

Woman and Her Work

All the members of our sex are credited with a fondness for tea, but it is usually partaken of in the form of a beverage, and we are usually spoken of as slaves to "the cup which cheers yet not inebriates." Therefore it will interest tea drinkers in general to hear of a new way of using the fragrant herb which has recently been introduced into well New York society by a Russian Countess. It is nothing less than the "tea cigarette" and it has already proved the greatest success amongst those fair dames and maidens who are ever seeking for a fresh sensation. The tea cigarette is made thus—moisten some of the finest Hyson tea by laying it between sheets of blotting paper which have been dampened with perfumed alcohol, then lay it in rice paper till dry, when it is ready to be rolled into cigarette. These are smoked both by ladies at afternoon teas, but by members of both sexes after dinner. If one must smoke those nasty little weeds, it is a blessed thing that anything so harmless as tea should be substituted for the murderous compounds of which they are usually composed. But somehow it is far from being an attractive picture which is suggested by that bit of information "smoked by both sexes after dinner." The poor old French, or Irish woman who puffs away at her short and evil smelling black pipe, is not a pleasant sight, and as for her breath—odors of sweet Circassia and Araby the Best, be near me and keep the memory at bay! And yet the high born ladies who blow a cloud on the sly, or, in bold defiance to the opinions of their more refined sisters, are only a few degrees removed from that poor old lady. A few years of indulgence in the fascinating habit must result in tainting the breath no matter how careful the smoker is, and then her teeth will begin to show signs of discoloration. I once heard a man, who I think was an authority on the subject, and knew whereof he spoke, say that he would not like to kiss a woman who had false teeth, as he was sure the kiss would have a 'rubbery' taste; I was very much struck with the remark at the time, and I have often wondered since, how a man, especially a man who did not smoke himself, would relish a tobacco kiss from his adored one. Fortunately it need only be flavored with tea now, but it will be smoked tea all the same, and rather destructive to romance, I should think. However it is chic, and sporty to be able to enjoy your smoke, and that really seems to be all some women care about.

Here is a decidedly novel method of securing offers of marriage girls, if you happen to have only a few scilps hanging from your belt, and pine to make a better showing before your more fortunate neighbors. The heroine of the following incident did not start out with that object in view by any means, her aim was something quite different, but the proposals were interesting incidents of the campaign, and must have amused her exceedingly. She was a poor school teacher named Rosa Leach at an obscure mining camp called Smoky Hollow, near Albia, Iowa, and she was very ambitious, the great desire of her life being to secure a college education. Of course she was utterly unable to procure it by her own exertions, her meagre salary just sufficing to keep body and soul together, but she thought of the matter constantly, and finally came to the conclusion that there must be a large number of charitable people scattered over the country who would be only too willing to contribute the modest sum of one cent, towards securing a college education for a poor girl. No sooner thought than done. The girl may never have heard of the time honored "chain letter" scheme, but she unconsciously put it in practice by writing to a number of her friends, explaining her circumstances to them, and her desire for a college education. Each of these she asked to contribute one cent, and

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PIMPLY FACES

to write to three of their friends asking them to do likewise.

At first the answers came with discouraging slowness, but as the letters became more widely circulated her mail grew heavier and heavier, until at the present time she is receiving over a hundred letters a day, and the fund for her college course has reached nearly five hundred dollars. The answers have come from all parts of the country and many of them are most unique. Some are from unknown admirers who request the favor of a photograph of herself, others express admiration of all kinds and degrees, from hearty commendation of her pluck and energy to offers of steady correspondence, and enthusiastic offers of marriage. What is perhaps more to the point, all of them contain money, cents, nickels, dimes, quarters and one benevolent gentleman from Ohio inclosed a two dollar note, accompanied by an offer of his hand and heart.

Another generous, whole hearted soul also from Ohio, suggests that the town in which he lives would offer her excellent facilities in the college line, and as an extra inducement to lure her thither he offers her the glittering bait of a home with his mother and himself, she to work for her board, as his mother was growing old, and he was thinking of looking round for a wife anyhow.

It would seem as if the supply and demand balance was not properly regulated in the State of Ohio, or else that the men of that State preferred foreign articles to home manufacture, because two more Ohio men have sought to transplant Miss Leech to their part of the country. One, who is the proprietor of a meat market, and the happy possessor of a large bank account in addition, sends her a full account of his business, and offers her a half share, as his wife; while yet another who is the manufacturer of a sure cure for rheumatism, is looking for a wife, and feels sure Miss Leech would be just the one he wants. He is a widower, says he is handsome—it always does take a widower to illustrate the true meaning of the word conceit—and has a large bank account also. As to his social and financial standing this gentleman refers Miss Leech to Senators Foraker and Hanna.

Thus it will be seen that Miss Rosa Leech is under no further necessity of teaching, and that she need not even go to college unless she likes, but can settle down to a life of luxury and ease whenever she feels so inclined. And it seems that she is a very quiet and unassuming young lady and her head is not at all turned by the number of proposals she has received. Her only object at the start was to secure a college education, and she has not swerved from her original purpose. From present indications the goal is almost in sight, and I only hope the brave little girl will win an M. A. degree, which I think she is pretty sure to do if she has half as much cleverness, as pluck and perseverance.

It would seem as if common sense occasionally had her way even in the frivolous world of fashion, since three of the famous Paris dressmakers, no less lordly beings than Worth, Pingot Doucet, have met with an ignominious failure in their effort to introduce a new skirt. Two months ago these gifted men cut a new skirt which was to revolutionize the garments of the future, and make classic Greek draperies our models for the next half dozen years at least. The new model consisted of a sort of bag, with four straight seams which actually sloped in at the foot, and left the bottom of the skirt as limp as a wet handkerchief. Unfortunately these autocrats of the world of fashion had reckoned without their host for once, because with one accord the leaders of fashion on whom the designers counted to make their venture a success, rejected the new skirt and would have none of it, so that until further notice crinolines, haircloth canvas or wire stiffening will continue to be worn in the foot of every skirt to a depth of six inches.

One French fashion which shows every indication of being adopted in New York especially by very small, and very stout, women, and that is the train for evening costumes. Of course it is only natural that the short and dumpy sisters should refer to the train lends dignity to everyone; but it is a nuisance for dancing and men will condemn it universally.

After a short eclipse the black and white costume has emerged from its retirement with its charms renewed and a promise of greater popularity than ever. All manner of striking and pretty schemes are being carried out in this combination. Black lace over white, is lately seen in drapery, and the effect is not satisfactory, but if anyone happens to have an old black lace shawl or flounce let her cut out the patterns in the net carefully, and group them effectively on a white silk, or even white cashmere ground. A dress that is very elegant in appearance, and yet is far from costly may thus be evolved from materials that are utterly hopeless when taken by themselves, and if a touch of jet be added here and there, the result will be wonderful. A pretty illustration of this style is a skirt of white poplin with patterns in black lace tacked on. The bodice is of white chiffon, accordin plaited, and a little bolero made of two frills of black lace helps to carry out the black and white scheme. The long sleeves are of the same material as the skirt, with smaller lace patterns applied, and a black satin belt fastens at the left side under a cluster of flowers, frequently violets. Amongst the newest things in silk blouses is the accordin plaited variety which is made of a heavy quality of china silk, accordin plaited in the piece, and made over a closely fitting lining. It is charming on a slim woman, but let the stout one avoid it, as she would the combination of blue and yellow. I don't think plaids have ever been so fashionable as they are this year, especially in silks and satins, and a blouse of plaid silk is just the thing needed as a finishing touch to any costume. A tailor made coat basque has a vest of plaid silk which simulates a full blouse worn under the coat. The prettiest tartan novelty which has yet appeared is silk muslin in the gay Royal Stewart stripes and bars, which is used for evening dresses, and dancing gowns for very young ladies. Liberty silk is shown in the same in the tartan, and is very affective.

A pretty model for a silk blouse is of chrysanthemum red china silk, with a frill of itself below the waist, around the neck, and at the wrists, edged with narrow cream colored imitation Mechlin lace. Around the neck was a tie of bias white moire silk, closely encircling the throat, crossed at the back, and brought low down on the bust, where it was knotted like a sailor's handkerchief, the ends were trimmed with lace matching that used on the blouse, and this is one of the many new fancies in "draping" ties. At the left side of the waist was a good sized bunch of velvet violets, held in place by a girdle of violet satin ribbon tied in long looped bows.

Ties and girdles of this kind are very much worn, and are really the distinguishing marks of a costume now-a days. They



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are really not expensive, and it is such little accessories in dress, which really make the woman. The bouquet of velvet flowers, sometimes a tuit of red, or white rose, a knot of pansies, or perhaps a bit of holly or mistletoe, takes the place of a more expensive chataleine, and the ribbon streamers and cravats are made of odds and ends of satin, moire, or velvet ribbon, which could scarcely be used for anything else. Somehow old Ireland seems to be having her innings just now, as far as the fashions go, for Irish lace, especially the lovely hand made Limerick lace, imported from the convents, is fetching a large price on this side of the water, while the pretty imitation Limerick which does just as well if you don't know the difference is used whenever a pretty cream tinted lace is needed. Irish poplins in white, pale pink, and green, is seen on all sides made up into lovely dinner and dancing gowns, and where the two are combined, as they were by a society girl in New York last week, they are simply irresistible. The wearer was a blonde, and the costume champagne tinted poplin trimmed with real Limerick lace, and trails and shoulder knots of clear green shamrock leaves. It might be as well to explain that champagne color is a tone paler than amber, with white lights in it. ASTRA.

KISSING THE HOLY BIBLE.

Origin of the Custom in Courts Involved in Mystery.

It is generally assumed that 'kissing the book' is, or at any rate was until recently, a necessary part of the legal ceremony of oath taking. This assumption is, however, probably not justified. It would appear that the most ancient form of swearing in the Christian church was to lay the hand upon the Gospels and say, 'So help me God and these holy Gospels.' This seems to have been the usual ceremony accompanying a judicial oath until, at all events, the end of the sixteenth century, for Lord Coke says: 'It is called a corporal oath because he (the witness) toucheth with his hand some part of the Holy Scriptures.' Coke says not one word about kissing the book.

When the practice of kissing the book began is, says the Law Journal, undetermined. It has been stated that this form was first prescribed as part of the ceremony of taking the oaths of allegiance and supremacy. It is interesting and may be significant to note that Shakespeare only once alludes to the practice of kissing the book, and on that occasion turns it into ridicule. Whatever the origin of the practice, there can be no doubt that kissing the book was the ceremony that usually accompanied the taking of an oath in an English court of justice in the seventeenth century. But in 1657 there occurred a case which is of some importance. It appears that on a jury trial Dr. Owen, vice chancellor of Oxford University, being called as a witness, refused to be sworn in the usual way by laying his right hand, on the book and afterward kissing it, but he caused the book to be held open before him and he

raised his right hand. The jury doubting what credit they ought to give to his oath, the matter was referred to the chief justice, who ruled that Dr. Owen had taken as good an oath as any other witness.' And then the chief justice added an observation which in 'Cowper's Reports,' in 'Macnally on Evidence' and elsewhere is misquoted as follows: 'If I were to be sworn I would kiss the book.' Now, that is not at all what the chief justice said. The words in Selden's report are these: 'Il dit si il fuit destre Jure il vult deponer sa main dextere sur le livre mesme. Thus the chief justice says not one word about kissing the book.—Pall Mall Gazette.

A DISGUSTED ADMIRAL.

The Admiral Became Disgusted and Steered His Course for Russia.

An anecdote told by Harpers Round Table, illustrates the enterprise of Yankee skippers years ago, when New Bedford whalers were found at the far north and also at the far south:

A squadron sent out by Russia to explore the South Seas, and reach the pole if possible, had attained a degree of latitude which the admiral proudly told himself had never been reached before by white men or other human beings. While he reflected upon the fame that would surely embellish his name, his sailors cried: 'Land ho!' Off to the south he desisted a long low-lying bit of land, and hastened to shape his course to reach it, there to plant the Russian standard on its highest point, claiming it in the name of his majesty. What was his disgust and astonishment when, as his vessel approached the shore, he observed, over a bit of leadland, a flag fluttering from a masthead. In a few minutes a little schooner poked her nose around the point, and came sailing smartly over the waves towards his vessel. The lean Yankee captain, who was standing in the rigging as the schooner came up in the wind, yelled:

'Aho, there! What ship is that?'
'His majesty's ship the.....'
'Well, this is the Nantucket, from New Bedford. We're doing a little piloting in these latitudes, and if you want to run in the cove yonder, why, we'll pilot you in for a small charge.'
The admiral's disgust caused him to square his sails around and shape his course for Russia.

Bad Misunderstanding.

"It was all I could do to keep from laying violent hands on him," said the keeper of the high-class cafe, as the pale young man departed. The idea of his calling this place a beanery!
'He meant to pay you a compliment' said the listener. "Are you not aware that he is a Bostonian?"

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