

WOMAN and HER WORK.

The writers who have grown weary of inveighing against the crinoline have discovered a new grievance, which they are making the very most of, and which bids fair to amount to about as much as the crinoline excitement has done so far. This new enemy is nothing less than the derided and much ridiculed chignon, which I believe, flourished somewhere about the early "seventies," and which these pessimistic writers tell us is certain to appear almost immediately. It is asserted that the chignon movement has had its origin in England, but that once it becomes an established fact there, it will spread to this side of the "erring pond with its inevitable rapidity, and fasten upon its victims with an iron grip. I fancy the writer referred to the hair pins which would be required to secure the dreaded invader to the head of its willing slave, when he used this figure of speech, and that he employed it because it had a sort of desperate sound, as if the chignon was an evil which none of us need try to escape. He said there were unmistakable indications at the Queen's latest drawing room, of an early return to the much abused chignon, and that it was bound to reach America soon. From the superstitious dread with which he spoke of it, one would really imagine that cholera itself would be a preferable and much less dangerous immigrant to arrive upon our shores. I don't know how he found out about the hair dressing at the last drawing room, because I am certain he was not there himself. I know that the writer is a man, from the intelligent manner in which he "gives himself away" when he attempts to discuss the Easter bonnet. The poor soul actually speaks as if there was only one style of Easter bonnet to be seen this year. He says: "It has no crown to speak of on top, it flares, as if gored on the front brim, and long flaps cover the ears, the flaring brim will be filled with artificial flowers, etc."

When I read that, I had just returned from the "Easter opening" of one of the first milliners in town, so you can imagine how I laughed! I verily believe I had examined fifty different shapes and styles of hat, bonnet, capote and turban, and I had not seen one which at all answered to that writer's description of "the Easter bonnet." I did not see the newest poke which, when trimmed, and placed at the proper angle on the wearer's head, is really not like a poke at all, but more like a very stylish broad brimmed hat turned up at the back; and worn above a round face it would be very pretty, and becoming.

Indeed I thought the headgear for this season, just about the prettiest I had seen for a long time, and it seemed to me that there was something to suit every one, both in style and price,—from the lovely flower bonnet for church, visiting and theatre wear, to the wide hat of fancy straw, with fluted brim, and good sized crown, or the tiny modest bonnet of black chip or braid, which may be had for the small sum of 40 cents, and which the addition of a few bows and ends of wide black ribbon or some clusters of black lace and a bunch of violets, lilacs, buttercups or primroses will transform into just as charming a spring bonnet as any one need desire. I am glad to see that the delightful sailor hat, dear to the heart of every woman who likes to look trim, jaunty and utterly captivating; shows signs of a new and prolonged lease of life indeed, the fashion authorities say that it will be very much worn during the summer, and be in reality a sort of keynote to all the other shapes, a sort of tune which will be capable of many variations all of which will bear a certain resemblance to the original air, or hat.

Some of these pretty sailors will be trimmed simply with a band of velvet, or ribbon, finished with a rather small double bow, placed at the left near the front, and which will not stand up above the crown in high loops, as the bows of last year did, but will reach just to the top of it, or very little above. Others will show more elaborate trimming, and have lace gathered around the crown to cover the brim on the outside, in a sort of flounce, extending from the crown to the outer edge of the brim, but not coming beyond it; a plain band of ribbon finished with a rosette placed directly in front, and not too large. In the finer straws, for dressy wear, the sailor-hat will have the brim slightly narrower in the back than in the front; and they are sometimes trimmed with lace, and a bunch of flowers placed directly in front.

One charming adaptation of the sailor hat has a little upward curve or peak of the brim directly above the forehead, and slightly drooping sides. It is meant to be set a little farther back on the head than the regulation sailor, and has a crown which is really meant to fit on the head, not as an ornament. Now I think I have proved, if not to your satisfaction, at least to my own, that the chignon alarmist was not very well up in millinery; and if his knowledge of the coming style in hair dressing is not more authentic than his description of spring hats and bonnets, I don't think we need become excited over the possible approach of the chignon. Do you?

If green is going to be the popular color this season, violet will run such a very close

race with it that the question of which wins the day will be a difficult one to settle. Purple in all its shades, from the deepest violet to the palest lavender; is more popular than ever, though it has been growing in favor for several seasons, and really there are comparatively few hats or bonnets to be seen into the trimming of which the color of violet or heliotrope does not enter in some way. And it is equally popular in dress goods.

More than half of the summer dress goods have violet for a keynote, and it does not appear in the material itself, it is very likely to be seen in the trimming. Violets or lilacs on a black ground, pansies or heliotrope on a cream colored ground, or pale mauve cyclamens on a white ground; all these seem to make up the sum of designs in challies, prints and muslins. Violet, real deep violet, is even used as a trimming for black dresses. A wonderfully successful dress recently worn in New York being of black slashed over violet velvet. The skirt was entirely black and the bodice slashed lengthwise over an under bodice of violet velvet, the sleeve puffs being of black also slashed over violet velvet; the bonnet was of violets and green leaves.

The principal feature of the jacket this year is the shoulder cape which accompanies it, and gives it the requisite excuse for existing, without which it would have no life at all, so to speak, and the odd thing about the ultra fashionable jacket is the fact that both shoulder cape and sleeves may be made of a color and material which contrasts sharply with the jacket itself. Imagine a jacket of tan cloth in so pale a shade as to be almost amber, with a very full skirt and a flaring shoulder cape, and sleeves of either dark green or black velvet or satin, and a hat of dark green velvet with tan plumes, to be worn with a black dress. It sounds very odd, and not at all attractive, I know, but it really was very new and above all stylish.

The surplice waist is to be a feature of light summer dresses, either in challies, china silks, or wash dresses, and they will be worn with full skirts decorated with gathered flounces, large puffed sleeves, and lace ruffles at neck and wrist.

A sort of reaction from the street sweeping skirt, seems to be making itself felt in England; one result of which has been the formation of a society called the "Short Skirt League" the members of which have fixed the regulation length for a walking skirt as "at least five inches off the ground, in order to comply with their pledge. They have also wisely chosen this season of the year, the time of mud and slush, especially in England, to publish some very attractive designs for their regulation costumes; and judging by the samples submitted the gowns are not only eminently sensible and convenient, but also trim, lady like and exceedingly stylish. They are not in the least masculine striking or "loud," looking but modest and neat, the five missing inches which have rather a formidable sound, merely raising them from the ground sufficiently to show the neat boots just above the instep. This is but a preliminary step I believe, soon to be followed by a general shortening of dresses, for the latest Paris fashion is to have the walking dress short, and even the dancing gown to barely cover the instep; so we shall soon be too much occupied in bemoaning the size of our feet to worry much over the crinoline scare.

VERE, Nova Scotia.—Do you know Vere, that your writing is changing so much, and becoming so formed, that I do not recognize it now at the first as I used to do? Yes indeed, I did see your name in the column you speak of, for I always read it with great interest. I think it is generally considered the noon hour, but still you know twelve o'clock is really noon, so once it has struck twelve, it is legally after noon. It is indeed very strange that our friends should be so quick to find us out, or to think they do, which is almost the same thing. "The first time this winter?" Well Vere, I really am ashamed of you, unless you were very ill, when of course that would be an unanswerable excuse. Don't wear your youth out trying for another "century." "Toronto Saturday night" Toronto will find it, and I think it is two dollars. So you think it was a glorious winter? I think it was a terrible one, and I am so glad it is over. Many thanks for the love, I will keep my share of course, and give Geoffrey his. I am sorry I was so long in answering your letter.

NELLIE, Fredericton.—I am afraid there is no really efficacious remedy known, you might dye it, of course, but when the hair begins to turn grey there is no way of stopping it. I have known cases, where people even younger than you began turning grey, and in a short time their hair grew quite white. Probably you sleep on your right side, and the warmth of the pillow hastens the change, try sleeping on the other side. Here are two excellent hair tonics which will prevent your hair from falling out, promote its growth, and strengthen it so that it may arrest the change of color. Dissolve two grains of quinine in a pint of alcohol, and apply carefully to the roots of the hair two or three times a week at bed time, taking care to let as little as possible touch the hair, as it may burn it.

Another is: One pint of bay rum, one drachm tincture of cantharides, one ounce of castor oil, one drachm carbonate of ammonia; mix well, and rub into the roots twice a week. This is a very excellent recipe. I heard of another lately, supposed

to be infallible, and though I have not tried it I will let you do so, if you like. It is very simple and consists of one part of castor oil to two parts of alcohol, well shaken and applied two or three times a week to the roots of the hair and well rubbed in.

I am always glad to assist the girls in any way in my power, so you must never hesitate to write and ask me for any advice you want.

ASTRA.

A Dress Consulting Room.

A woman, whose fortune will be as good as a made, is she who will open a "dress consulting room." She must have, according to the New York World, artistic taste and good judgment. Then all the stout women who don't know how to dress to conceal their too conspicuous curves, and all the thin women who can't hide their angles, and the colorless women, and the florid women, and the athletic young person and the drooping young person will flock to her and say: "We want a dress for such and such a purpose. We want it to cost not more than so much. What shall it be?" And the adviser will scrutinize their "points" and tell them where-withal to be clothed.

The Girls of St. John.

Let the "Hub" toast its charmers, and "Gotham" also Drink in bumpers the fame of its lasses; But for girls who possess grace, and beauty, and "go," St. John city all others surpasses; For our maids are the fairest Aurora smiles on, And we cherish, adore, and caress them; So I therefore propose: the dear girls of St. John, The beautiful darlings! God bless them! God bless them!

We cherish, adore, and caress them; May care ne'er distress them, The darlings! Nor masculine tyrants oppress them

So the toast I propose is: the girls of St. John, Our beautiful ladies! God bless them! Our delightful coquettes look deliciously coy

When they laugh at, or wheedle, or tease us; And we're slaves to the whiles, and the smiles they employ, When they try to bamboozle or please us; But whatever the masks our enslavers put on, We frail males seem disposed to caress them; So I therefore propose: the dear girls of St. John, The beautiful darlings! God bless them! God bless them!

We cherish, adore, and caress them; May care ne'er distress them, The darlings! Nor masculine tyrants oppress them; So the toast I propose is: the girls of St. John, Our beautiful ladies! God bless them!

They assist us, and lighten, and brighten our lives; They partake of our grief and our pleasure; And they make us the dearest of sweethearts and wives, Whose delusive endearments we treasure; For we lavish our sighs the sweet seraphs upon, And we squander our dollars to dress them; So I beg to propose: the dear girls of St. John, The beautiful darlings! God bless them! God bless them!

We cherish, adore, and caress them; May care ne'er distress them, The darlings! Nor masculine tyrants oppress them; So the toast I propose is: the girls of St. John, Our beautiful ladies! God bless them!

St. John, April, 1893.

"Anything new or fresh this morning?" a reporter asked in a railway office. "Yes," replied the lone occupant. "What is it?" asked the reporter eagerly, whipping out his note-book. "That paint you are leaning against." The railway man is in the hospital, and that reporter is in jail.

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