# WOMAN and HER WORK.

ment I read last week, in which ladies' underclothing was offered for sale at prices which certainly defied competition. This attractive paragraph set forth the fact that ladies night-dresses made of long cloth, and trimmed with lace, were sold lor 75 cents each, and also that ladies white skirts-trimming not specified, could be obtained for the same price, while corset cents.

I read that advertisement over a second time to be certain I was not making any mistake, and then I made a few calculations and did a good deal of thinking. White few people would consider a cheaper grade worth the trouble of making up, but as people who are in the trade can buy more cheaply than the outside public we will say the merchant selling ready made underclothes gets his cotton at ten cents a yard. The plainest "Mother Hubbard" night then the cutting must be done very economically, and with careful planning: 50 cents to begin with. Lace of the very coarsest, and cheapest cotton variety could not be less than five cents a yard, and a scant frill around the neck, down one side of the front and around each wrist would take two yards at the very least. I suppose the garment was provided with three buttons to fasten it, and that it took, at a moderate computation, one cent's worth of thread to make it; three cents more, or 63 cents in all; leaving exactly twelve cents to pay for the making, and the woman who could succeed in making two of those in a day of fifteen hours must be "capable" beyond the majority of her sex. Just think of it, sister women who buy your underclothes ready made and boast that they are so much cheaper than you could make them for yourself! 24 cents for 15 hours' hard work, and "find yourself." Shade of Thomas Hood! It is enough to make thy gentle spirit revisit the earth and wander once more amid the scenes of misery which inspired thy "Song of the Shirt," that poem which many of us have wept over in our early youth, and been inclined to consider rather exaggerated when we reached years of discretion. That song caused a wave of of England, because it opened the eyes of the public to a state of affairs which had existed for too long, and if ever a Canadian Tom Hood was needed to sing of the oppression of the poor seamstress, by the man who caters for the public love of bargains, it is now. How many corset covers could a woman make in a day, provided they were trimmed in any way at all and had button holes? Four, perhaps; and it takes a yard of material to make one, a 20 cents for the materials at the very least, and 5 cents for making, or just 20 cents for

Now these figures must be very nearly serve. correct, because if they were not, no merchant could possibly afford to sell underclothes so cheaply! Of course I am quite aware toat some large establishments dealing extensively in shirtmaking, and both of a cup of molasses and 2 cups of sour gentlemens and ladies furnishings, employ their workwomen by the day, at their own workrooms, and pay good wages; I have been through such workrooms in our own city, and many girls who work in offices are much less comfortably provided for during their working hours; but I am especially speaking of those who do the work in their own homes at wages which would shock us if we knew just how small they were, and yet most of us are so anxious to pay as little as we can for the garments we wear that we encourage this terrible grinding of the face of the poor by purchasing the truit of their labors, the garments which | hot dish. almost represent the lives of the women who made them. And then we read the American papers and mourn over the troubles of the unemployed, or attend a the par-boiling, but it fresh, par-boil them missionary meeting, weep over the woes of the heathen—who is twice as well off in his turns in melted bacon or ham fat, strewing comfortable ignorance, and well fed leisure as most of the seamstresses or shop girls in the city of New York-and then subscribe 25 cents towards initiating the benighted African into the comforts of religion and too often the delights of fire water at the same time, or converting the oleaginous Jew, to Christianity; and then go home with clear consciences and slumber peacefully in one of those awful nightdresses soaked in hot milk and buttered. Eaten saturated with tears, and the bitter sweat with graham bread this is a nice breakfast of weary aching brows.

a day's work.

Do you want to know what it is worth to make a night dress, girls? Well just go to work and make one then, and if you bread, cover with thick mayonnaise and don't think it is worth a dollar at the least, I shall be very much surprised. I don't make my own clothing. I can't, because I am too busy earning them, but I did make two night dresses once and ever since then I have been thankful to get anyone to make them for me, and I have never paid less than a dollar for the making of a very nice one, or 75 cents each for ordinary ones, and I consider that cheap. I never gether. Add to them the eggs well beaten, then the vinegar, and after stirring wore a ready made article of lingerie my- well, the milk. Cook in a double boiler

I was very much struck by an advertise- | self, except of course, collars and cuffs, and I don't imagine I shall succeed in doing much good by raising my feeble voice in protest against those who do, but still I wish those who read these columns would give the matter a little thought.

I am fully aware that if we all decided not to wear ready made clothes, we might only succeed in throwing numbers of helpless women out of work, and do more harm covers were to be had for the trifle of 25 than good, but, surely, when there are so many societies in the world, for setting things right and straitening out crowded matters, we women might form some sort of a society for preventing our sisters from being ground down almost to starvation and death; because I really believe that it cotton or "longcloth" of a good quality is largely due to our mania for getting costs from twelve to tourteen cents a yard; things at "half price" and "below cost" that the price of their labor has been so frightfully reduced; and I believe that God if not man, will hold us responsible for their misery.

I wish with all my heart that every woman whose hard fate it is to earn her living by her needle would join a union, and that a scale of prices would be fixed upon which should be immutable as the laws of the dress calls for five yards of material, and Medes and Persians, a fixed price for each garment from which there should be no varying; and then the employer would be free to pay prices which were at least

> This, I believe, to be the only practicable remedy at present, and I would that it could be applied today.

I have great pleasure in publishing the recipe for Scotch scones, in response to the request of my valued correspondent from the land of the Mormon, and the home of the Brighamites, and I would that we could hob nob over those same scones buttered and hot withal, as of yore.

#### Scotch Scones.

One egg, one tablespoonful of sugar, one cup of sweet milk, two and one half cups of flour, one small tablespoonful of butter, two teaspoons cream of tartar, one teaspoon soda and a little salt. Bake fifteen minutes in pans the size of a breakfast plate. This will make two scones.

And you want some breakfast dishes, too? Well, if you knew the time we have ourselves to get anything for breakfast, I am sure you would pity me, because ham and eggs and even salt shad will become monotonous after a time. Try this simple little dish, which is very nice, but why "shirred," I wonder?

### Shirred Eggs.

Use individual vegetable dishes or scallop shells. Put a bit of butter, a little compunction and a spasmodic effort towards salt and a dash of pepper in each. Warm reform to surge over the length and breadth enough to melt the butter, and break into each one or two eggs, according to size. Set the dishes or shells into an iron bakepan and put in the oven till the whites are set, which will require from five to ten minutes. Serve with triangles of brown bread toasted and buttered and send round olives or chow-chow.

Here is another nice dish for a summer

# Fried Tomatoes with Cream Gravy.

Wash and wipe large ripe tomatoes, and cut them in slices half an inch thick; season with pepper and salt and fry in sweet dripyard and a half of trimming and six buttons, ping or butter. When they are all done, dish them and dust a little flour in the pan in which they were cooked, pour in a cuptul of cream or canned milk, give it a good boil, and stir, pour over the tomatoes and

# Brown Bread.

A cup of yellow granulated cornmeal, a cup of fine granulated wheat or graham meal, a cup of yankee rye, a teaspoon of soda and a teaspoon of salt, three-quarters

Mix the dry ingredients and meal toget-her, sitting in the salt and soda. Mix the molasses and milk together in a separate bowl, then turn into the dry material, working until no lumps of flour remain. The bread should be baked in a well greased tin, set in boiling water and steamed for three hours at least. By tying down the cover of the tin it may be litted by the handle more readily from the boiling water.

Tomato toast is delicious for breakfast, and here is a recipe for it.

# Tomato Toast.

Peel and stew the fruit, put in a goodiece of butter and pour boiling hot over slices of well buttered toast, prepared on a

# Sheep's Tongues.

The canned ones will do very well, it fresh are not to be procured, but if used they are already cooked, so will not need over them salt, pepper, a little cayenne pepper, shredded parsley and bread crumbs; when well covered with the crumbs, lay them on a gridiron, and broil slowly. They are delicious.

# Scrambled Eggs.

Boil a cup of milk with an ounce of butter, a little salt and pepper and a large dish for children.

# Mayonnaise Savoury.

Dice of cold veal, poultry, game, lobster or any kind of fish; put on rounds of brown arnish with finely-minced parsley lobster coral.

# How to Make Celery Salad.

Cut up celery into small pieces till there is a pint. Put in a cool place and serve with a boiled dressing made as follows: One tablespoonful salt, 1 tablespoonful sugar, 2 tablespoonfuls salad oil, 3 teaspoonfuls mustard, 3 eggs, 1 cup of vinegar. Mix the salt, sugar and mustard tofor 20 minutes or till thick as boiled custard. This dressing, it bottled will keep for a week or more in a cold place and will many times take the place of the expensive and tedious mayonnaise.

A delicate invalid's custard is made as follows: Beat up 2 eggs, mix in half a pint of milk, sugar to taste and some vanila. lemon or nutmeg flavoring. When well stirred, pour the mixture into a buttered basin, cover with buttered paper and steam in a saucepan of boiling water, which should come about half way up the basin, for half an hour. A savory custard is made in the same way, substituting cold beef tea, free from all fat, for the milk, and of course leaving out the sugar.

#### Fig Pudding.

You will find the following an excellent recipe for fig pudding: A half pound figs, a quarter pound coarse sugar, a tablespoonful golden syrup, a tablespoonful of milk, a half pound flour, a half pound suet, 3 eggs, a little nutmeg. Chop the figs and suet finely, then mix with the flour, sugar and eggs, warm the golden syrup and milk, stir into the mixture, pour into a buttered basin, cover with a floured cloth and boil for four hours.

### SOME FREAKS OF FASHION.

Things That Are New, Odd and in Some Cases, Attractive.

Blue serges are yielding their popularity to black, brown, green and red.

Old-fashioned mull embroiders, such as our grandmothers made their caps of, are used this season for fichus.

Lamps are now shown decked out with marvellous shades of plaited straw. These are brilliant in color and eccentric in shape, and bear strange, large bows of straw.

The latest thing for underskirts is the Japanese material called awe cloth. It comes chiefly in white, almost covered with dark blue figures. It has almost no perceptible weight, washes nicely-in fact, has everything to recommend it except beauty.

It is quite the fashion just now to wear the hair low in the neck, especially at the theatre, but it is not a becoming style and is apt to detract from a woman's dignity of presence. For young and pretty girls the style is particularly adapted. It belongs to the ingenue.

The prettiest scarf mantelets are made of accordian plaited black silk muslin, with long stole fronts, confined with a jet buckle. The large ruffs of lace, tulle or mousseline, called Henri II., or Valois are also made to do duty with out-door toilettes on summer evenings. Some of the black net | dressmaker's art, and know that her apruffs are edged with narrow white lace.

An attractive line of novelities is in white canvas. The articles included are belt, bag, purse, notebook, address book, card case, portfolio and picture frame. They are unmistakably for the yachting girl, as they are of white canvas, buttonholes with brown leather, and with all sorts of sailors' knots of gold or silver cord in

flounces drooping over the brim is much in favor in France, and, indeed, the Parisienne scarcely complete without the Charlotte Corday hat with its drooping voilette of lace or mousseline de sole to fall over the that frame the face.

Now that the once sensible little sailor hat has been given over to vagaries and vanity, we are prepared for anything. O course the climax of absurdity was reached when we decoroted the sailor with purple velvet and sweet violets. One might as well pnt rosettes on one's galoches. A rather piquant expression of the evoluted sailor is of red straw, the brim lined, and the crown trimmed with black velvet. On one side is placed a spray of cherry blossoms, on the other a bunch of cherries.

All the worthy women who wear brooches made of the portraits of departed friends, the Bank lives in the building, and the set in narrow bands of gold, will rejoice to hear that the same affectionate style of adornment has been adopted by the Queen. bank. It was once a burying ground, but testifies to her family affection is no less fountains, flowers and illuminations. It is than thirty-three. They are pictures of her said that some of the guests rather anticigrandchildren, taken in intancy or early pated finding decorations of red tape and a youth, and mounted in three bracelets. Each picture is set in a narrow frame of gold, and in one bracelet, set in pearls and coral; the size of the settings varies from one-half to three-quarters of an inch.

said. Dame Fashion has committed her woman may become a doctor, a lawyer, a wayward feet, one can buy white silk member of the Board of Education, and hosiery with lace-work fronts for the mod- may even be decorated with the cross of the est sum of \$25 a pair. The extravagent | Legion of Honour; but she may not witness woman who does it may purchase white a legal document. She occupies an importsilk tights of heavier quality for \$20 a pair. ant place in art, business, and commerce; A spun silk undervest from England would but she cannot possess her own earnings if relieve the purchaser of another double she is married, and she can neither buy nor eagle. As for the fine linen underwear sell property without first obtaining her from France, all handmade and decked husband's consent.

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### She Paints Cats.

Henriette Ronner, the well-known painter of cats, has been called the Rosa Bonheur of kittens. No one, not even Harrison Weir, has depicted the cat mother and her playful, fluffy progeny with more fidelity than Madame Ronner. She The fashion of wearing hats with lace is, of course, a great lover of cats, and paints from her own pets, who have the most delightful ways possible. A member considers her outfit for the country as of an artistic family, Henriette had a hard struggle before she was able to devote herself to her beloved study. Her father, whose severe application had injured his distracting little waves and curls of hair eyesight, compelled her, as a girl, to spend two hours each day in a pitch-dark room, so that she almost acquired, like her favorites, the capacity of seeing in the dark. Madame Ronner has now lived and painted for forty-four years at Brussels, at which city she stayed soon after her mar-

# The Oldest Lady in London.

Some favored guests took tea the other day with the oldest lady in London. Some American readers may not know that the "Old Lady of Threadneedle street" is the accepted English name for the great bank ot England, but so it is. The Governor of other evening his wife gave a reception. There is a quiet little garden within the The number of miniatures with which she on the evening in question was gay with menu with bank-note sandwiches, and jars of golden ingots instead of sweetmeats.

A curious state of affairs prevails in Speaking of white hose, to which, it is France in relation to women. A French

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