

## STYLES OF THE SEASON.

WITH SOME REFLECTIONS PERTAINING TO CHRISTMAS.

Pretty Bodices to Engage the Attention of Fair Readers—Fur as it is Found in New Forms—Seal the Favorite—Evening Gowns Again.

Surely, we wouldn't think of fashions at such a time as this. Why, it's Christmas, the time we forget ourselves and think of others! We haven't any time to bother with styles and petty differences of fashion and trifling advance on the modes of a month ago.

No? Well, then let me tell you of what a thoughtful parent has purchased for his pretty daughter. That will interest you, I know. It is one of the daintiest bodices you ever saw, and she is going to wear it tonight at the family gathering—just to

of white chiffon across the pointed bodice, and a high crush belt of the brocade.

But there's another subject we may discuss even in Christmastide, and that is fur. It's a warm, comfortable subject, and seems to suit the glowing fire and family gathering, particularly the most comfortable and popular form of it—seal. Seal still reigns queen of all furs; no other has conquered it, although its overthrow has often been prophesied and threatened.

But though it is still supreme it has assumed a new guise. We see it no longer in severity of form, in straight, plain garment almost devoid of shape. It has dropped the old conservatism and taken unto itself many new notions. We see it now playing in long Watteau folds, in gathered capes, in short plaited collars. And the effect is not so ungraceful as one might suppose,

as the belt; or the high rolling collars, with short plaited flounces added; or the head and tail boas. These last appear very modest, and yet I saw one the other day of Russian sable marked \$25.

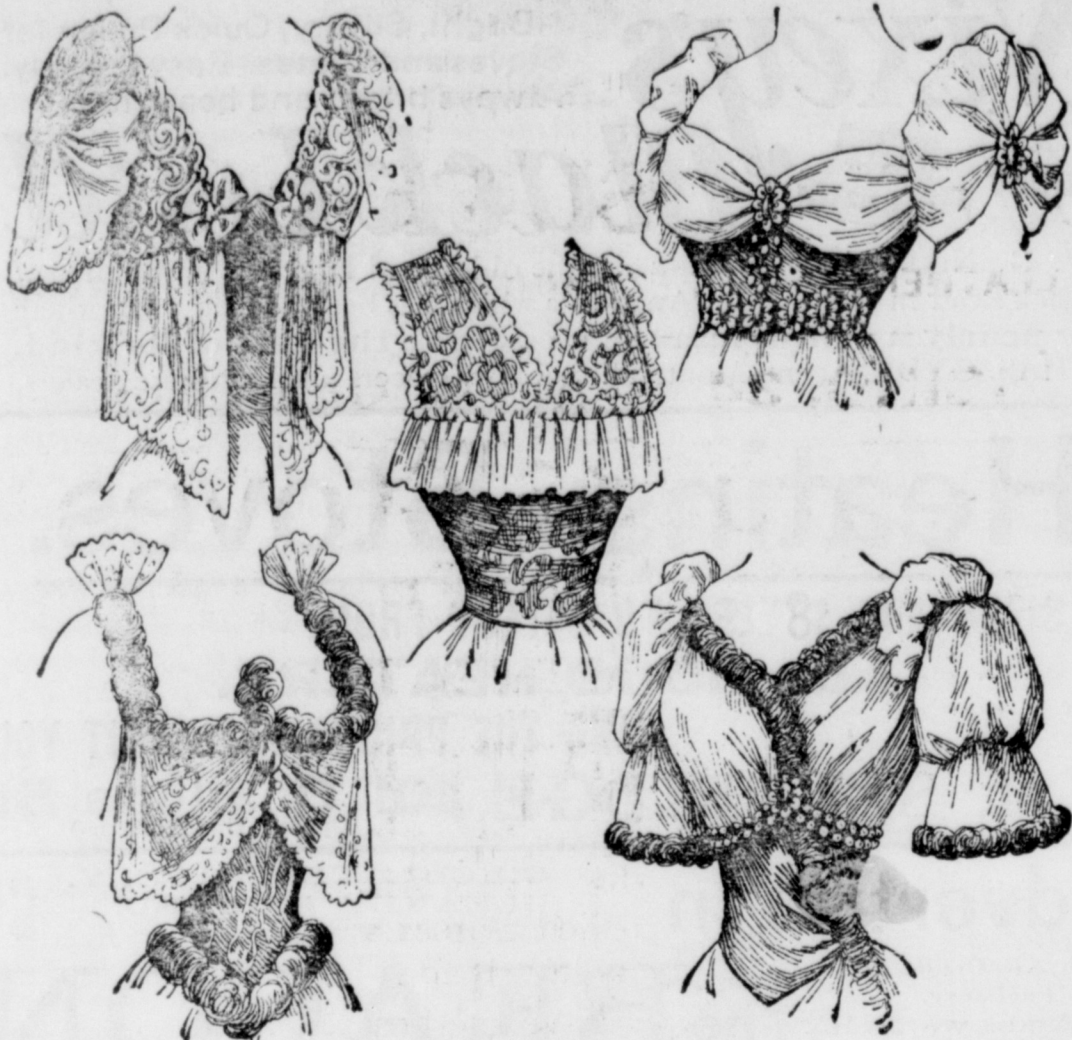
Muffs are a little bigger this year, and the round ones are still popular. One sees plenty of the flat, fancy ones in velvet and fur, but there is no present danger of their taking the round mull's place. The most convenient mull is the one that has a tiny spring concealed at the top, which flies open when pressed and reveals a deep satin-lined pocket so handy to hold handkerchief, purse, card case, and a dozen other things women must carry with them, pocket or no pocket.

But the fur has another vocation. It is sometimes content to hide itself beneath beautiful brocade, or pale-colored cloth evening cloaks. The white Mongolian is often found here, and only peeps out a little way at the edge.

That's the way I saw it in a beautiful military cape, worn by a most magnificent woman, tall and queenly, with wonderful black hair. The cape was of black velvet, full three-quarter length, and lined and bordered down the front with pure white ermine. The lower edge was bordered with wide white passementerie. It looked more startling, possibly, because it fell over a white satin gown that had a black velvet bodice. The bodice was close fitting and low cut, and narrowed off at the sides into straight bands that fell over the skirt almost to the feet. The white fringe that edged them brought the trimming down to the bottom of the dress, the fringe falling over white chiffon cascades that were looped on the skirt beneath.

The regal woman talked to another, but the second was more simply gowned. Her toilet cost no less, I feel sure; it only appeared simpler, less ostentatious, because it was pure Empire, in pure gold, with gold embroideries; and over, a lovely lace drape in white, embroidered in innumerable pale colors, hung loosely, back and front, draped just enough to make it fall softly. The girl looked beautiful; she, too, was dark and the veil floated away from the gold beneath whenever a tiny breeze came in from the open window where the two stood.

As I walked the other day through a most fashionable establishment, I wondered what the crowd of women at the end were doing. There seemed to be more ex-



EXQUISITE EVENING BODICES.

please him, you know. It is a Josephine bodice, made of peau de soie, in a deep rich red draped softly across the front with rose-colored mousseline de soie, caught up by a big cameo. Then there is a very high belt of the same cameos, and one catching up each short sleeve puff of the mousseline. Her hair is so very dark and her skin so purely olive that she is delighted with the thought of the result.

Now, have I succeeded in getting you interested, and can I not persuade you to listen for a little space while I discourse upon several more bodices almost as pretty as the one this favorite daughter will wear?

Hearken, then, to this description of one of mauve velvet, close-fitting and with a bolero formed above by gold and mauve embroidery, from which falls a deep flounce of lace, long in the front, gradually shortening over the hips and at the back until it is caught up with a *chou* of ribbon and long streamers. In the front, also, there

for the fur easily adapts itself to the change and appears none the worse for it, either.

It looks prettiest, perhaps, in the long military cape falling free from the collar, edged with other fur, generally Russian sable; or, perhaps, with a close row of Russian sable tails laid around on the seal, not hanging below it.

In the short fur garments—the little capes and the Eton and Bolero jackets—however, other fur is just as popular. One always finds the mink, and there are also the gray kimmer, the Persian lamb or the moire Persian. Of course, the military cape is the latest, and often forms the only outer garment, even on cold days. But it is very deceptive, and while it looks warm and protecting, hanging far below the hips, the wind has a quiet way of working up under it and sending little chills through the person who was rash enough to come out so clad.

Much more sensible are the small sleeve-



IN SEAL AND RUSSIAN SABLE.

citements than was usual in the great place. So I pushed my way through, and discovered that they were buying, as fast as they could, dress lengths of the loveliest fine French cambric, in dainty colors. It didn't matter that the day was a bitterly cold one; all that the women knew then was that those goods were to be had at a wonderful bargain, and that this was the time to get them.

And after watching them for some time, and listening while they discussed the designs that would probably be fashionable next summer, I felt so interested and so sympathetic that I bought one myself.

EVA A. SCHUBERT.

## NEW THINGS IN JEWELRY.

Some Late Parisian Ideas of Unusual Brilliance of Design.

Hollow wares in silver for table use are made in an onion or gourd shape and rest on fowl claws or projecting pieces of celery, says the Paris correspondent of the Jeweler's Circular.

The are appropriately adorned with vegetables or fowl's for the dinner service and with fruits for the dessert service.

A vegetable dish is decorated in three different ways. In the first instance the body of the dish is divided into several panels of a regular or irregular shape, as the general outlines may allow; and on the panels, hollowed by the aquafortis process, come out chased trophies formed of celery, carrots, turnips, onions, beans, etc.

In the second instance, the bowl of the dish is adorned with chased vegetables gracefully arranged from the base upward, or gathered into a garland circling the piece. The cover is decorated in the same style.

In the third instance, the body of the dish exhibits scenes showing plump and chubby infants carrying or playing with vegetables. On the cover stands a goddess of vegetables so to speak.

This appetizing female is crowned with cabbage leaves arranged in a denticulated helmet. She wears a very light garment, consisting of potato leaves and similar foliage, tied with bean and pea stalks, and she holds a branch of celery as a sceptre.

In the field of jewelry, flowers are ever seasonable, and though in point of shape they resemble natural flowers as nearly as possible, they admit of an unlimited fancy as regards arrangement and colors.

It is an artistic jeweler decides that it shall be so, poppies are made of a dazzling whiteness, and daisies of a glowing red, etc. A pretty train is formed of diamond roses with green enamelled gold leaves and a green gold stalk with yellow thorns. A dainty bracelet is a wreath of diamond magnolias, with green leaves dividing the flowers crosswise.

Drooping convolvuli made of brilliants are tastefully arranged on the side of the hair, the green color of the leaves setting off the sparkling flowers and leaves versa.

Bonnets exhibiting a large velvet bow-knot in front show on each side of the knot, half buried between the tucked-up ends, a rosebud formed of finely faceted diamond

or strass, partly sunk in a notched green cup.

Bracelets with a watch on the clasp are still fashionable. They are chiefly worn at afternoon concerts or parties. One of the most original watches so placed reproduces an open eye in enamelled gold, the dial being the pupil of the eye.

Large turquoises flatly set are introduced into elaborate necklaces, forming in front a fancy network made of diamonds. A turquoise occupies the centre of each open space; the milky blue stone is surrounded with diamonds and connected with the netting by strings of brilliants; turquoises may be replaced by aquamarines with faintly marked facets.

An elegant piece of jewelry to be worn slightly on the side of a low-necked bodice is a nuttree branch. Nutshells are half broken, so that the fruit, a pink or white pearl, is seen framed by a leafy wrapper consisting of brilliants. The stalk is made of green gold, and the leaves are in green enamel, closely powdered with diamond dust.

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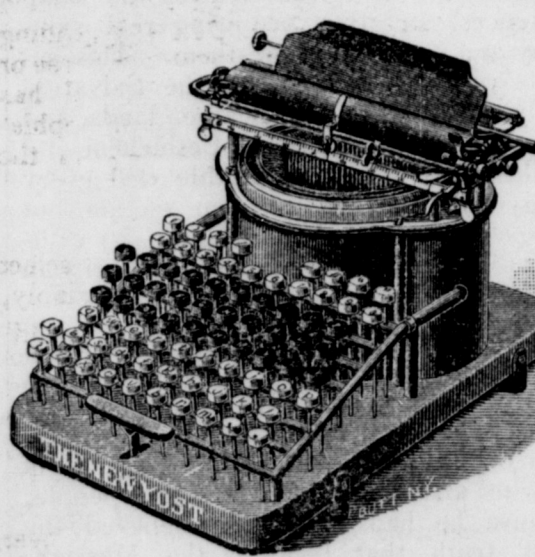
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EVENING GOWNS AND A FUR-LINED CAPE.

are *choux* where the lace and embroidery join. The short sleeves are full lace flounces falling beneath embroidered epaulets.

Another one with loosely falling lace effect is of serpent-green silk, shot with roses. The low cut corsage is bordered with pink feather trimming shading off into green, and from this the lace flouncing falls. This time it is at the back that the lace hangs long into a deep slender point. Butterflies of lace are poised on the shoulders.

Two more are there—one of pink bengaline, the other of yellow brocade. The bengaline has a dull pink feather trimming and steel passementerie bands for adornment; the yellow brocade has a flouncing

less fur jackets over the cloth coats. These are Eton, generally, of round cut, reaching to the waist line, or Bolero, still shorter.

But possibly we're disposed to be more economical and deny ourselves one of the beautiful fur garments which cost anywhere from \$100 to \$1,000, or even more, for one can easily pay \$1,500 for a coat in that most expensive of fur, Russian sable. And if we are disposed to practice economy we shall content ourselves with fur in trimming only, either on dress, cloak or hat. For dresses, the narrower it is the better, when it appears in bands. For girdles it may be broader, and for sleeves it is allowed still more freedom. A cloth dress looks very handsome with such an addition of fur, and possibly a sleeveless jacket as well.

Then there are the fur collars, running down into a long point in front, even as far