-five or forty feet of water, and rising to the surface under the impression that night had actually begun, he would be astonished to find himself emerging into brilliant sunshine.

At considerable depths he found that it was ordinarily impossible to see a rock at a distance greater than about twenty-five feet. Under the best of circumstances, with very clear water and an unclouded sun overhead, a rock might be perceived eighty or ninety feet away.

He observed that the animals living on and near the bottom would, when alarmed, flee with great consternation for a distance of a few yards and then stop, believing that they had got beyond the sight of pursuers.

One of the practical conclusions drawn from Mr. Pol's experiences is that it will not be possible for submarine vessels to move rapidly at any considerable depth, owing to the imminent danger of collision with obstacles that are not visible beyond a very narrow range. But those depths are not the less interesting because they are buried in almost impenetrable shadow.

## Now, Girls!

Here is some good advice from a man to the girl that wants to be married, if there is such a girl in these days, when political economy has overshadowed household economy and comic sections are more than kisses:

"If I were a girl on the lookout for a husband I should play the game by adroitly flattering my contemplated victim, listening with rapt attention when he spoke, and generally seeking to create the impression that I thought him in wisdom and charm not inferior to the angels. At the same time I should endeavor to bring home to him the fact that in me he would find a person with a heavenly temper, brimming over with domestic affection. I should take care to be becomingly dressed, but my get-up would look as if it cost nothing. In my movements I should cultivate grace. My likes and dislikes would be those of my victim. In the present day a man rarely deliberately contemplates marriage. The fly has to be very adroitly thrown to catch him. Men are just as vain as women, and it is by keeping this fact well in mind that a girl gets a husband."

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See on page 10. *Acqui se habla Espanol.*

## SEE A FEW OF THE MANY TESTIMONIALS:

Opinions of some Distinguished Guests on the "Myrtle Bank" Hotel.

From the Hon. Villiers Stuart, King's House, Jamaica.—Having been staying on several occasions at the Myrtle Bank Hotel, I have found it well appointed, and the staff most obliging. The Hotel is well situated, the verandahs have the benefit of the sea-breeze and command very interesting views. We found the beds especially comfortable.

From Arthur Harvey, Esq., Toronto, Canada.—I have spent some weeks in Jamaica, every hour of which has been delightful, and much of the pleasure has been due to the excellent accommodations of the Myrtle Bank Hotel. The rooms, the cuisine, \* \* \* and the civility received at your hands, call for this acknowledgment.

From the Hon. Thos. J. Clayton, Thurston, Penna.—We have spent ten days at Jamaica, making the Myrtle Bank Hotel our headquarters. We have found it the best Hotel on the island. We can recommend this Hotel to our countrymen as an agreeable resting place.

From John M. Oakley, of Pittsburgh, Pa.—On leaving your hospitable house, the "Myrtle Bank," after two weeks' stay, we wish to say to our countrymen, through you, that we have found your location favored by the sea-breeze as cool as the mountain top. We shall advise all our friends visiting at Jamaica to stop at this Hotel.

From Rear-Admiral Seymour, R. N.—For the four weeks I have lived in your Hotel, I have been struck with the civility of the staff to guests and visitors. I wish the undertaking every success. I advise any one visiting Kingston to stay at Myrtle Bank.

From Hon. T. A. and Lady Brassey.—The Hotel is about the best planned I have seen in the Tropics. The broad verandahs and passages entirely open to the air make it deliciously cool. The bed rooms could not be more comfortable.

From Senator Warner Miller, U. S. A.—I desire to express my appreciation of your Hotel. I have found it a most delightful place and have enjoyed my visit to Kingston. Your Hotel furnished me with perfect accommodation.

From Cleveland Moffett, Correspondent of the "New York Herald."—It gives me pleasure to state that during the ten days I have passed in your pleasant Hotel, I have been treated with the greatest courtesy and attention. No trouble spared in the interests of the guests. The Hotel is certainly well managed.

From John C. Kline (Sept. 3rd, 1891), Correspondent "New York World."—During the stay of myself and wife at Myrtle Bank we have received every attention. The accommodations are most excellent, the beds could not be better, and the table is first-class.

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