

FANCY DRESSES.—We give below a description of costumes that may be of service to some of our friends when making a selection of a character for a fancy ball or party:—

"An *Albanian* dress is as follows: Loose cambric shirt, with frill at neck and wrist; short blue cloth jacket, with a row of closely set gold buttons down the front; full red trousers fastening at the knee, long white silk stockings, and red morocco shoes; silk scarf of many colors around the waist, knotted at the side, dagger attached with gold cord; red fez cap. Or maroon velvet jacket, vest, gaiters, and cap embroidered in gold, blue silk trousers, and scarlet shoes.

A *Danish Peasant* would wear trousers and undercoat of red cloth; white overcoat the shape of a frock coat, cut out at the neck, and bordered with gold braid, and confined at the waist with a red belt, to the right side of which a satchel is attached all embroidered in gold, sleeves with red cloth and gold braid at the wrist. Or as follows: Heavy boots, full loose trousers of green cloth drawn in at the ankle; red cloth jacket fitting closely to the figure, and buttoning down the front with small silver buttons, and having a row of silver braid around the front and armholes, no sleeves except shirt sleeves; knotted handkerchief at the throat, and a worsted cap made with a point such as seamen wear, only white instead of red.

Hamlet.—Black silk velvet tunic, with tights to match; white lace rufflers, black round cap with white feather, and long black cloth cloak; or scalloped black velvet jerkin trimmed with black jet and silk, black velvet sword belt, black velvet cap and black plume, black silk tights, and black velvet shoes, with white puffs.

Frust.—Green velvet jacket, trimmed with gold braid, white satin trunks, white silk tights, green boots, and circular silk cape.

A *Mexican Brigand* would wear a red coat with gold facings, blue pantaloons embroidered with gold, white vest, yellow sash, and a broad brimmed hat with feathers. Another Mexican costume would be light cloth trousers cut open below the knee, and decorated with gold buttons, to allow a plaiting of fine linen to be visible, embroidered jacket, with bows on the shoulders, scarlet silk sash, turned down collar, blue silk cravat, and a straw hat, with feather at the side. This may also be made in nankeen. Mexican costumes are very picturesque, richly embroidered, and of bright colors. The men wear an ample scarf of gay colors, with an opening down the centre to allow the head to pass through, and when on, they throw an end over the left shoulder. Their broad-brimmed hats, or sombreros, are made of the fur of the llama, dyed straw color. The trousers are a mixture of cotton and wool, embroidered in colored silks and spangles, the trimming being carried in a stripe down the outside of the leg, the jacket is short, and edged with the same, a knotted scarf goes around the waist.

Some of the following costumes may prove suitable for a young gentleman of twenty:—

Arab Scribe.—Shirt and trousers of white Cashmere, red sash, white turban, slippers with turned-up toes.

Peramoy.—Black velvet trousers, white cambric shirt, trimmed with lace and silver buttons; colored silk scarf around the waist; velvet cap.

Bohemian.—Velvet jacket, scarlet breeches embroidered in gold; silk hose, gray cloak, with gold cord and tassels.

Carmelite Friar. with cloak, rosary, and rope.

The Cure.—Blue and white satin or cotton jacket, short trousers to match, and a high-peaked hat, with bow at top.

Dick Turpin.—Scarlet coat, white satin vest, embroidered with gold, high black Jack boots, three-cornered hat, and pistols.

Page of time of Elizabeth.—Blue and gold doublet and trunks slashed with white satin, silk hose, cap, and feathers.

Edward VI.—Blue velvet coat, trimmed with gold; blue velvet sleeves, with white satin puffs, trunks of the same, sword belt, etc.; velvet shoes, with satin puffs trimmed with gold; blue cap and white plume.

Ethiopian Serenader.—Greek Dress.—Skirt and bodice of crimson Cashmere, embroidered in gold; black velvet jacket, embroidered in gold; gaiters, cap, and silk trousers to knee.

Harlequin.—Court Jester of Henry VIII.'s time.—Coat and breeches of blue and white Cashmere;

sleeves of the same, lined with crimson silk; cap of blue and white Cashmere; the whole covered with bells.

A *Jockey* or a *Venetian* costume.—Jacket of black satin, the basques edged with gold; waistband of gold; sleeves slashed with Solferina satin, as are the short full trunks; gray satin hose, black satin boots, small pointed cap of black satin, ornamented with birds' wings.

Nourmahal, from Moore's 'Lalla Rookh' was dressed as follows at a recent fancy ball; Short skirt of amber satin, trimmed with blue and gold; body of amber satin, richly studded with jewels; blue and gold sash, and blue and gold cap; pearls in the hair; white full trousers, spangled with gold; white and gold slippers; feather fan."

A **SMART AGENT.**—"Sir," said a tall, thin man, clad in a worn, very shining garb, suddenly appearing in the room, "I have ventured to call to lay before you one of the most astonishing inventions of modern times." They all begin in some such impressive way as that. "A gas-burner, sir." I was but arranging some papers in a corner, and having both hands full, with a pen held crosswise in my mouth, I was for the moment quite at his mercy. "Perhaps, sir, you are aware that in the case of every kind of burner but this I now show you, gas gives off a most noxious effluvia, having a peculiarly ruinous effect upon the eyesight." By this time I had emptied my hands and mouth, and was advancing upon him. Fixing his eyes upon mine, he started back in distressful horror. "Heaven help us, sir!" he exclaimed; "how you have suffered already! Your sight, sir, would not last six months longer. This must not be."

Before I could say a word or lift a finger to stop him, he rapidly glided past me to the table on which the lamp stood. With a nimbleness which rooted me to the spot in apprehension, he whipped off the shade, then the oil burner. In a moment the lamp was a ruin. "It is a mercy of Providence, sir, that I happened to call."

"Stop!" I called. "Replace everything as it was instantly."

"The number of cases of premature blindness," he calmly proceeded, "that I have had the gratification of preventing makes my labor a most pleasant one."

Thinking he might be deaf, I bawled, "I don't want your burner; I won't have it; take it off," for he was lightly twirling the new one in its place.

"There, sir; you will feel thankful to me as long as you live. The only thing that troubles me in the matter is, I know I am ruining the spectacle makers."

"Do you hear?" I asked. "I shall not pay you for it."

He struck a very effective attitude. "Payment! Of what consequence is that? I could not remove that inestimable burner for any amount of money, when the alternative is the ruin of your valuable eyesight. For, sir, your eyes are worth many burners. I make you a present of it willingly. I am a poor man, under heavy travelling expenses, and I have a family in want." He sighed. "But duty shall be done. The price is threepence-half-penny, or three shillings a dozen. I know you will regret this momentary harshness in long years to come, when you are enjoying the benefits of that burner. But that is not my affair, though I am sorry to think of it. Good-morning, sir! If at any time, no matter how long an interval, by some inconceivable accident anything should become out of order in it, you will find the name of the manufacturers stamped on the side. Be good enough to drop a line to their well-known house at Glasgow, and a man will instantly be sent to attend to it."

I was beaten. This offer to send a man from Scotland into the heart of England, after the lapse of years, to put a gratuitously bestowed threepence-half-penny gas-burner to rights, was too much for me. I had to make a purchase.

TAKE your choice:—

"An Albany, N. Y., clergyman recently requested his congregation not to use fans during the service, as the constant motion all over the church was very annoying, and prevented him concentrating his thoughts."

"A Louisville paper finds fault with a clergyman for fanning himself vigorously while going through the service."