

## THE WOMAN OF FASHION.

## WONDERFUL COMBINATIONS IN EVENING DRESS.

A Dress that Will Appear at the Coming Patriarch's Ball—Pearl Ornamentation—Black and Purple the Favorites—Some New Gowns.

Well, we've about grown tired of being sensible. We did give up some of our eccentricities of last winter, and tried real hard all summer to be content. We lingeringly discarded the ridiculously long waist line and alarmingly high shoulder puff, the combination of which made us look so queer in the back. We've renounced, at the beginning of this season, the trains which swept so majestically over our streets

in the evening that she expects to score her greatest triumphs. She has planned one, for instance, for that great event of the season, the Patriarch's Ball, and it will be a success. For its material is a delicate green satin, to be generously ornamented with American beauties. The dress of princess cut will fasten invisibly at the left, and will be closely covered at the foot with the deephearted roses, put on in points. Over the closely-fitting, plain satin gown will fall a rich tunic of beautiful lace, plaited on the low-cut bodice, back and front, with an ample heading above. Then the tunic will fall perfectly loose to the feet, standing apart altogether at the left side, and with the lace edges forming pretty cascades as they fall. Across the bodice



PALE GREEN WITH AMERICAN BEAUTIES.

and added such dignity to our appearance—so long as they were clean. This last sacrifice was so great that we immediately consoled ourselves by doubling the length of our house trains. This was soothing and inspiring likewise. It incited us to further action. We suddenly decided that the summer girl had been too modest, too unassuming in her robing. No wonder the male sex had failed to pay sufficient attention. She had been simply pretty and sweet, with her ruffles, her ribbons and laces. But that had not been enough.

there will be a single row of roses, and another row around each of the sleeves, which will be short-large puffs of green velvet. Her feet will be shod in pink, her gloves will match the satin gown, the plumes in her hair will be like the pink beauties that lie in waiting, ready to be fastened on the lovely dress.

No evening dresses must be made without sleeves. It is emphatically *comme il faut* to appear without some sort of a puff or gauze on the arm: the puff may be very short, or the gauze may be thin and



GOWN FOR HOME WEAR AND ONE IN PURPLE CLOTH.

The winter girl must be magnificent, startling, gorgeous, unique—a thing apart, a different being from the girl of any other season. How to accomplish this difficult task the winter girl had to decide.

And the results of her cogitations we see before us—that wonderful commingling of so many styles, and periods and reigns. The immense panniers, the long-sweeping, flat trains, the flaring skirt, the low bodice, the high waist, the queer hour glass sleeves, and the magnificence of these when appearing in rich velvet pile and priceless old lace, all proclaim that the winter girl may wear the laurel with a consciousness of victory won.

On the evening gown, of course, she has bestowed her most careful thought, for it is

float altogether away from the arm, but sleeves there must be. Pearl is visible everywhere—in girdles, in bodices, in shoulder pieces, in long fringes. Some dresses are almost completely covered with rich pearl trimmings. A very wide belt encircles the waist or the hips, from which fall long pendants, close together, far down the skirt. Then two more bands go around the bodice under the arms, almost meeting in front, with shorter pendants hanging therefrom. Large epaulets, with fringes, all of pearl, cover the shoulders, and a pearl collar surmounts the whole. The effect is peculiarly rich over heavy corded white silk.

At a reception the other evening I saw a particularly attractive dress. It was made of a fine black velvet pile on a vari-colored ground, which showed through in a puzzling way, so that you couldn't quite make

up your about it. Abundant two-thirds down the skirt were two bands of lace, laid head to head, and separated by a number of tiny black velvet bands. A plastron of finely-gathered silk was joined to the bodice by a roll of the same, and a hand of white passementerie ran over the left shoulder. On the other was an epaulet of much wider passementerie, which also formed the centre of the collar. The sleeves of black gauze were absolutely flat on the shoulder, edged with a deep lace flounce.

Embossed purple—how much we see of it everywhere. It has even crept into the fine mesh with which we shield our complexions. Let me see—purple used to be second mourning, didn't it? But if all the colors are mourning departed friends, there is an innumerable host of them. In fact, pretty nearly every one is robed in black or purple. Both colors are extremely popular, and will be all winter.

A most striking dress of purple cloth has a flaring skirt edged with black tux; has fancy black braid hiding each skirt seam; has a short Empire bodice, with a plain belt of pale yellow; has a queer kind of overpiece in yellow on the bodice, that is almost indescribable.

It forms first a standing collar and a sort of loose yoke, that falls on the shoulders in pretty curves. But instead of being contented as a yoke, it must needs run down back and front in a long, straight piece, even several inches below the belt. Where it passes the belt in front, a big gold buckle holds the two together. All around the edge of the yellow is a design in black embroidery. The lady wears a lovely purple veil with it.

So many dresses of last year are freshened with three short apes, generally trimmed with fur, and the longest of them just covering the shoulders. On the new gowns, too, these little pelerines figure conspicuously. Some very pretty brocade ones, of a single cape only, can be had for evening wear. They are generally only a few inches in length, are plaited in very large folds, and edged with fur or feather trimming. Perhaps they are still more dressy in velvet.

EVA A. SCHUBERT.

## THOSE BLESSED SLEEVES.

"Astra" Speaks Her Mind Plainly on a Torment of Woman's Life.

I don't like the letters R. S. V. P. at the foot of an invitation, and I never did, it has always seemed to me a sort of intimation that the recipient is not as well versed in the usages of good society as the sender, and therefore requires a gentle hint that an answer would not only be in good form, but is expected and almost a necessary adjunct to the proposed entertainment, and this is calculated to wound the feelings of sensitive people, when they stop to think about it, and realize their wrongs. Not only are the above letters open to this objection but they are in reality out of place in a letter written in the English language since so important a request as the one contained in the dainty French postscript should be couched in terms that will be intelligible to all. Why should we not take it for granted that the person we invite will have sufficient good manners to answer us, and leave the objectionable letters off all invitation cards except those to large public balls?

I wonder if all the girls suffer from the full sleeve nuisance as I do? Really the misery of trying to struggle into one's jacket destroys all the pleasure we felt in the long graceful sleeves when they first came in and almost makes us long to return to the skin tight horrors which prevented our raising a cup of tea to our lips with anything like certainty and obliged us to put on our hats, if we were going for a walk, before getting into our basques. I know I dread the effort of wrestling with my sleeves and always coming off second best, so much that I have gone out many a time with only a fur cape as an outer garment, and came home with my arms numb to the elbows, rather than undergo it. And then the diminished glory of the sleeves when the jacket is removed is another trial hard to endure patiently. What creases, and wrinkles, and folds they get themselves into, and how mean and dishevelled they look, clinging to the wearer's arm like a water logged bathing dress, and looking as if they were as much ashamed of themselves as their owner is of them. I wonder what we are going to do about it, and whether we shall all be obliged to wear cloaks in self-defence?

Speaking of jackets, reminds me of another subject on which I must say a few words, and it is this. I firmly believe there are more bad colds, more cases of pneumonia, and more violent attacks of pleurisy caught in church than at rinks, snow shoeing parties, or even loitering around railway stations watching the trains come in! And all, or nearly all, these ills are contracted by our sex. Did you ever wonder why? Well, if you did not I think I can tell you. Unless the church was unusually cold you never saw a man sit through the service with his coat on, did you? He settles his hat comfortably under the seat, as soon as he has concluded the anxious inspection of its lining, which serves as a devotional exercise, when he first enters his seat; and then he stands up wriggles out of his overcoat, folds it carefully over the back of his seat and removes his rubbers, if he wears any; then he gives a long sigh, folds his arms and proceeds to enjoy the opening voluntary, with an easy mind. But what does his wife or daughter do? She sits down, lays aside her muff, and perhaps, though not always, she removes her fur collar or boa; then she sits through the entire service in an atmosphere of at least 70 degrees, with her overshoes, and heavy winter coat on; and when church

is over she frequently goes out into a temperature that is far below zero, without any extra protection, and what wonder is it if she catches pneumonia and dies within the week?

I thought of this last Sunday, as I sat two pews away from a blazing fire, and simmered slowly in a heavily wadded jacket which I dare not take off, because I well knew that if I did so I could not get it on again, just on account of those blessed sleeves. Of course I unbuttoned it, but that did very little good, and though I ran nearly all the way home, my teeth chattered to such an extent that I expect to spend the entire day to-morrow in the hands of the dentist, and the only reason I am alive to write these lines, is owing to an iron constitution, and a hot drink before going to bed, which counteracted the chill. So I resolved to say a word of warning to the girls, and advise them to remove their coats in church, if possible, but I am afraid, under existing circumstances, it is not possible.

ASTRA.

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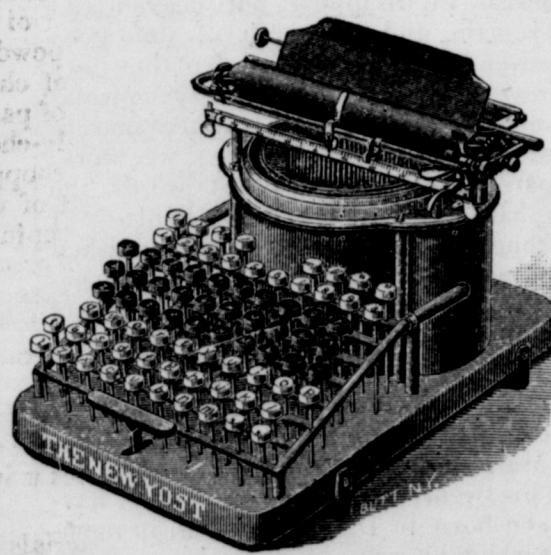
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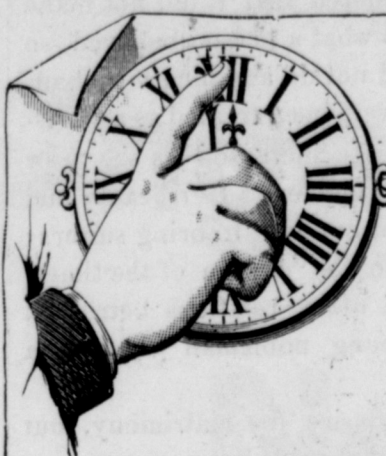
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