



Consuelo's Slender Neck.

French Women Rave Over the New Duchess Because She Can Wear Trimmings.

Laces and Soft Things Round the Neck Are All the Rage in Paris.

LADY BLACKWOOD'S RUFFLES.

Princess Maude's Lady-in-Waiting Tries on Things for the Bride Prospective, and an Orleans Bride Must Travel All in White.

Paris, Dec. 27.—When I went to a modiste's to see a certain model this morning she was dressed in a wrap that was being inspected by an emissary of Lady Terence Blackwood. Her little American ladyship buys all her wraps and cloaks ready made, and she is not stingy in selecting them. She has \$10,000 a year as dower from her American father, and she appreciates the importance of a good street appearance. She is at home now with a young son, but her companion selects her robes for her.

Alice, the model, stood with her ladyship's wrap upon her, the picture of queenly bearing. The Elizabethan ruff of white silk around her throat gave great dignity to the carriage of her head, and, though the ruff was three inches deep all the way around, it did not hurt Alice's prettiness or interfere with the movements of her head.

I learned a thing or two about those full-neck ruffles that are becoming so fashionable again. They are good if set low upon the neck of the cape. High, they are an abomination. But low they are support, and prettily frame, the chin and cheek.

Her New Elizabethan Ruff. (Sketched in Paris.)



The Countess of Castellane's New Cloak. (Sketched in Paris.)

Queen Elizabeth wore hers as no other woman ever has, except the Parisian women of January, 1896. The little cape for Lady Terence Blackwood was black velvet. There were ten yards of velvet in it. The front consisted of three, very full, box plaits that fell straight from a broad yoke. The back was precisely the same. The sleeves were very full, black velvet, caught in a crinkly way above the cuff.

This catching down of the full sleeve is a feature of the Elizabethan sleeve now. The cuff of the sleeve is precisely as it was in the early Autumn, immense as shoulder and elbow and tight at the wrist. But the sleeve is made to sag a little, by gathering it at the outside just above the cuff. This is done in the lining, or upon the outside by the placing of an immense rose-ribbon. Lady Blackwood's cape, worn by Alice, has the caught-down place in the lining.

There were epaulets upon the shoulders of white silk, covered with point lace, and the cuffs were white silk covered with lace. The white silk was dull, purposely so, and the lace fairly laid out upon it like frost fretwork upon a window pane.

There are many interesting people shopping in Paris now. One of them is the Princess Maude, who is about to wed. The Princess does not buy her own gowns and wraps, but she sends a lady-in-waiting, and it is almost as interesting to watch her as it would be to see the Princess. The little lady-in-waiting who is now shopping for Princess Maude in Paris is a French girl named Marie. She is dark, but she isn't as lustrous as her lady-in-waiting. Strange that ordinarily beautiful French girls should choose such lovely companions!

I watched her trying on a travelling cloak for the Princess Maude. It can't be the one she will wear from Windsor when she starts North for Denmark with Prince Carl upon the wedding journey. It must be for the next day. Do you know why? Because it is a bit of royal etiquette that a royal bride must wear white, nothing but white upon her wedding day. White travelling dress, white cloak, white hat, with white plumes—all white.

I saw one of these white outfits for a bride of the Orleans family. And what do you think her travelling cloak was? Why, it was smooth either cloth, like a bride's Sweet, but I am sure that at home a bride would rather never have a wedding journey than start out in white elder cloth from head to heels, topped by a Marlborough hat with white plumes and with white slippers upon her feet.

Did you notice that I spoke of a Marlborough hat? Well, the Marlborough has been retired for the Marlborough. Little Consuelo is making such a rage here that everything imaginable is being named after the French woman who adores her and worships her pictures. You see Consuelo is all neck, and if these white outfits for a bride of the Orleans family are cut up on the side of the neck with a million fringes in gold to the man who will lengthen her neck by as much as an inch without killing her. The Marlborough hat is the big hat thing with drooping plumes that Consuelo and the Duke wear. She under the hat itself; he under the plume, telling you about the Princess Maude's cloak? It is purple and it drags upon the floor. You must have your opera cloak drag. Did you know it?

Two were white satin, and two black satin, and two very dainty colored ones embroidered with Dresden designs. The black satin corsets were pinked out with little colored flowers.

French women are gradually adopting the low-heeled English shoe for walking purposes, but for the house slippers with Louis Quinze heels are worn. Those of black satin are the best liked.

And when the French maid or matron of to-day has equipped herself with everything most charming in the snowy fabrics that cling nearest her person, and really seem more a part of her personality than her dresses, for the reason that they are supposed to be sacred from outside observation—when she is entirely satisfied in that respect she turns her attention to the toilet. Here the question of eyebrows presents itself.

Lovely New Lingerie.

Daintily Indeed Does the Up-to-Date French Woman Envelop Herself.

Garments That Are Part of Herself Because Not for Other Eyes.

Filmy White Creations Be-Laced and Be-Filled in the Most Delicate of Fabrics.

A FAIR YOUNG BRIDE'S "NITEYS."

The Equipment of a Fashionable Woman in Expensive Underwear is Not the Least Formidable Task in Organizing Her Trousseau.

Nowhere does the art of your true Parisian manifest itself more delicately than in the fashioning of women's underwear. Lingerie in the dainty word they apply to it. Lingerie! What a soft, suggestive sound it has! It breathes of whiteness, of tenderness, of filmy lace, of things that float and do not rustle, of delicate perfumes, of the dazzling skin of fair women.

How shall one begin to describe these things? In the trousseau of a young lady soon to be married the night gowns are made very full, of the sheerest linen and finest batiste. One gown is linen, made very full, with ruffles of the same, the ruffles being hem-stitched. Another one of the gowns had a square yoke, made of very fine tucks and Valenciennes lace, with a very full ruffle around the yoke edged with narrow Valenciennes lace. There were some very lovely silk night gowns also, and then the chemises! They were made of silk, linen, and the silk ones were cut round in the neck and trimmed with all lace ruffles. The linen gowns were cut square, with embroidered ruffles. The gowns were cut round.

As for petticoats, white middie-looking stuff, but more gorgeous. Some were made of silk, and others of very heavy satin. The one illustrated in the sketch is of rose-colored figured. The top flounce is of lace, the heading being covered with satin bows.

And—but there are garments to which one can refer only by innuendo. They are none the less worthy of the art that is brought to bear on all the other branches of lingerie, and they merit the sympathetic scrutiny of art lovers.

They are made very full in France, these garments of which I speak. They come down to the knees, and are cut up on the side a little bit. They are always made with a yoke band, and are very much befrilled with lace and jaunty little bows at the side.

The stockings were of the finest Hile thread, and some woolen, of the finest and softest. The stockings are either open-toed or embroidered. Some of the silk ones have lace set in over the ankles.

More important, as having a more intimate bearing on a woman's external appearance, are the corsets. French corsets are very short indeed, and give the figure a nipped look so characteristic of the French woman.

From Cloister to the Altar.

Boudoirs Instead of Dreary Cells and Other Innovations.

Fine Preparatory Schools for Matrimony Are Certain Austrian Nunneries.

The Inmates Are All Noble, and the Abbesses Nearly Always of Royal Blood.

REALLY CANDIDATES FOR MARRIAGE.

The Enthronement Recently of the Archduchess Maria Annunciata in the Prague Stift Was a Pompous and Regal Affair.

A nunnery of which the inmates are permitted to hold untrammelled intercourse with the world, in which the apartments are sumptuous and cheery boudoirs instead of dreary, barren cells, should certainly be named anything but a cloister. Under five such institutions are maintained in this misnomer in the Austrian Empire.

The nuns who there find shelter are all improvident members of the nobility and are not at all vowed to celibacy.

One of these historical retreats, the Prague Stift, has a prominent place in the public eye, in consequence of the proposed installation of last month of a new lady superior in the person of the Archduchess Maria Annunciata. The charming young princess, the second daughter of the Archduke Karl Ludwig, the brother of Emperor Franz Joseph, was appointed by His Majesty to the vacancy created by the marriage of Prince August Leopold, of Coburg.

The Austrians address the head of this institution as "Her Royal Highness, the Abbess," etc. etc. when the office is held by a woman not of royal blood.

Judging from the record of the Prague Stift, the abbesses have furnished had examples to the nuns. Most of them, after a very brief regime, have exchanged the jeweled crook for the bridal wreath. Maria Theresia, a daughter of the victor of Asperu, was married to Ferdinand, the King of the Sicilies; Maria Paristina became the spouse of King Alfonso XII.; Margherita Sophia, a sister of the present incumbent, is the wife of Duke Albrecht, heir presumptive to the throne of Wurttemberg. It seems, in fact, that the enthronement of a new abbess serves as a royal marriage to the young inmates of the cloister.

Notwithstanding the secular character of the Stift, the ceremonies connected with the enthronement of an abbess are fully as pompous as those associated with a similar event in a purely religious monastery. In the case of Maria Annunciata they lasted almost a week. Her Majesty's father, the Archduke Karl Ludwig, represented the Emperor. He was assisted by Count Thun and Count Boucquoy, both emissaries from the Imperial court. To insure the smooth carrying out of the programme a thorough rehearsal took place on the day prior to the enthronement. It began with a grandiose procession from the Koenigsburg to the Stift, where the noble nuns, all dressed in immaculate white of the richest fabric, joined it.

The pretty abbess wore an all black silk dress, with puffed sleeves, Stuart collar and a long train, covered with twelve rows of diamonds, a large diamond cross sparkling on her bosom and a string of brilliant pearls.

At the door of the Stift chapel, which had been transformed into a veritable flower garden, Count Sebenborn, the Cardinal Archbishop, handed the holy water to the Archduchess and the abbess. Twelve imperial chamberlains of ancient Bohemian families escorted the latter as a guard of honor into the church, where the ladies and lords of the Bohemian nobility and the functionaries of the Austrian court, army, State and navy, and of the municipality were already gathered. The Archduchess walked to a covered throne, near the altar, and vis-a-vis in the ladies' choir sat the Archduchess Maria Annunciata ensconced in cushions of velvet.

The ceremonies connected with the reading of the liturgy and the chanting were

Perils of Birds.

It seems almost incredible that a bird should break its wing in mid-air by the mere exertion of flight; yet four such accidents have been reported within the past two or three years.

A gentleman, while quail shooting near the pyramids, flushed an owl, and mechanically raised his gun, without any intention of firing, when, to his utter surprise, the bird twisted in its flight and fell to the ground as if shot. On examination the astonished sportsman discovered that the poor owl had broken its wing.

Birds that employ hair in building their nests sometimes come off grief by hanging, but I should say very seldom indeed in the following singular manner: A gentleman who had long been hunting on his farm one day noticed a small bird entangled in the hair of the tail of one of them. The little creature had evidently been fastened in bits of yarn or string are not at all uncommon, especially in the breeding season, and when the victim of this kind of mishap happens to get the impediment fastened in a tree or among stones death is pretty sure to be the result, unless prompt human aid is forthcoming.

Finally, it may be not uninteresting to glance for a moment at the way in which birds regard accidents to each other. I have seen them so devoted as to try to carry off their dead, and really make a sparrow trying to release another who had become entangled in a piece of horsehair attached to the bough of a tree.

From this to bloomers was an easy step, and the girls swing about the place now with the air of veterans. Of course the incorrigible "boys" indulge in any amount of good-natured chaffing, but the girls take it all in good part and continue to wear the bloomers.

The excitement created among the Berkeley girls who are not college students is quite tremendous, and it is not at all unlikely that the example of the collegians will be followed. Even in San Francisco there is talk among a good many young women of taking advantage of the bloomers in the future more than in the past. It is not unlikely that one of these fine days Market street will see the bloomer in considerable quantities, worn by the young women who set the pace in fashion's world, and are greatly rejoiced when comfort and fashion go hand in hand.

Metaphors Mixed Up.

During an exciting debate in the House of Representatives the members sometimes indulge in mixed metaphors. A member, referring to one of his colleagues, said: "The gentleman, like a mousetrap, is always putting in his car where it is not wanted."

Another member, in another speech, said: "The iron horse of stern necessity drags every heartstone." And another member, in a very forcible and dramatic manner, asked the House this startling question: "Would you stamp out the last flickering embers of a life that is fast ebbing away?"

Practical Building.

A farmer in the Kansas cyclone district was building a stone wall. He was putting it there to stay, building it five feet across the base and four feet high. A stranger came riding by, and seeing the work the farmer was talking, said to him, "You seem to be mighty careful about that wall. You're building her to stay."

"Taint no use," replied the stranger; "it'll blow over just the same." "Wall, let her blow over; she'll be a foot higher if she does," replied the farmer, continuing his work.

College Girls in Bloomers.

Odd Sights in the Classrooms of California's University.

"Co-Eds" Discard Dresses and Skirts and Make Comfort Their Watchword.

OTHER FEMININES GROW ENVIIOUS.

Not Unlikely That Berkeley and San Francisco Young Women May Try the Popular Costume in Every Day Life.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 4.—The State University at Berkeley has a bloomer brigade, and the "co-eds" need no longer look forward with horror to the rainy season, which has heretofore meant to them bedraggled and muddy skirts and dresses.

It is a novel sight in the university classrooms nowadays to see a demure row of young women in becoming bloomers, sitting, knees crossed and imbibing knowledge with an expression of comfort to which they were strangers before they banished skirts.

It is only a month since the university bloomer project was given its inception, but the movement spread with great rapidity as the excitement over the threatened war in England.

Berkeley girls are noted for their progressiveness. A little over a year ago they put their heads together and invented a rainy-day dress consisting of a skirt reaching to a short distance above the ankle. The limbs were increased in length, leggings, and all hands wore commonplace boots. Some of the girls were a little bashful about donning this dress, which is very like the costume so popular with the feminine bicycle rider whom Nature never intended should wear anything but skirts, but they are now so confident of their convenience sake they had best beware possible criticism.

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A Lecture at the University of Pennsylvania.

(Sketched from life.)



Archduchess Maria Annunciata, Lady Superior.

truffles, for they scratch and whine over it, and will not be satisfied even when their master opens the soil and lays bare the grayish white truffle looking pearl.

Every time a truffle is found the dogs stop and look at the pocket where the bread lies. In a begging attitude, and do not begin to hunt again until after the "re-pay." Food is doled out in the finest morsels, and yet before the day is over, though they still mechanically ask for the reward, they cease to eat it. They are the most tireless creatures imaginable. The assiduity of one in particular is extraordinary. She works from dawn until dark, collecting in these thin nearly empty stomachs, and yet with as much briskness and apparent enjoyment for the last as for the first.

"She has the brains of a whole litter in her," says the owner gravely. Her mother only had one pup in her birth, and he sincerely believes that the talents which might have been divided between five or six were concentrated in one.

Some of the more extreme Republicans of the House are anxious to have a little sport with Mr. Cleveland, in retaliation for the fun which Mr. Cleveland expects to have with them on the question of retiring the promissory and protecting the Government's store of gold. In order to get back at the President most effectively they say they will introduce resolutions for the investigation of the various phases of the Administration's foreign policy. One member wants to go into the Corliss affair with a view to showing how the blessed Monroe doctrine was there run into tatters by the ruthless claws of the British lion. The favorite scheme, however, appears to be an investigation of the Hawaiian episode. The particular effort to irritate and discredit the Administration is believed to have the sanction of Mr. Reed. In case the House does go into this sort of thing, before the winter is over we shall probably get lots of fun for our money.