DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Saturday. - - - October 31, 1868.

THE GRECIAN BEND.

The last female folly is the "Grecian bend." We believe the "Grecian bend" has not yet reached the Pacific Coast, but is raging at Saratoga and other fashionable watering places, and may be expected in the cities this winter. Our readers do not know what a "Grecian bend" is. It is a very disagreeable thing to describe, but the journalist is bound to watch over the physical and moral welfare of the community, and warn his readers against whatever threatens the peace of their homes or the health and reputation of any class of the people.

The "Grecian bend" is the last female folly in the fashionable world. It is a side growth of the Black Crook and White Fawn system of social morals, inasmuch as it springs from a tendency toward an open disregard of that feminine delicacy and decency which were once the universal rule of American society, but which have been so painfully invaded by the importation of the nude drama, with all its demoralizing effects. A Saratoga correspondent thus describes this new monstrosity:

In the first place a toilet is affected, which of itself suffices to turn a woman in full dress into a caricature. The body and waist of the dress are remarkable in only one respect—the last is exceedingly tight, and the former rather loose at the top and exceedingly low. It is below the waist that what is monstrous in the costume first attracts and repels the eye of man. A hoop of moderate dimensions, overspread with an underskirt or two, and a dress of whatever fabric are worn. Underneath the rear of this hoop, just below the waist of the person designated, is bound a coil of wire from two to three inches in diameter, which "throws out" and elevates the upper portion of the dress behind, and forms the foundation so to speak, of an exterior proturberance called the *panier*. The *panier* is a bustle, more or less enormous, upon which, in successive folds or layers gathered up, or confined by a band encircling the dress from the stomach of the wearer around and beneath, an extra shirt, reaching just below the hips, hangs, or rather "wobbles" to and fro. The dress has a train from four to six feet in length.

This dress in itself might not be more ungraceful or "loud" than many another that has preceded it. That it violates the first canon of good taste, which makes any woman badly dressed who is conspicuously dressed, is true, but we have all long ago surrendered that point at discretion. But the "Grecian bend" consists not so much in the peculiarity of the costume as in the fashionable method of carrying it off, which is thus graphically described by the same writer.

"The posture affected in order to set off this attire is called the "Grecian bend," a contortion of the body, which, as it is highly improper of itself, I find difficult to describe with propriety. High-heeled boots dispose the wearer to incline forward, and high-heeled gaiters are adopted by the "belle of the season." She is thus the more enabled to elevate her hips unnaturally behind, enhancing the aspect of the *panier*, to contract her stomach, and to form the S-like curvature of her upper shape by thrusting out her chest, drawing back her shoulders and bending forward her head. So bent and deformed, the belle constrains her elbows against her sides, and with horizontal forearms and little gloved hands dangling from limp wrists, tilts painfully along. The profile of such a figure and its ungraceful gait, are irresistibly suggestive of a lame kangaroo. When it is whirled and tossed about in a dance by one of the fashionable jumping-jacks in black broadcloth who are here so numerous and so much alike that you can hardly tell one from another, the sight—what with the bobbing up and down of the woman's *panier* and the agile sidelong leaps of the jumping-jack across the immense trail piled on the floor—is too exasperatingly ridiculous for laughter."

Perhaps the greatest outrage about this odious fashion is giving it the title of "Grecian." We are also in the habit of associating the word with the noble simplicity of drapery which characterized the earlier sculptors, and with the exqusite grace and natural dignity of the female form which constitute the glory of the undraped Venus de Medici, that we protest instinctively against the use of the word to describe this modern abomination of dress and posture.—[*Gold Hill News.*

FRIVOLITY FROM IGNORANCE.—It is ignorance which renders women frivolous. When they arrive at a certain age, without habits of application, they can not acquire a taste for them; whatever is serious appears to them sad; whatever demands continued attention fatigues them. The inclination for amusements, which is strong in youth, and there an ample of persons of the same age, have inspired them with a dread of an orderly and laborious life. They do not understand the importance of domestic occupations, unless their mothers have taken pains to instruct them. In this state of things, a girl abandons herself to indolence, which is a languor of the soul. She accostoms herself to sleep more than is necessary for her health. Too much sleep enfeebles her, and renders her delicate, whereas moderate sleep and regular exercise would produce gaiety and strength. Idleness and weakness being united to ignorance, there arises from this union, a taste for pernicious amusements. Girls brought up in this way have an ill-regulated imagination. Their curiosity, not being directed to substantial things, is turned toward vain and dangerous objects. They read books which nourish their vanity. Their minds become visionary, and are spoiled for domestic life.—[*Omaha Herald.*

The way women of "respectable appearance" go on a spree in Cincinnati is to take a hack and ride from one saloon to another, taking a drink at each without getting out: One brought up at the police station the other day with $300 in her pocket.

"Is your father at home?" inquired the man of the little girl who admitted him. "Is your name Bill?" "Some people call me so," he replied. "Office he is not at home, for I heard him tell John to say he is not at home if any bill came.

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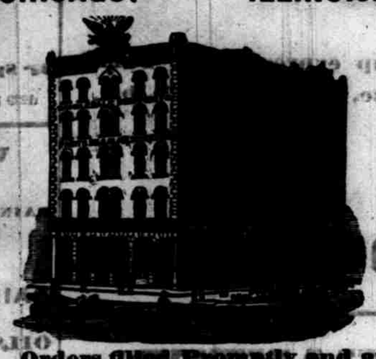

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