

apace in the Northern mind as the last outcome of Southern violence and oppression, I have this to say: In the first place, there seems to be no reason for putting an evil and partisan construction upon the emigration of any class of American citizens, black or white, when the avowed object of the movement is to better their material prospects. During recent years, the flood of emigration from the Middle, Eastern and Northern states to the South and South-west has been simply immense,—more than 200,000 last year to Texas,—and from the lower and laboring classes, who have represented themselves as wretched in their former homes. Yet it would be folly for us to cry persecution and outrage against the people of those states. Why should the black citizen stand on different grounds from the white one in this matter? But there is, no

doubt, a very material factor concerned in this colored movement that does not operate elsewhere. The full and exact causes that have led to it are not yet clearly understood, but the indications are strong, and they are sufficiently familiar to be recognized right readily by the Southern people. When the movement is fully analyzed and its *animus* is disclosed, we feel sure there will be small difficulty in tracing it to the officious influence of those traffickers in a certain sort of spurious humanitarianism that seems to have followed the negro with fatal persistency through all his later history in this country, and which comes mainly from his so-called Northern friends and benefactors.

DUDLEY G. WOOTEN.

AUSTIN, TEXAS, June 1st, '79.

## HOME AND SOCIETY.

### Some New York Fashions in 1814-1830.

I DO not think that the girls of my youth were prettier than girls are now, nor do I give the preference to the fashions of that earlier day. Much of our dress was very absurd,—the short waists for instance, measuring not more than half-a-finger's length below the arm-hole. At one time (somewhere between 1815 and 1820), we wore white cambric dresses, even in the street, in winter, while slippers and silk or cotton stockings were the style, no matter how cold the weather. Many a time have I walked in Broadway when the pavement sent almost a death-chill to my heart. After a time, pelisses became fashionable,—a garment of fine cloth, or velvet, worn outside the dress and nearly, or quite, as long. The first winter, the skirts were flying, but afterward they were closed with buttons up the front. This was a step in the direction of comfort and common sense. By and by moccasins appeared; they were made of some soft leather and quilted silk, and finished with a narrow edging of fur about the top. Though very insufficient, they were a great advance on anything that had been worn before. It must be remembered that merino or raw-silk underwear, or anything resembling it, had not yet been heard of; moreover, there was such a rage for classic slenderness that those who wished to be elegant abhorred all clothing that increased the size and preferred to suffer from the cold rather than to look clumsy. It is wonderful that delicate people, or hardy ones, either, could survive such exposure.

Bonnets, on the contrary, were of more sensible fashion than has been seen for the last thirty or forty years; they really shaded and screened the face. Chip and Leghorn were the favorites for summer wear; white chip always seemed to me the most elegant, and was really the most expensive, as it soon lost its freshness, and could not, at that time, be "done up" like straw. Twenty dollars, or even more, were often paid for an untrimmed Leghorn bonnet: considering the difference in the value of money, and the immense difference in the scale of expenditure everywhere, this was a great price. But then we expected that a nice thing, once bought,

would last us a long time; our bonnets were done over and re-trimmed, and came out again as good as new next season—or, if we were of a frugal mind, for several seasons. Lined and suitably garnished outside, they also did duty for winter wear. Our facilities for shopping would probably seem limited at present, though the stores contained many very handsome articles. On this head, I may quote from a letter written in 1826:

"Dear —: You should have been furnished with handsomer muslin for the promised frock than that which accompanies this letter, but mother shopped for it, and the article of a very fine texture being difficult to get, her patience at last gave over, and she took this. Your work deserves better, I own, and if you have seen or heard of any fine jaconet cambric in town let me know, and it shall be exchanged."

It appears strange that there should be any difficulty about jaconet in stores that could furnish India mull, the most exquisite of cotton fabrics; but so it was. This was the age of white embroidery; we worked our dresses, our collars and our capes, while a frock or cap for "the baby" was a frequent offering of friendship or family affection. In those days, caps were an integral portion of the child. A baby without a cap, what a monstrosity would that have been! And, indeed, the innovation of having them wear only their own little naked heads, though it was a great saving of trouble, was not a movement in the interests of beauty. After I married and left town, in 1828, the letters from home would frequently contain such passages as this: "Elizabeth is getting on nicely with your little frock, and it will be a beautiful piece of embroidery." "I have begun your little cap; the shape is a clock-mutch, and I think the pattern very handsome." "Catherine was here last week; she is working a dress and cap to match for little Edmund; you know how elegant her work is, and it will be a beautiful suit." Alas! the little garments and the workers and the wearers have nearly all passed into oblivion together!

Our toilet-tables I used to consider very pretty; they were of half-moon shape, the top stuffed and covered with white, the frills, reaching to the floor,



of transparent muslin over some bright color. I cannot remember that there was ever much talk about the colors matching in our rooms or in our dress; such and such things, we used to think, "went well" together; but the subject of correspondences and contrasts was not, I fear, gone into very thoroughly. I can say for our furniture that, if not as elegant as now, it was at least, well and honestly made. There is still in our household a set of chairs which were bought in 1820. A few years ago they were re-seated, and if the modern work only holds out as well as the old, they are good for another half-century.

After the close of the war of 1812, a great impetus was given to dress; much was said of the general extravagance, the responsibility for which was laid at the door of the officers' wives! Unless they had something besides their husbands' pay to base their extravagance upon, it would seem as if malice itself could hardly venture on this charge. As an example, Mrs. Commodore P—— was said to have two dresses, the making of which cost \$50. One was a jaconet cambric, the skirt made with alternate rows of tucks and inserting (we didn't say *insertion* then), and the other some sort of black dress, I forget what. I give this bit of old-time gossip for what it is worth, not being able either to verify or refute it.

I have been refreshing my memory by the study of a miniature, owned and treasured by one of our household; it is painted on ivory, and was done in 1817. The original was a lovely young lady, often called the Belle of Long Island, and betrothed to a certain gallant commodore then stationed at Sackett's Harbor. The dark hair lies in a single large puff on the summit of the head; a curl falls behind one ear; there are a few twists and tendrils about the temples, somewhat after the present fashion, though the forehead is unobscured, and the parting of the front hair clearly visible. The light-blue dress has no waist to speak of, and is cut rather low, showing a good deal of the plump, pretty neck; a tall, transparent frill of embroidered muslin rises nearly to the ears behind, and tapers gracefully down to the front. The colors of this picture are unimpaired, and the hazel eyes look thoughtfully at you from the fair young face, though the beauty of which it is the image long since departed out of this world. It was intended that her wedding, which took place in November, 1817, should be a quiet one, but the bridal party, on arriving at the church, could hardly find standing-room, the beauty of the bride, and other ornamental circumstances of the affair, proving a great attraction to the public. There were several groomsmen, of whom General Scott, Captain Kearny of the navy, and James G. Brooks, the poet (a cousin of the bride), are all whom I can now particularize. The bride wore white Canton crape; the bridegroom and all the officers present were in full uniform. The bride's toilet for her journey to Sackett's Harbor, consisted of a dark-blue "habit," trimmed up the front with three rows of frogs, and a black Leghorn bonnet, lined and trimmed with black satin, and ornamented with three black ostrich feathers. (These habits were a close-fitting garment of cloth, taking

the place of a cloak or other outside wrap. Worn at first as a riding, or perhaps more properly, a traveling, dress, they gradually came into use for street wear, or for informal calls, made when one was out shopping or walking.) The dress-bonnet was of white Leghorn, with white lining and plumes. The wardrobe contained Canton crapes and India mull, but, so far as is remembered, not a single silk.

Silk was at one time cast into the shade as dress-material by Canton, and afterward by Nankin, crape; this last a finer and heavier variety. They made extremely handsome dresses, but so soft and clinging as to require a well-stiffened petticoat. Silk began to be in favor again about 1820, the Bolivar hat and the pelisse being made of it and forming a suit. This Bolivar consisted of a stiff, upright crown, from which protruded a flat, shelf-like brim, perhaps six inches wide in front and gradually sloping away into the crown at the back. Under the brim was a large rose with two or three leaves, the first flower I ever saw inside a bonnet. Merino long-shawls, with a broad border at the ends and a narrow one along the length, came up during the war, and were considered a part of a nice toilette. At first they were white, but black and scarlet soon appeared. Tortoise-shell combs and thread lace were among the desirable possessions of ordinarily well-dressed people; of jewels we heard but little. A person had a set of pearls, perhaps, or sometimes you saw a ruby or a diamond finger-ring, and one or two French girls whom I knew had diamond ear-rings, but precious stones of a high rank were very infrequent. I have kept to this day the slip of my wedding-dress,—white satin, with which an over-dress of lace was worn. It is brought out occasionally as a spectacle and wonderment to the young people, though not so effective in that line as it was fifteen or twenty years ago, when nine breadths of wide silk were considered desirable for a skirt. The waist is an eighth of a yard long below the arm-hole (we had come to the era of quite long waists then, we thought); the sleeves are a large puff, gathered into a band. The skirt measures two yards and a half at the bottom, and is perfectly plain at the waist, with the exception of about three inches in the back, where a few very small plaits are laid. Altogether, the *elegantes* of the present day would probably look with amusement upon our attempts at dress and decoration; but I can assure them that we felt just as well attired, just as absolutely *comme il faut* in our "best things" as they can in any possible combination of French taste and skill.

GORDON BREMNER.

#### Lawn Tennis.

THE charming illustrations by Du Maurier in the London "Punch," usually indicate the fashions of English society with point and fidelity,—not only in matters of dress, but also in the usages of the drawing-room and the customs of the field. If any particular game is in favor, its popularity is reflected in the pictures; and a consultation of the periodical for last summer would show how general a recreation lawn