

WHAT TO WEAR.

CHIT-CHAT ON DRESS. BY OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.

CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS FOR CHRISTMAS PARTIES.



"JILL."

may be acceptable, and shall begin with those which are particularly easy to make at home. Boys' costumes, as a rule, not being so easy as girls', I will discuss the boys' first.

Geneviève de Brabant gave prominence to a cook's dress, and nothing is easier—and I was going to say quainter. It must be all white, even to shoes and cotton stockings; the breeches are made of white linen, and fastened with three buttons at the knee, and over this is either a frilled blouse, full, and ending



FRENCH DRESS, 1787.

FANCY costumes are particularly well adapted to little folks, a fact which of late years has come to be recognised, and at many juvenile parties character costumes are *de rigueur*. In case any of my readers should receive invitations to such parties for the young members of their family, and be puzzled how to dress them, I propose to give some details that I trust

may be acceptable, and shall begin with those which are particularly easy to make at home. Boys' costumes, as a rule, not being so easy as girls', I will discuss the boys' first. *Geneviève de Brabant* gave prominence to a cook's dress, and nothing is easier—and I was going to say quainter. It must be all white, even to shoes and cotton stockings; the breeches are made of white linen, and fastened with three buttons at the knee, and over this is either a frilled blouse, full, and ending at the waist, or a white double-breasted tail-coat; the white apron must, *de rigueur*, be tucked into the waist, and the flat cook's cap be worn on the head. If you want any further decoration, you may wear the *cordons bleus*, display a bill of fare, or a saucepan; and should you prefer to be a pastrycook, you carry a wooden tray of cakes; or a baker, you carry a long Vienna loaf.

A clown—more especially the

French one, *Pierrot*—is very easily concocted. He wears long, loose, white trousers and blouse, with a row of coloured rosettes down the front, and has his face painted, and occasionally has a half-mask, black. An æsthetic clown is a good notion, with sunflowers and blue china plates worked over the white dress, a peacock's feather in the conical cap, a sunflower and a feather-fan carried in the hand.

A wizard, or astrologer, is easily managed: a black conical cap, with cabalistic insignia pasted on in gold paper, and a long black robe with the same, a wand in the hand, large spectacles, a ruff at the throat, made of treble box-plaited muslin, and pointed shoes.

Mirliton is a pretty dress for a boy, and of much the same cut as the clown's, only that the blouse is more close-fitting, but pointed cap, blouse, and trousers should be covered with inch-wide stripes of blue cotton, stitched on diagonally, so that they appear to be wound round and round.

A Christy minstrel, in striped linen coat and trousers, preposterously large collar, a black face, and a battered hat, is capital for a big boy, as some little fun can be brought to bear on the character.

Small boys dressed as Napoleon the Great, Dr. Pangloss, a jockey, Dick Turpin, and other well-known characters are irresistibly charming. As I have mentioned these, and you might select them, I must tell you how to dress them. Napoleon I. has a black cocked hat, with tricolour rosette, a large lapelled coat, white leather breeches, silk stockings, and shoes. Dr. Pangloss, a large-skirted, large-sleeved black velvet coat, with steel buttons, a very long waistcoat, black velvet breeches, ruffles, shoes with buckles, white wig, and spectacles. A jockey appears in a parti-coloured jacket and breeches of satin, cap to match, top-boots, a whip in hand. Dick Turpin, in a scarlet coat and waistcoat trimmed with gold braid and buttons, lace ruffles and cravat, leather breeches, high boots, and three-cornered hat and fancy wig, with pistols at the belt. I consider that the most



LADY OF THE TWELFTH CENTURY.



FISHWIFE.

favourite fancy costume for boys just now is the man-of-war's man, because everybody has a sailor suit; and the æsthetic costume, which is rendered by black pointed shoes, silk stockings, light velvet breeches, short jacket, and a large soft coat. An æsthetic green is really the colour that should be chosen, but a black velvet is as often as not adopted, and that can be worn afterwards in every-day life.

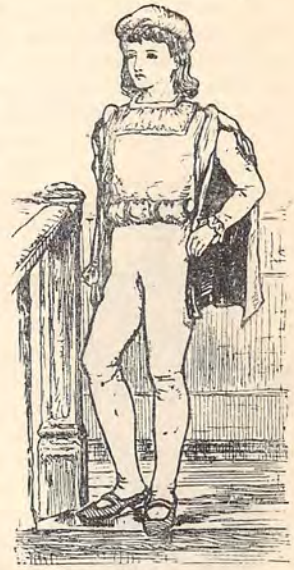
Any characters from the nursery rhymes and stories seem well adapted to children, and at one of the prettiest juvenile parties I have seen, no other costumes were admitted. Jack Horner in blue breeches and waistcoat, a red coat with gold buttons, a tricolour hat, and a plum hanging to his watch-chain, dragged by

the hand the very smallest brother, who personated Jack the valiant Giant Killer. The little fellow in his blue trunk-hose, close-fitting red habit, helmet, shield, and sword, seemed to have come direct from the kingdom of Liliputia. Boy Blue as Gainsborough painted him; Blue Beard with a thick beard of blue wool; Beauty and the Beast devoted themselves to "My pretty Maid," in a quilted petticoat, bunched-up chintz tunic, muslin kerchief, straw hat, and milk-pails; and to "Mary, Mary, quite Contrary," who had "cockle shells, silver bells, and pretty girls,



FORESTER.

all of a row" on her pink and blue gown; a châtelaine formed of watering-pot, hoe, rake, and spade at her side. Red Riding Hood, in red cloak and blue frock, was there, as well as Chaperon Rouge, the French and more dainty rendering of the same, viz., a red satin petticoat, black velvet bodice, white muslin apron, and red silk hood, a basket in the hand; and also Cinderella, both as a princess and a serving-maid, but in both cases displaying her crystal shoe — by-the-by, best made by covering a discarded white satin shoe



A PAGE.

with talc cloth. There were several other characters.

Kate Greenaway's heroines suit little people wonderfully well, and you can hardly do wrong in copying her illustrations faithfully. I have in my mind's eye a little damsel of eight years old, with auburn hair and sparkling eyes, who as Jennie won all hearts. She was not, as I have seen the character rendered, in black silk dress, muslin apron, kerchief and cap—captivating enough when a bright young face peeps from beneath—but in a short green skirt and pelisse, with poke bonnet and fur muff, a lace pelerine over her shoulders, and high-heeled shoes. Quaker's and quiet dresses, which elderly people might wear, are always piquant on a child, just as the garb of a baby

or of a schoolboy is extremely amusing worn by a grown man. Vandyck's famous picture of Charles I.'s children may always serve as a guide to a family group. The close lace cap, the long skirt, the bibbed apron suit little girls to perfection, and there is hardly a picture which Vandyck, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Gainsborough, or De Largillière painted of children which would not show to advantage if reproduced at a juvenile fancy ball.



MOORISH SERVANT.

If you wish to make a boy thoroughly happy, let him appear as Robinson Crusoe in knickerbockers and paletot and cap of fur, with robins sewn about it, a parrot perched on the shoulder, a belt round the waist, carrying a fowling-piece, pistols, hatchet, and



BARRISTER.

umbrella; and a little friend should be allowed to accompany him as Man Friday with blacked face and hands and feet, wearing a striped shirt and trousers. Lalla Rookh and other Eastern dresses suit dark girls well. If I describe Lalla Rookh I shall be describing the ordinary run of Oriental dresses. She has full red silk trousers to the ankle, a short petticoat to match, a green satin overdress with open sleeves trimmed with gold, a pink satin bodice over a gold-spangled chemisette. A few illustrations will make this paper of more practical use; they are as follows:—

No. 1. *Jill*.—In a flowered cotton frock and petticoat; soft silk kerchief, knotted at the throat. The large brim of the bonnet should be lined with a colour becoming to the wearer.

No. 2. *French Dress about 1787*.—Pale blue and yellow striped silk coat; yellow satin breeches; long blue waistcoat, fastening to the waist, then opening to disclose a blue under-vest trimmed with gold braid. Chain and seals hanging at the side. Large lace jabot in front, and lace ruffles at the wrists. White wig; tricornered black hat; gold-headed cane.

No. 3. *Lady of the Twelfth Century*.—Dark woollen dress, with three-inch border of contrasting colour; the long sleeves match the border, likewise the pointed

fichu in front. Velvet collar. The pointed head-dress is white and gold; the veil is white; a velvet band borders the edge, and lace frills fall on the hair. Gold ornaments, pointed shoes.

No. 4. *Fishwife*.—Woollen dress, either dark blue or dark terra-cotta red; soft silk pink kerchief for the head. Stockings striped to match dress.

No. 5. *Forester*.—Dark woollen tights, hood, and hose. Boots, belt, jacket, and gauntlets of soft leather. Felt hat; staff in hand.

No. 6. *Page*.—Tights and vest joined by ribbons, and showing a soft shirt at the neck, waist, and wrists. Hanging sleeves lined with a contrasting colour falling over close ones. Long hair and round hat.

No. 7. *Moorish Servant*.—Striped silk trousers; embroidered satin jacket; Oriental scarf round hips; soft muslin turban. The hands and face should be stained.

No. 8. *Barrister*.—Black gown, either in black lustre or rich corded silk; scarf in either black or crimson silk; wig; brief in hand.

No. 9. *Dutch Woman*.—Short-waisted dress, with square velvet-trimmed bodice; gauntlet sleeves with a puff of cambric at the elbow; elaborately gathered chemisette; lawn apron with handsome lace border.

In fancy costumes everything depends on brightness of colour, freshness, and suitability. Nervous children should not be put into dresses which are associated with a marked bearing or the quiet self-possession of a woman of the world; they can hardly help looking well whatever they wear, so let them have all the enjoyment they can.



DUTCH WOMAN.

PROFITABLE EMPLOYMENTS FOR GENTLEWOMEN.



HERE are certain things which people *must* have, and there are other things which people *will* have. Articles of clothing they must have; ornaments of various descriptions the majority of people will have. It comes within the province of gentlewomen to supply both these demands, not altogether in full, but if they will it so, certainly in the greater part. You may remember that when we last discussed the subject, I asserted that work well done would always find a customer; my further numerous inquiries

leave me still impressed with the same belief; there is but one proviso, that the work does not exhibit a fashion which is decidedly on the wane, or altogether obsolete.

With regard to the first and really the most important of the two classes above named: it is now midwinter, and the chief demand is for articles of warm clothing, for the kinds made by crochet and knitting needles. There is a constant sale for petticoats of all sizes, for vests, bodices, cardigans, veils, hoods, shawls, for socks and stockings of every size, whether for every-day wear or for shooting, fishing, and football purposes. The principal new additions made to these ordinary articles, long in usual demand, are knitted gloves; for these the knitter