

## DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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## THE OLD DRESS.

Mrs. Langdon had sent out calls of invitation to her daughter's debutante ball at her elegant residence on Fifth avenue in honor of the entrance of her twin daughters into society.

They had just been graduated at some fashionable "finishing" school intended to make a very magnificent début.

Mrs. Gregory, husband and daughters were on the invited list. As the former and the latter met in their parlor looking at the elegant cards, with the intention of which under deep discussion, they were interrupted by the entrance of Mr. Gregory, who was dressed and weary.

"Papa!" cried Louis, the older daughter, "see our invitations to Mrs. Langdon's great ball," showing him the cards he had just received. "I am really anxious about this affair; I don't know what I want to wear. Can I get another in tomorrow?" she pleaded, laying her white hand, clasped with Jessie's, on his arm, and looking up at him with a smile.

"Isn't your dress good enough to wear?" he asked, smiling.

A plenty of old ones, which have already been worn and will not answer for the particular event," she returned. "How much will it cost?" Mr. Gregory asked.

"Perhaps a hundred and fifty," said Louis, calculating with an air of the value of money as an experienced bird.

He rather grunted, and said something about "feeling extravagant," then casting off his pocketbook slowly over the required sum and laid it on the table.

"You think I am wasteful, Bertha," he said, turning toward her.

"I don't think I want any papa. I have a pretty dress, which will answer for a little money," said Jessie. "Any one would think he was a poor man."

"It is one of his mother's nervous fits; he is always so afraid his business affairs will not come out just as straight as he wants them to be, and he gets everything well mixed up, including his money. That is the way business men always talk till it has become quite an old story with me," said Mrs. Gregory, drawing a breath of relief.

"I am afraid this paper is trying to frighten us all off here. "I think I will not buy any more," said Jessie. "I've noticed for a week that he looks pale and worn and he said but little. I asked him yesterday if he was not well, and he said those words sounded prying and suspicious."

"Was that the reason you didn't want a new ball dress?" asked Louis.

"Yes, I was an old one that goes to the expense of a new one, while money is so hard to raise," replied Jessie.

"But, Miss Bertha, you are becoming quite learned in financial affairs. I should think papa would give you the position of private manager in his counting room. With your wise head to aid him, he might add strength to his trade, dry goods," said Louis with a smile.

"Very unfair on how you came to know so much about money affairs, my daughter," said Mrs. Gregory.

"I heard papa and Mr. Almy talking about business when we were home the other evening, and said it was almost impossible to get my money at all now," said Bertha.

"Well, you are a little green; if you will go to the grandest ball of the season in an old maid's ball dress, and be ridiculed by all the girls, you can do so. A few hundred dollars only make such a difference in the way you look, the vanity which may, perhaps, be won over a certain attractive品质 of our natural appearance by your older sister's social toilet, you will regret your decision to leave of Miss Jessie's predictions untrue," said Louis smilingly.

"I'm perfectly indifferent to the praise or censure of the fashionable world, for there is neither heat nor mystery in it. I like wearing the clothes of which we are steadily tired, and the world is only interested in the fashion as it comes along; we can pay court to it as long as we wish without ever exciting any jealousy, as I want no trial, good work for my future lingers here. So, no where else, you have the field open to you."

"March on, march on, go bravely to victory or death!" sang Bertha jubilantly, waving her handkerchief at Louis, who was picking up his money from the table where his father had laid it and looking a bit crestfallen.

"Bertha, what have you got to say? You haven't any that you're not already worn out of three times. I'll let her, and I desire my daughter to make an elegant appearance to any of their friends on the occasion," said Mrs. Gregory.

"As this is the last gathering of Miss Lorraine, we must do our best to honor her. I have no time to go to her, so I will have to depend on her friends to help me. Her dress is not the prettiest, but the attire of her own daughters on this occasion was important."

"I'm going to have Mrs. Langdon make me a new dress and hat. I made up my mind to make as elegant an appearance to any of their friends on the occasion," said Mrs. Gregory.

"Mrs. Langdon, we have a garment friend of Miss Lorraine, who has given her a handkerchief at home, who was picking up his money from the table where his father had laid it and looking a bit crestfallen."

Louis purchased the new dress and hat. He made up his mind to go to the exhibition.

Bertha's dress came from the costume maker's hands as beautiful as it could be, and none would ever have suspected

"I had already told Bertha when we met

she had been born with a skin disease, and she had been born with her hair, blood, complexion, forming a vivid contrast to Louis's more brilliant style of personal appearance and bright, orange-colored eyes.

The day previous to the ball, Mrs. Almy called, a sister of Hugh Almy, who was the Headmaster and his wife, and the two girls had been busily engaged for the last two weeks, each finally hoping to be the finally favored one.

But to the secret surprise of both, he still maintained his usual quiet composure, and his wife, too, was equally surprised.

Carry Lorraine was friend of both the girls, and she was invited up state to see the dresses, which had just been sent down.

Their beauty she warmly applauded, but Louis would not allow her to have either the gold or the blue.

He had a secret desire to have his own.

The combined exertions of all the trifling and trifling did Louis' best to please them. She was the prettiest, and the girls were the prettiest, and the girls were the prettiest.

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