

WOMAN and HER WORK.

I met with a specimen of independence on the part of young Canada lately which fully equals if it does not excel many of the stories told of young America, and goes to prove that we are not at all behind our American cousins in the sturdy democracy and sometimes impertinence of our young people of the lower classes.

It was on the Queen's birthday, and after watching some of the holiday sports, I had retired to a secluded spot in the grounds to rest and fan myself. Geoffrey was lounging beside me trying how far he could stretch his best cane into the ground without breaking it; the pup and a canine friend who had joined the family group were wallowing peacefully in a cool, refreshing ditch near by, and watching their opportunity to wipe some of the mud which clung to them, lovingly off on my best dress; the sun shone, the sky was blue, the field covered with gay young athletes in parti-colored garments and bare legs. All nature seemed at peace and decked in holiday attire! Suddenly my wandering eye lighted upon a small specimen of humanity who evidently had not paid the customary toll to get in, because in the first place no one would have purchased him as he stood for 25 cents, and in the second he had the defiant, suspicious prove-that-I-crawled-under-the-fence-if-you-can expression usually seen on the countenance of a boy whose head has just popped up in the circus tent without having paid tribute at the door.

He could not have been seven years old, and he was attired in a pair of trousers many sizes too long, and too large, which had been adapted to his figure by the simple process of rolling up in many rolls; thus treated they did not quite reach his knee, his coat had evidently come down in the regular order of succession from an elder brother, and nearly covered the trousers, while a tattered fur cap was worn jauntily very much over the right ear. His feet and legs were bare except for a generous coat of mud, and he trotted along with his hands thrust deep in the pockets of his coat, and a peculiarly sturdy and independent swagger that took my fancy at once. When he came up with us, I entered into conversation with him, in this guise.

"Well, sir, are you having a pleasant time today?"
"No," he said, without stopping even to look at me, "not very."
"Do you think you would have a better time if I gave you five cents?"
"Don't know! I might."

By this time he was well past us, so Geoffrey left his cane about eighteen inches deep in the soil, rolled lazily over and extracted the promised coin from his pocket. I held it out to my young friend and called to him in seductive tones to come and get it.

"Chuck it," he responded over his shoulder, without slackening his pace or glancing in my direction.
"No, I won't," I shouted. "If you want it you will come and get it."

He waited a moment to see if I was in earnest, called out "All right," ducked under the fence at a convenient hole and disappeared, while Geoffrey and the canines joined in jeering at me, and in the excitement of the moment I gave the five cents back to Geoffrey, a mistake I would never have made if I had been in my right mind.

Wasn't that boy a cub, though, and isn't he likely to make his way in the world if independence counts for anything? I would not be surprised if those who live long enough will see him an alderman one of these days.

I wonder if you have all got your summer blouses made, girls, and all ready for the hot days? I wish I had I know, but I haven't, the summer always takes me by surprise and I only get my summer gowns finished by September.

For those who have still some summer sewing to get through, a description of a silk blouse I saw lately, and which I thought lovely, may be of use. It was of pale pink china silk, and was all shirred in lengthwise puffs from the shoulder to within about four inches of the waist, where they were met by an empire belt of crosswise shirrings placed very close together. Of course it is made over a fitted lining of satin. The shirrings are drawn in three rows and then tacked to the lining, and the puffs in the back are much less full than those in front, and of course they are drawn in more closely at the waist in order to fit the blouse to the figure. Three clusters of shirrings down the back form four puffs, together with the side seams, and about the same number will be needed for each front. The crosswise shirrings fit in to the figure and at the same time simulate the empire belt. The material left below is turned up in a puff four inches deep and fastened to the lining. The sleeves are very full over a close lining gathered into the arm holes and shirred to the elbows in four puffs. The collar is drawn into folds like a miniature folded empire belt, and finished in two little frills which meet in front. Hooks and eyes fasten the blouse down the front.

The surplice bodice is once more very popular, especially for light summer fabrics, and though difficult for an amateur to fit, they are very pretty when finished. A

novel way to finish the full puffed sleeves is the "butterfly wings" at the top, which are made by simply shirring the full top lengthwise for a short distance towards the elbow on the outside of the sleeve, and forming a sort of double puff, which, when spread out, resembles a butterfly.

A pretty plaid gown, in the new shot effects is of green and rose shot surah silk in cross-barred checks. The round skirt is edged with a ruche of the material, and the square yoke of bias silk, has a deep bertha of cream lace falling to the waist in front, and narrowed to a few inches on the shoulders; it is headed by a narrow band of green velvet, and little rosettes of the velvet finish each corner of the yoke. The belt is of the velvet finished with a larger rosette.

The Eton jacket is with us again in full force, and is sometimes used as a substitute for a blazer, to wear over a silk blouse. It is frequently made without sleeves, in order to allow the full rich sleeve of the blouse full scope, and it is a useful, as well as a jaunty little garment. The newest ones are made quite separate from the dress, and of either tweed, or serge, they are made with wide revers, below which they are fastened by two large buttons.

The bolero jacket is also in full favor again, and is seen both in velvet and cloth.

I do think the skirt trimmings of this season are the most hideous caricatures of grace and beauty that can be imagined; picture to yourself as the French say, a very full flappy skirt, decorated with one narrow frill at the foot and another just about the knee; why it looks as if the wearer had to piece it midway down and then sowed on the frill as a sort of afterthought, to conceal the joining. I really saw one skirt not long ago which was untrimmied except for one ruche, about eighteen inches from the foot, and I did not think I had ever seen anything much uglier, it had such a peculiarly out of place look. It is a continual surprise to me that women will follow a fashion however ugly and unbecoming, simply because they see it in the fashion plates and know that it is worn. Many things look lovely in a fashion plate that would be simply startling in real life. For instance a costume made up entirely of narrow flounces, cape and all, only looks moderately foolish when presented to our notice by a skillful artist, through the medium of a fashion magazine, but picture the flesh and blood woman out in a gale of wind! Did you ever see a fussy, impatient, strong willed hen being propelled against her will by a strong breeze in the direction she does not wish to take, cackling furiously, struggling indignantly against her fate and with every feather turned inside out? Well, that is just how we are going to look when we are caught in a stiff gale with a costume made up of flounces, and how the men will chuckle and laugh at us, and how angry we shall be, especially when we happen to have thick ankles and feet of generous size.

I don't wish to pose as a dress reformer, far from it, but I do love pretty clothes, and I believe we can have them, if we only take the trouble to study our own faces and figures a little, and avoid extremes of all kinds, as well as fashions we are not certain will be becoming.

By the way, the dress reformers have been having a great time at the Women's Congress in Chicago lately, and the platform fairly bristled with short skirted dames, each arrayed in a complete model of her pet "reform," and I am afraid it must be acknowledged that with the exception of Mrs. Jenness Miller, none of the reformers looked pretty enough to make many converts to their opinions, and worst of all they brought down showers of ridicule upon themselves from the press, by the extraordinary inconsistency displayed by the most advanced advocates of reform in discarding the combination of blouse and trousers in which they had exhibited themselves, standing on tables in the morning, and appearing in low necked, and trained dresses at an afternoon tea, the same day. This was indeed a step from one extreme to the other, since the wearing of low necked dresses, before the hour of late dinner, was a "reform" for which very few were prepared, and which required a goodly amount of "educating up to."

In spite of all extravagant predictions as to the width to which skirts would finally extend, the bell shaped skirt fitting closely at the hips and moderately full at the foot, is the popular form; the width is seldom over four yards, and wide enough too. No hoops, steels or stiffening of any kind but mohair, or canvas is used, and as the elaborately trimmed skirt is rapidly becoming very common, there is a reaction setting in, in favor of less extensive trimming.

The pretty self colored chambery dresses of pale pink, blue, or lilac, are popular once more, also French gingham, lawns, and batistes. And nothing could be lovelier or more becoming for summer.

An excellent model for a gingham dress when it is to be washed frequently, is made with the skirt in four breadths, three of which are sloped to half their width at the top, and the back breadth

straight. The trimming consists of three bias ruffles of the gingham, each an eighth of an inch wide, put on with a heading made by the gathering. The lower ruffle is at the foot, the upper one at the knee, and the third, between the two. There must be half as much fullness again as the width of the skirt, in order to have the frills fashionably full. The top is gathered to the belt, with most of the fullness massed at the back. A wide hem surmounted with from three to five rows of insertion embroidery is also much used as a trimming for such a skirt. The bodice is usually a blouse with either a yoke, or wide frills extending over the sleeves; often with large, puffed sleeves, and pointed belt.

The little velvet zouave or eton jackets so much worn this summer are now made frequently with sleeves, so that they can be worn with either a vest or a silk blouse, thus forming a complete costume. They are very convenient to slip over the light blouse and thus transform the dress into a street costume for cool evenings.

The bretelle seems to me to have exceeded its privileges, when it extends to three tiers, as it sometimes does now. Triple bretelles are not only useless, but in my eyes very clumsy looking.

Topsy, St. John.—My dear little girl, I would do anything in my power to oblige you, but I wonder if you have the least idea of the magnitude of the task you set me? Why if I were to attempt to give you the very briefest sketch or even list of "all the historical events that happened last year and this year so far," I should have to write a small text-book of history, and spend days in hunting up the minor events which had escaped my memory. Besides, I should require more space for that one answer than can be conveniently spared for my whole department. Don't think me disagreeable, but I really could not undertake such a piece of work. I haven't the time.

THIS.—I shall be most happy to help you to the best of my ability, but really it is a delicate and difficult question to answer, as the circumstances are rather peculiar. The invitations should certainly be from the father, his name alone appearing, because etiquette has prescribed that when the father of a prospective bride is a widower, he issues the invitations to a daughter's wedding in his own name, even if he has a sister or elder daughter keeping house for him. But under the circumstances you describe there is a danger of either offending or hurting the feelings of the lady you speak of; so he will have to talk it over with her and see what she thinks about it; then they can arrange matters between them. But what I have told you about the invitations is quite correct. May I wish you all possible happiness?

Brooklyn, N. Y., June 5th, 1893.
Dear "Astra," I would like to ask "A Reader of PROGRESS" of Cedar Cliff, N. B., the following questions about "Cinch," (the rules of which were published in PROGRESS, some time ago.) Can each player bid only once, or can they bid till no more are offered? Does the dealer always have the choice of refusing all bids, and making the trump himself? Are clubs trumps, if the five of spades is counted as a trump, and played as such? Also in a regular game, how many points are considered a game?

If you can obtain answers to the above questions you will confer a great favor on
HELENA.
Will "A Reader of PROGRESS" kindly answer the above letter, should he or she see it? If the answer is addressed to me I will have much pleasure in publishing it.
ASTRA.

Work That Wealthy Women Do.
A woman who makes fancy articles for one of the exchanges was complaining recently that those who do this work for a living are frequently undersold by women who do not have to earn their bread, but who want to add to their pin money. She said: "These women surely ought not to exhibit their work for sale at emporiums which were primarily established to help wage earners. Do they not defeat the very purpose of the exchange by so doing? They have more leisure than we do. They can afford to take up the finest kinds of fancy work, and as they do not depend for the necessities of life upon what they earn, they are often willing to sell for less than we can afford to, and the worst of it is they often have wealthy friends who desire to purchase their articles."

There is just one point in all this, and that is that these women should seek to sell at stores managed upon a purely business basis rather than at these sales-rooms which were organized to help needy women earn a living. But some few unsuccessful workers would go further than this and say that well to do women should not attempt to earn money at all if they so desire. One might as well say that women in comfortable circumstances should not write books, paint pictures or think out inventions for fear of competing with those less favorably placed. Acting upon such principles one of the best serial stories now running would never have been written. Mediocrity would be the result. To forbid all women the industrial field who are not absolutely driven to work would be a step backward rather than forward in the progress of womankind. [—Brooklyn Eagle.

Women Dress now for Women.
It used to be said that women dress to please men. If so, those days are past. Now they dress to outvie one another. At least one cannot but think so, for as a rule men notice only the ensemble; the details are absolutely thrown away on them, and if the only object of women were to attract men, a much smaller outlay would suffice. It is not only the outward garment that is splendid and varied, another modern expense in the dress of women in the magnificence of their under linen.
Every article of a smartly dressed woman's linen is a work of art. The finest linen and the costliest laces are de rigueur. The countless petticoats and the perpetual change of chausseur (every gown having its shoes and stockings to match) constitute another item in the list of necessary articles.

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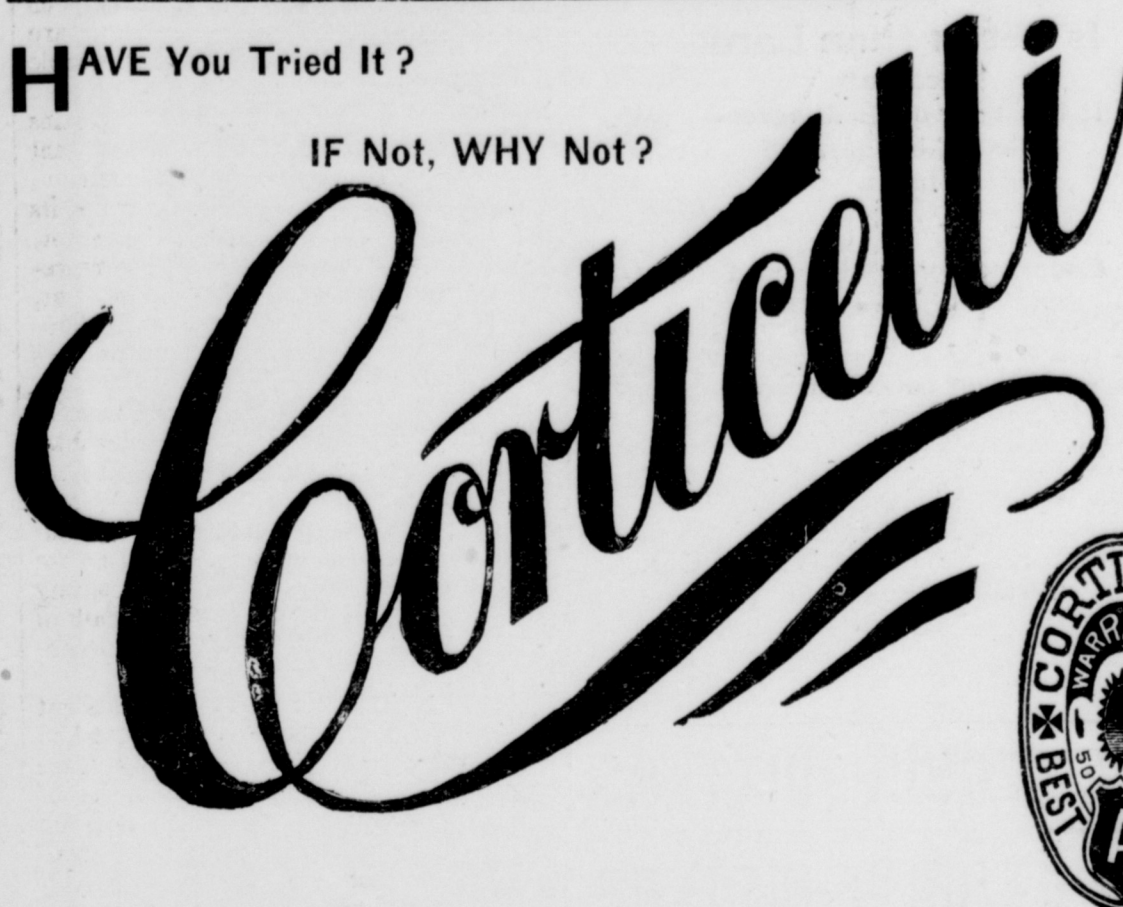
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and when one comes to reckon on the endless toils of a year, with their indispensable accessories, one sees easily how impossible it is for any woman smartly dressed to be so economically.

Women of the highest rank in England used to consider £300 or £400 a year ample for pin money and out of that helped others less rich than themselves. But that is ridiculously out of proportion to the sums spent by any woman who wishes to be well dressed. If married women can afford to spend double or treble what their mothers spent, and their husbands are able and willing to let them do so, it is injurious only indirectly perhaps, but it is directly very hard on girls, who as a rule have not large allowances and must under modern conditions of fashion emulate as much as possible the example of the young married woman.—National Review.

A Sphere of Woman's Work.
In China there is a profession for ladies, strange, because openly and handsomely remunerated in the current coin of the realm. It is carried on by elderly ladies, who go from house to house of rich people, announcing their coming by beating a drum, and offering their services to amuse the lady of the house. This offer accepted, they sit down and tell her the latest scandal and the newest stories and are rewarded at the rate of half-a-crown an hour, besides a handsome present should some portion of their gossip have proved particularly acceptable.

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