

Chat of the Boudoir.

If spring has been backward this year in the matter of budding trees and flowers, it has been prompt as usual in opening the budget of new silks, muslins, laces, and all manner of filmy fluff things to wear. The new hats are here also. They come in tulle, crinoline and chiffon, and also in straw as delicate as any of the three materials mentioned. There is an inclination in Paris to turn the rather broad shapes straight up in front off the face, but this is not by any means to be universally followed, as the brim dipping down in front or raised at the side is quite as popular and much more becoming to many faces. Most of the brims are pressed down closely to the head at the back giving that short cut-off appearance at the sides which is so essential. It is to be thankfully noted that the artistic simplicity in trimming is much in vogue. Crowns of leaves and brims of flower form the decoration of the daintiest toques, and one of the very newest millinery items is presented in dyed skeleton leaves lightly stitched over with sequins. These are used in place of the abused quill.

The ubiquitous bolero may be seen in all materials, in all shapes, and trimmed in all imaginable ways, or plain. In short, it seems to be one of the indispensable features of dress for all occasions. The black taffeta bolero, which is for the moment so popular, may be superseeded on account of its common use by those of other materials. One new bolero is of black velvet, trimmed with applications of satin and jet embroidery. The wide revers and the lacing of the collar are of white satin, black lace and rows of black velvet ribbon. Another short coat which may be made of black or white satin is lined with soft Marie Antoinette silk and has revers, seams, collar and cuffs overlaid with lace or heavily stitched. A fetching bolero is made of pale gray cloth, serge or linen, stitched all over and ornamented with gilded or painted porcelain buttons. These little coats are fastened at just one point in front with a strap or one big button.

Simple but smart frocks are made of home spuns in cream color and the pale shades of pink, blue and mastic. Pale blue is to be a most popular color in all materials. A tailor gown of pale blue cloth is set off with little touches of black velvet and dainty embroidery. By the way, these touches of embroidery must be on every gown, no matter what the fabric, and the embroidery is of every description, including threads of silk, chenille and chiffon, sequins and gold thread. Many varieties of the embroideries so used are oriental transparent fabrics.

Costumes of foulard and voile and certainly all of the thinner materials are being made rather full around the hips, a style which suits soft fabrics best. Foulard and linen will be combined, and a feature of the best foulard gowns is the very large chou with long ends of mousseline de soie or crepe de chine coming from the centre of the bust. This central chou of mousseline de soie or lace will be used on linen or cambric gowns as well. Crepe de chine in many exquisite shades is to be used extensively, and even barbaric in effect. The new foulards are beautiful indeed. The delicate pastel colorings in pink, pale blue, pale green and mauve serve as groundwork for the design in white, which is decided without being startling. A charming costume is of blue figured foulard and black Louis XIII tunic with shawl revers. The tunic opens over a petticoat of worked white silk. The neck and waist bands are of black velvet. Voiles come in the darker shades of red and emerald green. Dark colors are very attractive in such fine, and one graceful frock is in wedgewood blue, set off with insertions of silk spangled Louis XVI shades. The skirt is slightly gathered, and the bodice tucked and swathed.

The delightful convenient blouse shows no sign of waning popularity, and, on the contrary, grows more dainty, more elaborate, more necessary every season. Soft

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silk, batiste lace and Venetian satin and the materials used for fluff blouses, while brocades, satins and handsome encrustations of passementeries are employed for those which are more elaborate. One new model blouse is of soft heavenly blue silk tucked, with a waistcoat applique of ecru guipure and tucked ecru mousseline. Another of corn color taffeta has a collar epaulets and little cuffs of white linen adorned with appliques of black velvet embroidered over with blue cream silk cords. Another blouse of palest blue silk has a muslin and lace chemisette and undersleeves. It has also an applique of corn colored silk, embroidered with white silk cord and black silk thread. An unusually pretty handkerchief blouse is of white silk spotted with black and bordered with rich Oriental coloring and an effective broad black edge. Two of the most charming details for waists with which fashion has presented women this year the dainty and feminine muslin undersleeve and the little hemstitched handkerchief revers of tinted muslin set in the narrowest tucks. This tinted muslin is much softer and also more becoming to the face than even lace. It is impossible now to buy these muslin accessories ready made, so the clever and enterprising needlewoman may have a season's enjoyment before they are popularly worn.

Charming costumes for girls from 4 to 16 thoroughly suitable on account of their freshness and simplicity, are made of tints in pastel shade of pink, blue and green. These are usually made in smart little tailor suits of coat and skirt. The coats for girls should delight a mother's eyes, since they are comfortable, simple and elegant.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

Silk waists dotted all over with fine beads sewn on at regular intervals as if they were pin spots, are one of the Parisian fancies, and with these is worn a collar band pointing down below the accustomed neck line in front and closely beaded all over.

Veils with velvet spots have been the reigning fashion for some time, but the novel feature which distinguishes them now is that you can select your plain net, choose the size and number of spots most becoming, and have them put on to order as far apart or as near together as you like. Fancy a pretty woman standing before the mirror arranging the becoming position of the spots on her veil while the girl behind the counter sews in little threads to mark the places, and you will have a new edition of the vanity of vanities but the result fully justifies the means.

Neckties made of silk in the form of batwings are one of the many novelties in neckwear, pastel colorings being the choice.

Shirring is very much in evidence on the new thin gowns. Skirts are shirred around the top, sleeves from the shoulder to the elbow, and usually there is a shirred yoke to match.

Crepe de chine was the favorite material for court dresses worn at the Queen's Drawing Room.

Green Egyptian beetles are one of the fads in hat pins.

Gold braid which is the real thing gives a very chic touch to many of the new gowns. It is only a touch at the belt and wrist, however, and very artistically arranged with black velvet on a soft pale color.

Long silk and satin coats in colors as well as black, are such an evident element of fashion that there must be some reason for their appearance. No doubt the elegant followers of the mode will find them useful at the races, and the watering places later on. A dark tan shade of satin forms one model which is made in lengthwise and short cross bands on a dotted white net all above the knee. Below this point the skirt is of plain satin. The long bands are set in to give a good line to the figure and the short ones fill in between. Flowered pannette ribbon is used for a loose lining or a second revers, and extends all

down the front on each side. It also plaits in at the back, lining the high collar. Dull silver buttons are the fastening.

Mohair in both dark and light shades is very much used this season. Stylish travelling gowns are made of it, pretty afternoon dresses in the light colors sometimes striped with white, and for skirts to wear with light waists it is very desirable.

Belts are either very wide or very narrow, no medium widths being admissible if you would be up to date.

THE BOERS AT ST. HELENA.

Quarters Occupied by Cronje's Soldiers on the Little Volcanic Island.

On Sunday last the Boer prisoners were landed at Jamestown, on the north side of St. Helena. It was undoubtedly a great event for the people living on that isolated rock. They seldom see strangers now. Before the Suez Canal was built Jamestown was of great importance as a coaling and supply station, but now it is far off the route of vessels. If it were not for an occasional whaler which drops into port for a fresh supply of water and provisions the island would be almost abandoned by the world.

Thirty years ago there were over 6,000 people living on the island; but many hundreds of them, failing to earn a living there have gone to Cape Colony, and when the Boers landed on Sunday they increased the population fully one-third. So large an influx has never been seen before.

When the prisoners entered the harbor they saw a little town, only a quarter of a mile wide and less than a mile in length, squeezed into a narrow valley between two hills that rise to a height of about six hundred feet on either side. The hill on the west slopes steeply to the town and a flight of nearly seven hundred steps, cut in the face of the rock, leads to the flat plateau above. This eminence is known as Ladder Hill on account of the flight of stone steps. The plateau is three quarters of a mile wide near the sea and narrower as it penetrates the mountains on either side. The seaward part of it is covered with military buildings and the plateau is known as Deadwood Plain. This is where the Boers were sent into camp on St. Helena.

Jamestown lies at their feet on the east and in front they have a beautiful view of the sea from a point of vantage 600 feet above the ocean. All the year round the southeast trades blow steadily, but the hill range through the centre of the island shelters the prisoners from the winds, which are sometimes violent, though always warm. They have arrived, however, in the early days of the austral winter, and are probably witnessing a larger rainfall now than they ever saw before. The heaviest rains, however, will soon pass, and as far as weather and climate are concerned, the prisoners could hardly wish for a more agreeable abiding place.

Looking directly east across the hills and the intervening valleys the Boers may perhaps be able to catch a glimpse of Longwood, three and a half miles from their camp, which is famous as the home in which Napoleon, prisoner of England, passed the last six years of his life. Longwood stands on another plateau, extending nearly to the sea on the east and with two or three long arms running up into the mountains. It was on this nearly flat plateau that Napoleon took his daily strolls enjoying in some sort, the period of calm that succeeded the long years of war and political convulsion in which he was commanding figure. If the Boers are permitted to stroll inland as far as the plateau they occupy extends, they will be within two miles of Longwood and a mile and a half from the Valley of the Tomb, where Napoleon's body reposed under a clump of willows until it was removed to Paris in 1840; and now it rests under the dome of the Invalids. From Deadwood Plain, however, it is not likely that the lower portion of the Valley of the Tomb can be seen and so the willows under which the great Corsican was buried are hidden from view.

From the Boer camp there is no road leading to Longwood or the famous valley near it, but to reach the spot where Napoleon spent his last years it is necessary to climb Rupert's Hill by the steep road which surmounts it on the east side of Jamestown and leads to the valley and the little house where Napoleon lived and died. Jamestown is the only town on the island. It has never been thought worth while to

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build a town on the south coast, for no vessels could safely visit a town there, as the waves raised by the southeast trades break on that steep shore with great fury. On the north side of the island in the lee of the winds, where the Boers are kept, the surface of the sea is usually calm.

Perhaps many of the Boers will not mind the isolation of their prison home as much as the people of other races might do for the most of them are accustomed to the comparative silence of their great cattle ranches, where they seldom see strangers and do not care to meet them, though all comers are hospitably welcomed when they appear. Of course none of the prisoners can escape from St. Helena as a number of them did from their camp near Simon Town, Cape Colony. The sea around them hems the captives in more effectively than prison wall.

SAVED HIS DOG.

Policeman Would not Kill him for a Thousand Pounds.

A boy about ten years old went to the central police station in Kansas City, Kan., one day last week, leading a fine shepherd dog by a short piece of rope tied to his collar, relates the Kansas City Star. The boy's face was red and swollen and he was crying.

"Well, well, well, what's the matter here?" asked a big policeman, stooping down and looking into the boy's face.

It seemed like a long time before he could stop crying.

"Please, sir," he sobbed, "my mother is too poor to pay for a license for Shep, and I brought him here to have you kill him."

Then he broke out with another wail that was heard all through the city building. Shep stood there mute and motionless, looking up into the face of his young master. A policeman took out his handkerchief to blow his nose and the desk sergeant went out into the hall, absently whistling a tune which nobody ever heard before, while the captain remembered that he must telephone somebody. Then Chief McFarland led the boy to the door, and, patting him on the head, said kindly:

"There, little fellow, don't cry any more; run home with your dog. I wouldn't kill a dog like Shep for a thousand dollars."

"Oh, thank you, sir." They were tears of joy now. He bounded out into the street and ran off towards his home with Shep prancing along and jumping up and trying to kiss the boy's face. It was hard to tell which was the happiest, the boy or the dog.

A Sugar Barrel.

"A sugar barrel, boys!" What a scampering that announcement used to cause among the boys in the vicinity of a country store, a few years ago, when much soft brown sugar was used. The emptied hogsheads, with a luscious coat of sweetness adhering to the rough staves, were cast out in the back yard, much to the boys' delight. John B. Grozier, who spent his youth in Canada, recalls these "sugar-barrel" scenes from his own experience.

One of the boys was always on the watch as informal scout, to give notice to the

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rest of anything interesting and available in the way of fun. The empty sugar hogshead used to appear with considerable regularity. The scout would see it, and after a liberal taste himself, would rush to the mill-pond, where he would probably find the rest of us bathing.

"A sugar barrel boys!" was his greeting. It was enough. Putting on half of our clothes as we went, we would dash off after our guide, like a scattered train of camp-followers.

It must have been comical to see a dozen urchins straggling along picking their way barefooted over the rocks and rough ground; struggling to put on a ragged vest or a coat, while maintaining a sort of Indian jog-trot for fear of losing a share in the feast.

Then, lo, the hogshead; and into it the first comers rushed pell-mell. Those who came after contented themselves with hoping there would be enough for all; or possibly they obtained a morsel or two by clever reaching from the outside.

If your dealer has ever tried them himself he will certainly recommend Magnetic Dyes for home use.

Social Memory.

Henry Fawcett, says Sir Edward Russell, had an extraordinary memory for persons. One night Sir Edward was in the House of Commons, to hear a debate, under the gallery.

A friend introduced him to Mr. Fawcett who, learning why he was there, said:

"Oh, then you can look after my old father, and tell him who the people are. He is going under the gallery, too."

Three or four years later, Sir Edward was presented to Mr. Fawcett, who was then chief guest at a political dinner, and said to him in "the usual conventional mumble":

"I once had the pleasure of being introduced to you, Mr. Fawcett, but it's a long time ago."

"I remember," said he, "you very kindly looked after my father under the gallery at the House."

And this was the memory of a man totally blind.

As Placid as A. B. C.

Mr. De Guffy—"I suppose, Miss Myrtilla, that no mere man can ever fathom a woman's meditations about her Easter hat?"

Miss Myrtilla—"Oh! yes, he can, Mr. DeGuffy. If the woman is under thirty, the first requisite in a hat is beauty; if she is over thirty, the first requisite is its becomingness!"

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