

## EMPIRE IS THE FAD.

PREVAILING STYLES FOR VERY YOUNG MAIDENS.

The Empire Looks Well on Them—Some Youthful Dance Gowns—House Dresses and How to Make Them Up.

The Empire is very accommodating in some respects, although it has been so loudly denounced by society. So many women objected to it, because it hid effectually the beautiful figure they had been so carefully developing for some seasons. It was a shame to conceal the strength of limb, the long waist line, the square shoulder and straight form under one of those high waisted, full, baby things, that allowed no one to discover what the form beneath really looked like. And because women rebelled so, there was a sort of compromise

ringlets. Her dress was cut rather low, so that the ringlets had plenty of room to fall over her shoulder. The silk dress of princess cut was a pale gray shade, and over it fell a gauze slip, with a pretty silvery sheen, embroidered in tiny blue flowers. Pale blue ribbons, brought from under the arms up into a point both front and back, formed a corselet, headed by a big rosette, from which floated long blue streamers. A ruche finished this dress, also. There was a small ruffle about the neck, falling at the shoulders over a little deeper ruffle, termed a sleeve.

Now this girl had a chum; and the two are almost inseparable. That is the reason I have sketched them together. I must describe to you the chum's appearance. She is very spirituelle, had a sort of dreamy far-away look in her eyes, so that you always feel a little dread in speaking to her, for fear you may be interrupting her converse with spiritland. I have never been able to decide why the laughing elf in the silver gown chose the holy maiden for her



THE WAY THE CHUMS DRESS.

effected, and the 1830 styles were brought forward, and the Empire was rarely made for the street, but reserved for evening wear and for young maidens. For it suits the maidens particularly well, when they reach the awkward age and while they pass through it. The high waist is then the very thing that will best suggest the softness and grace that seem properly, in poetic fancy, to characterize budding womanhood, but which are so often entirely lacking. The fullness of the high waist and the straightness of the gown hanging therefrom all help to soften the harsh lines there may be about a girl's figure.

So a young girl looks but little different

friend, but she did, and has never regretted it either.

The gown suited the pure expression of its wearer, for it was spotless, made all of fine white cambric. It was a very simple Empire, with low square-cut bodice frilled on a tight-fitting lining and fastened together at the back. A broad flowered sash tied in a big bow far up the slender back and fell to the girl's feet.

Another pretty gown was made all in pale yellow silk, of a very soft and fine texture. The dress had simply three tall ruffles of silk at the bottom, very far apart, and three chignon ruffles at the neck. This belt had no streamers; it tied in a big, short bow.

One girl sat on the edge of a big easy chair so that the view of her back was very prominent. I didn't blame her a bit, for she had a very pretty one. Her dress had

a black velvet ruche. The girl had a Japanese air about her, accentuated when she bowed in the dance, for the full gauze Watteau back fell all about her in great folds.

A very neat dress for home wear proper for a young girl, can be made of cheviot—say rich dark green. The dress must be



A PRETTY BACK VIEW.

brightened with scarlet cloth, and therefore we put three narrow bands of it at the edge, separated by green braid. A pointed bodice is made by alternate bands of scarlet cloth and fancy green and scarlet braid and from the yoke falls a berthe of plain green cloth, full over the shoulders, but plain in the front, falling in two deep points over the plain green belt below. Then from under the sleeve come scarlet cuffs, edged with braid. It's a very neat costume for a neat, home-like girl.

Then some of the loose blouse effects are pretty, with embroidered bands down the front of the blouse, which is confined by a Bulgarian sash, knotted at one side and falling in long fringed ends to the edge of the dress. EVA A. SCHUBERT.

## CATCH PHRASES.

The Origin of Three Old and Familiar Ones Given Below.

Will Somers, the celebrated jester to Henry VIII, happened to call on Lord Surrey, whom he had often, by a well-timed jest, saved from the king's displeasure, and who, consequently, was always glad to see him. He was, on this occasion, ushered into the aviary, where he found my lord amusing himself with his birds. Somers happened to admire the plumage of a kingfisher. "By my lady, my prince of wits, I will give it to you." Will skipped about with delight, and swore by the great Harry he was a most noble gentleman. Away went Will with his kingfisher, telling all his acquaintances whom he met that his friend, Surrey, had just presented him with it. Now, it so happened that Lord Northampton, who had seen the bird the day previous, arrived at Lord Surrey's just as Will Somers had left, with the intention of asking the bird of Surrey for a present to a lady friend. Great was his chagrin on finding the bird gone. Surrey, however, consoled him with saying that he knew Somers would restore it to him (Surrey) promised him two some other day. Away went a messenger to the prince of wits, whom he found in raptures with his bird, and to whom he delivered his lord's message. Great was Will's surprise, but he was not to be bamboozled by even the monarch himself. "Sirrah," said Will, "tell your master that I am much obliged for his liberal offer of two for one, but that I prefer one bird in hand to two in the bush."

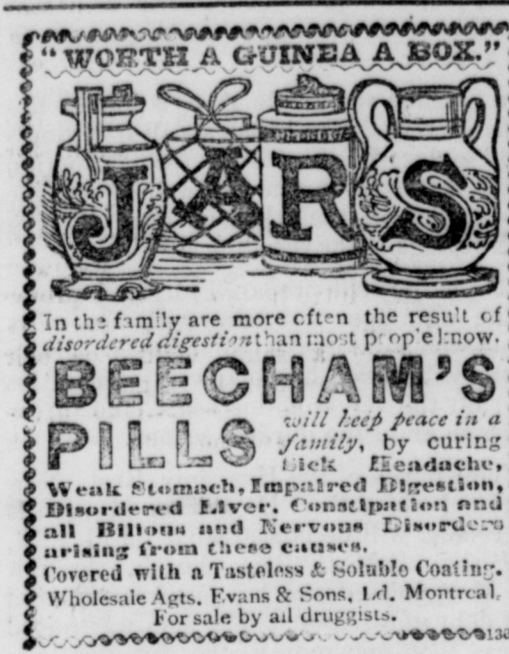
The phrase, "An ax to grind," has frequently been attributed to Benjamin Franklin, but it really belongs to Charles Miner (1780-1865), and occurs in an essay entitled "Who'll Turn the Grindstone?" originally contributed to the Wilkesbarre Gleaner, a country newspaper in the interior of Pennsylvania, in 1811. The author says that when he was a little boy he was accosted one cold winter morning by a man with an ax on his shoulder. "My pretty boy," said he, "Has your father a grindstone?" "Yes, sir," said I. "You are a fine little fellow," said he. "Will you let me grind my ax upon it?" Pleased by the compliment of "fine little fellow," the gentleman's bidding was done by the boy, water being procured by him and the grindstone kept in motion until the boy's hands were blistered, the smiling gentleman keeping up his flattery meanwhile. Before the grinding was done the school bell rang, and after the ax had the proper edge on it the man ungraciously exclaimed: "Now, you little rascal, you've played the truant; scud to school, or you'll rue it." The author says he felt very much wounded, and never forgot the incident, and ever afterward when he saw one person flatter another he said to himself: "That man has an ax to grind."

The essay, it will be seen, is imitated from Franklin's "Don't Pay Too Much for Your Whistle." Eureka is from a Greek word meaning "I have found it." Archimedes was consulted by Hiero, King of Syracuse, in regard to a gold crown suspected of being alloyed with silver. How was the fraud, if any, to be detected? The mathematician pondered over the matter, and was still pondering, well-nigh hopeless of a solution, when he got into his bath. The bath was full and overflowed. Then the thought occurred to him: Exactly as much water must overflow as was equal in volume to the size of his body. Quick as lightning came another thought: If he put the crown into a vessel of water and weighed the overflow, then put into the water a piece of pure gold and weighing exactly as much as the crown, the overflow should weigh exactly as much in one case as in the other, provided the crown was pure. Electrified by the thought, he leaped from the bath and ran through the streets shouting: "Eureka! Eureka!" This test proved that the smith had, in fact, cheated the king. The cry is now familiarly used as an exclamation of triumph at a discovery or supposed discovery. It is the motto of the State of California, in allusion to the discovery of gold there.

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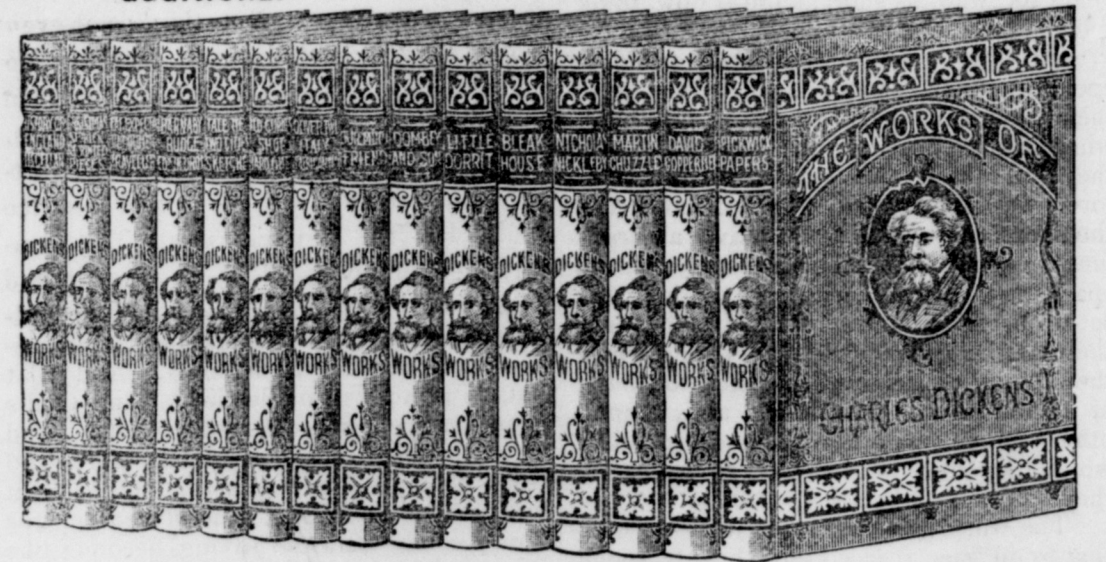
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A HOUSE DRESS AND A SIMPLE EVENING DRESS.

from a full fledged belle as she enters the crowded parlor of an evening, save that the adorning of her gown is quieter and not so abundant; that the material of the gown is simpler, and that she generally appears in but one color, instead of in bright and brilliant combination.

At a New Year's eve gathering of young lads and lasses I saw some very pretty gowns. They looked fresh and natural, and I liked to watch them as they formed the quick figures of the Scotch reel.

One girl wore a white dress with a silver thread forming big squares over it. She had a feather ruche at the edge of her skirt, and a yoke formed by a double row of the feather trimming; then a high ribbon belt, tied in two big bows on the side, one falling below the other.

Then there was a pretty dark-eyed girl, whose hair fell about her neck in natural

no trimming save a little pink ribbon and chignon. The dress was grey blue, a shade scarcely deeper than blue white; all I could see of the ribbon was the strap coming from under each arm and meeting in a point at the centre of the waist, and another straight band running around the waist itself. Then the narrow ribbon floated down and out from the gown, in most graceful lines. A little chignon edged the neck, and that was all. It was so graceful that no one could help watching the girl as she sat with bent head closely studying her dance order, as it were the most interesting thing in the world.

Last, but not least, stepped forth a very young girl who had the queerest dress of all. It was plain black satin beneath, and falling over was white gauze quaintly embroidered in a fantastic ring pattern. The pattern was closer at the bottom, forming a border. At the low, square neck was

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