

# WOMAN and HER WORK.

What a delightful time Lent is for sewing; one can do all sorts of odds and ends during the season of penitence never thought of before, and I have noticed that most people get into the habit of laying aside little troublesome scraps of work until Lent sets in, and they can settle down comfortably for a few weeks' sewing. It is an especially favorite time for dressmaking, and when those who do not have their sewing done at home, can employ their leisure time in looking over their wardrobes, consulting the spring fashion-sheets, and making up their minds about their spring costumes, so that, by the time the dressmakers have a little time to devote to their customers, the customers themselves may be ready also, and no precious time wasted.

In spite of the determined efforts which have been made in some quarters, to gain an assured position for the Empire style of dress, on the plea of its artistic and therefore elevating tendency, I think the fact is patent now, that it was but an evanescent whim, something too thoroughly out of the common to last, and though the fashion plates still contain seductive pictures of lovely damsels in flowing robes, and waists directly beneath their arms, yet, the close observer will be struck by the frequent appearance of costumes described as, "Modified Empire Dress," "Ladies' Empire Gown, with medium short waist etc., showing plainly the trend of public taste, which seems to incline towards an early downfall of the Empire dress. And I, for one, do not wonder; because, even if the dress is graceful, of which I am not at all sure, it has a careless wrapper-like appearance, so different from the dear, trim useful looking gowns we have loved so long, that I don't blame men for calling them untidy. Indeed the sterner sex never took to the empire dress, I have yet to meet one man who thinks it pretty, and I heard one bold, bad man say only yesterday that he did like to know where a girl's waist was, and there was too much uncertainty on that point about the empire dresses for him ever to admire them. And between ourselves, girls, in spite of all that has been said, and written, to the contrary; when once our husbands and fathers, our sweethearts and our brothers are really down upon a fashion it never lasts long, we are all too fond of masculine approbation to persist in wearing anything they really dislike, and one reason the tailor-made costume lasted so long was because men admired it so much, and praised it so highly; and it is this very peculiarity about the fashions which prevents me from tearing my hair too violently over the proposed invasion of the crinoline, because I am satisfied that if it ever comes to a hand-to-hand combat between the wire and tape abomination, we all seem so afraid of being forced to adopt; and the admiration of the other sex, we will drop the crinoline with all possible alacrity and thankfully grasp the more highly prized if less tangible gift. At least I know I shall, and I fancy a good many others will follow my example.

But I have wandered so far away from my text that I feel like the clergyman whose congregation commented on the singular absence of connection between his text and his sermon by remarking that his text had smallpox his sermon would never catch the disease; so I will return to my wandering musings and discuss as I intended to do, the best methods of remodeling last year's dresses, especially those which are too little worn to be regularly "made over."

Many of the last year's bodices can be worn without any alteration at all, but if any is required it is only necessary to add a yoke and huge sleeve puffs of velvet or some other material which will harmonize in color and texture with the original fabric; or else a folded girdle and bretelles of velvet to a plain bodice, and it will be transformed into the very height of the fashion. The skirts are almost as easy to remodel, because fashion has decreed that they shall be cut in a number of narrow gores, and also that almost any one or two of these gores may be made of a different color and material from the original skirt—the only rule being that the inserted gore must match the yoke, sleeves or other trimming. Thus the front gore may be of velvet, to match the yoke and sleeve puffs; or either the centre back gore or one of the side gores may match the folded belt and bretelles; so we have nothing to complain of as far as the convenience of the spring fashions are concerned. If a skirt looks perfectly correct except for a slight skimpiness at the foot, nothing is easier than to remedy this by placing a rather deep flounce or several narrow ones around the skirt and it will present the full, not to say floppy, appearance considered so desirable now.

I think we may be said to be literally bending beneath the yoke of fashion, because if ever there was a time when the yoke as a dress decoration held almost indisputable sway, it is now; seven out of ten new models for spring dresses are made with yokes, sometimes the yoke will be of velvet, sometimes of silk, and frequently of cloth, but

always of some contrasting color, or material to that of which the dress is made. Plaids will be used for some little time yet, but it is scarcely certain whether their popularity will last until the summer, and a plaid silk yoke and sleeve puffs will modernize a half worn dress for early spring house wear. Later the yokes will be made of embroidery also the deep cuffs while the sleeve puffs will be of plain material. Yokes for dressy evening wear are made separate from the dress, either of jetted velvet, silk or lace, they may be either black, cream colored, or else in pale pink, blue or maize, and are very dainty and pretty, transforming quite a plain dress into quite a festive garment. They are all finished on the lower edge with the inevitable frill of lace which seems as indispensable a part of most dresses now, as the sleeves themselves; every yoke is finished with either a single or double frill of lace, or a closely plaited ruche which is either made on the straight of the goods and hemmed or cut bias and ravelled into fringe; these ruches are never quite two inches in width, as they look clumsy if too wide.

It would be almost impossible to describe the many varieties of trimming which will be used during the spring and summer, there seems to be a perfect craze for decorations of every kind, just the very reverse of the fashions in favor last year; but I think it would be safe to assert that everything will be worn, from ribbons and lace, to the most expensive of jetted and jewelled galloons, and the most elaborate embroideries. Some ribbon trimmings are oddly but effectively arranged in horizontal rows, between alternate rows of black soutache braid. Of course so much trimming is worn on the skirt now, that the ingenuity of the modistes is taxed to the utmost, to vary the monotony of flounces, pleating and plain bands.

Among the last year's fashions which have retained their popularity, and bid fair to continue it indefinitely, are the pretty Zouave, Eton and Bolero jackets, and they are to be seen in every variety, but perhaps jet is the favorite material, and next comes beaded passementerie.

Every dress that is not embellished with a yoke, or a jacket of some kind is sure to have bretelles, and an odd prim looking decoration the bretelle is until you get used to it, but I have no doubt we shall all think it lovely long before the spring is over.

It seems so strange to me, that we hear so little about spring, and spring fabrics now; we have practically only two seasons, summer and winter, and we never waste any time lingering between the two. We used to put our furs away just before house-cleaning, in May, and take them out again at the end of October; and now we never put them away at all; we wear them until the end of June, give them a brief rest in a dark closet, sprinkled with Dalmation powder during July and August, and then put them on again the first week in September. Once the shop windows used to be filled with autumn goods in September and October, and spring goods in March and April, but now the same windows are draped with muslins, Hamburgs and challoes in January, and with furs in August. I declare, it used to give me chills, during all that bitter weather in January, to walk down King street, and look at the shivering muslins and summer goods in all the windows, it made my very furs seem cold and comfortless.

I have received a communication from "A St. Luke's Mother," asking through me the influence of PROGRESS with regard to a settlement out of court, in a recent trouble which has arisen in one of the city churches, and caused a wide-spread scandal. My correspondent urges, as a reason for her anxiety in this respect the fact that such scandals are detrimental to the welfare of the church, and evil in their effects on the minds and morals of young people. She also urges very strongly her opinion that in the holy season of Lent christian people wish to be spared such unsavory revelations as would be the probable result if the case ever came into court, and pleads strongly for a settlement by arbitration. Now while I agree with my correspondent that the whole matter is greatly to be deplored and indeed a very terrible thing, I scarcely see how either PROGRESS, or I, could be of any use even if we had the power of preventing things from going any further, which I am sure we have not, it has passed beyond that stage now, and I fancy those who have it in charge would not permit any interference, the mischief has been done, and it is too late to attempt to remedy it now. Perhaps I should feel differently if I believed the case would ever come to trial, but I do not. I feel satisfied that it will be settled before it gets into court; it is so manifestly to the interest of both parties that such should be the case that I cannot imagine any other result. I trust "A St. Luke's Mother" will not think me unsympathetic, but I really cannot see that I could do any good by interfering in a matter which is quite outside of my province. BOURGEOIS No. 2.—Perhaps when I tell you that the gentleman whom you are "all

most sure you know" lives, moves, and has his being, in a city some hundreds of miles from St. John, that he is not a "boy" and that there are few things more unlikely than that you could ever have seen him, you will come to the conclusion that he is not "the one who you think it is." Drawing hasty conclusions is nearly always a mistake, and though there is no harm done in this case, I think you will understand that I cannot possibly undertake to give a correspondent who never existed, messages from another one who would probably never have existed either, as far as I am concerned, if it had not been for this mistake. I daresay I have made your mind very much easier all the same if my suspicions are at all correct, but of course I may be mistaken now.

ROLLING STONE, St. John.—I was very glad to hear from you again, and shall be delighted to know that you are successful in your ventures. I do not know whether yours was the name or not, there are so many things in the paper that I know nothing about, as my own department takes up most of my time, but as it is rather an unusual name, I fancy you can lay claim to it. The correspondence column has not been done away with, only modified and I shall be happy to answer any queries my friends may make, just the same as ever. I always liked St. John, but I think it terribly cold in winter. I do not see how anyone with reasoning powers can possibly doubt the guilt of the person mentioned. I know I don't doubt it for a moment. I do not think that would be a drawback at all, and I am sorry I did not meet you while I was there, I am glad to hear that you are better, you may get quite well in time. I scarcely know what my movements will be next summer, but I am at home again now, and likely to remain for some time. I shall always be glad to hear from you.

I think we have talked enough fashions and dress for this week, girls, so suppose we try our hands at a little cookery? I am going to give you some foreign dishes this time, for a change, so you can try your prentice hands on them, and then if you should ever visit "furrin parts" you will be acclimated as it were, to a certain extent, and able to do as Rome does when you are in the Eternal City, by appreciating the polenta, to thoroughly enjoy noodle soup should you visit Berlin, instead of imagining the noodles are something which got into the soup by accident, and should be carefully fished out one by one, like defunct flies, and stored on the side of your plate, as a friend of mine once did, and you can even revel in that rather doubtful sounding salad, when you reach Sweden, and breathe a blessing on the head of your early friend Astra, even while you pass your plate for a third helping.

In a bright little book called "In Foreign Kitchens," published by Roberts Brothers, Boston, Helen Campbell gives recipes for some popular dishes as served in the different countries of Europe. Savoury concoctions that delight the palate in England, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden and Russia have been gathered and laid before the reader in an interesting manner. I reproduce a few.

**Polenta With Gravy.—Italian.**  
Simple as this dish is, it will be found an excellent one as a vegetable for cold days. Have ready three pints of boiling water, with a teaspoonful of salt, and as it boils add a spoonful of butter and about a pint of fresh, coarsely ground *semoule* or Indian meal. Stir slowly, stirring constantly, and boil for 20 minutes. Have ready, hot, a cupful of good gravy, and one of tomato sauce; put a layer of the polenta in a dish, then sauce and gravy and a little grated cheese. Fill the dish in this way and serve hot.

**Salad.—Swedish.**  
Cut enough cold chicken in small bits to fill a teacup. Take the same amount of beef tongue, of smoked salmon and of fillets

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Men's Yellow Buckskin Moccasins, broken sizes, \$1.50 and \$1.75. Now at **\$1.00.** Women's warm German Slippers, broken sizes, formerly \$1.00 and \$1.50. Now **50c., 75c. and \$1.00.**  
Children's German Slippers, formerly 50c. Now **25c.** Youth's Oil Tan Larriagans, formerly 75c. Now **25c.** Sizes 10, 11, 12 only. Women's, Misses' and Children's Warm Lined Skating Boots at reduced prices.

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of cooked sole. Cut two boiled carrots in bits, four cold boiled potatoes, and a cupful of string beans cut in bits. Pour over these vegetables a spoonful of oil and two of vinegar mixed, with a teaspoonful of salt and a pinch of cayenne pepper. Let them lie in this for an hour; mix with the meat; add four spoonfuls of mayonnaise dressing, and pile in the salad bowl, garnishing with slips of pickled beet.

**Potting in General.—English.**

The essential points in any potting, whether of meats, game, or fish, are that the portion should be cooked to the utmost point of tenderness, pounded to a paste and mingled with enough of the gravy for flavor, while not so much as to soften or prevent its keeping.

Any cold meat or fish can be potted, but it is easier to do enough at once for several small jars. Whatever is used must be freed from all skin and gristle, chopped fine, and then pounded to a paste, which after seasoning and packing in jars is again heated. In a cool place they may be kept a fortnight or even longer.

**Union Soup with Eggs and Cream.—French.**  
—This is a delicious soup and made as follows: Six white onions cut fine, and fried light brown in a spoonful of butter. Then add a quart of boiling water and one pint of milk; season with one teaspoonful of salt, a saltspoonful of pepper, a pinch of mace and a teaspoonful of sugar. Boil very slowly for an hour, and strain; then beat four eggs to a foam, and add one cupful of cream, and one teaspoonful of corn starch dissolved in a little cold water. Boil up again and serve with dice of fried bread.

**Ex-United States Senator Bradbury,** who is 91 years old, thinks that the Maine ballot law is not just what it ought to be, and is trying to have it reformed.

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