The Ways of Womankind

BRIDES AND BRIDAL TOURS.

Bab Chats Merrily on the Wedding Functions of the Spring Season—Some Queer Types of Men.

[Copyright, 1898.]

The entire city of New York is permeated with the Easter bride. When she hadn't happened to be married yesterday in this very town and to be letting her bliss in a big hotel, she was married the day before out of town and has come here to learn how it is to be called "Mrs." and to control a man. She is convinced that everybody regards her as an old married woman, whereas she bears the stamp of newly wedded bliss as plainly on her countenance as the finest silver does the ball mark. The Easter weddings were many, but all of a kind. The fashionable bride is after the French style. She looks as if her wildest dissipation had been a view of the sociological garden and the only books she had ever read had been "Alice in Wonderland" and those illustrated by Kate Greenaway. She is the most innocent looking thing that ever deceived a man. She is married in a white satin gown very high in the neck, with sleeves that fit her arms closely and come in valois fashion far down over her hands, while in one hand she carries either a white kid or an ivory prayer book framed in silver and with a spray of orange blossoms tied on it. And she looks as if she were frightened to death, not because she is getting married, but because it is the thing to have that gentle gamble, scared sort of look at the accomplishment of what you have been aiming at for some time. As a picture nothing could be more absolutely delightful. It has had the effect of causing a number of wicked old men about town to wear bitterly, presumably for their loss of innocence.

I love a bride, and I pity a bridegroom. He is so humble, so slavish and so certain to begin in the wrong way. The average bride of today who has come to New York on her wedding trip may be found almost any afternoon when the sun shines—and the sun has a fascinating way of shining almost every day—drinking soda water and holding on to the young man whose name she condescends to bear as if she were afraid some girl were going to run away with him. She walks him up the street exactly as if she were exercising a puppy. Everything she wears matches so exactly that if you could not tell she had lately entered the holy state of matrimony by the glitter of her wedding ring you would know it because his gloves and hers are of exactly the same tint, while his scarf is made out of a piece of the silk that is combined with the cloth in her going away frock. He does love her so!

She condescends to him as if he had never been any place before, and she believes as she walks into the Waldorf dining room, attired in a pale blue wrapper trimmed with white lace and swan's down, that the smiles that greet her are those of approbation and not of amusement. She is supremely disgusted because he—there is only one he to her—has registered them as "Mr. John Brown and wife" rather than "Mr. John Brown and lady," and she tells him that if the people at home should see that they would know he thinks mighty little of her to put her down in black and white in that way. The poor wretch may endeavor to persuade her that what he has done is right, but she will be exceedingly indignant for a full hour, and the only way he can bring her back to her original state of amiability will be by parading her down street, starting with lace into the shop windows and eventually buying her a new bonnet.

When they go to walk, she cuddles up to him, and the other day, after she had advised him about the flavor of his soda water, she noticed that a girl was looking at him, and she clutched one of his hands as if she feared he were going to be led astray at once by "one of those wicked, wicked women who are always looking around for nice men." She believes, sweet innocent, that every woman she sees wants her and that each one is laying a trap to induce the man of her heart to stray from her. It is beautiful to see her in the reading room of the hotel when she is writing a letter to the people at home. After one page has been written it is cried about to him and for the benefit of everybody around, and, although he blushes and whispers that he doesn't think she ought to talk so loud, she has him for the time being so completely under her control that he doesn't even dare say his soul is his own and demand her to keep silence. I often wonder what her face will be when New York will be, but general inquiry has proved that there is no next visit and that once he gets her home he never lets her wander from her own fireside, though for the next 20 years she lays in telling of what she thought of the great city. Poor soul! After all, she isn't a bride but once in her life—that is, generally—and it is only right and just that she should be the person in power when she first appears as "Mr. John Brown's lady." She undergoes so many emotions. There is pathos on her face at Grant's tomb joy on her countenance as she chines to Mr. Brown's arm and gazes at the animals in the park and a patronizing smile on her entire person and an evident desire on her part to sing "The Star Spangled Banner" when she goes down the bay to see the Goddess of Liberty. She has quite made up her mind that John shall go and fight for three years, dear sailors who were killed on the Maine, and in her heart of hearts she thinks how portfully lovely it would be to be making up boxes of list and Scotch whisky and pound cake to strengthen him during the wartime while she pictures him as coming back with more gold lace and buttons about him than were ever worn off the stage. She never thinks of him as being among the killed. None of us ever thinks of trouble on our wedding trip. It would less all of its delight if we did.

Apropos of wedding trips, what do you think of the latest achievement of the handsome young woman who bears the title of the Countess of Warwick, but who is commonly known as the "Babbling Brook" owing to her propensity to tell those things she ought not to tell and to keep quiet about those things of which she should speak? She believed in Dr. Schenck, and she has given confident, living proof of the strength of her belief. It makes everybody much more interested in reading "The Massarenes," Ouida's latest book, in which London society is portrayed as seen through clear glasses, but by a cynic. The characters all represent well known people. The chief lady villain, who is particularly villainous in a nineteenth century fashion, is pretty enough like a woman to be pretty dressed, but above all things her power and she should be prominent. So that when it comes to a milky woman and new clothes and a jealousy woman and old clothes they are certain to choose the latter. Men hate sulkiness in a woman. They count it as their own prerogative. Personally, the conclusion I have come to is that what a man really likes is a thoroughly good, healthy, violent temper that bears itself out in words and is ready to be steadily every afternoon. There is a type of man that likes dishes thrown at him, but he is special rather than general. There is another kind that is best governed by a violent attack of hysteria, but with that sort of man the game is not worth the candle, but anything, either plates or hysteria, rather than sulkiness!

You know what a mania there has been for Scotch books. The mania has not taken me, for the Scotch language is a something beyond me. The other night I was told a story by a Scotchman which requires a translation to go with it, but which shows the possibilities of the Scotch language. It is said that the famous Duchess of Gordon went into a shop to buy some cloth, and the following was her conversation with the Scotch shopkeeper as she looked at the fabric she liked:

"Oo?" (Wool?)
"Ay, oo." (Yes, wool.)
"A' oo?" (All wool?)
"Ay, a' oo." (Yes, all wool.)
"A' oo oo?" (All one wool?)
"Ay, a' oo oo." (Yes, all one wool.)

What do you think of that? I no longer wonder that the Scotch are successful in life, for any people that are so

BALLROOM FASHIONS FOR THE COMING SUMMER.

[Copyright, 1898.]

The summer girl is just now thinking of the day times that she will have at the early balls given at the great waterier places. Already she is designing the dresses in which she will dance, and so there are offered for her some special Parisian designs that may give her a hint or two and which show her how the fashionable French girl dresses when she goes to a ball. An extremely pretty dress (No. 1) is made of embroidered crepe de chine over white silk. About the foot is a border of pale lilac satin ribbon, and with narrow black velvet ribbon, while straps of the blue ribbon bordered in the same way go down each side of the front width. The bodice is of the embroidered crepe de chine, and the full frills that form the sleeves are of the blue ribbon edged with black velvet. The belt is of blue ribbon, with a rosette on the left side. Long white gloves are worn, and the tiny feet are dressed in pale blue silk stockings and blue satin slippers. The hair is in the received pompadour fashion, and a tuft of blue feathers, with a high aigret coming from them, is the head decoration.

A simpler costume (No. 2) is of fine pink cashmere. The skirt is bordered with white satin, overlaid with guipure lace, while the bodice is entirely of the white satin, covered with guipure lace. The sleeves are formed of loops of deep ruby velvet, while the belt, a crushy one, is also of the ruby velvet. The satin. The front is of pale green mousseline de soie, laid in fine plaits and decorated by two broad stripes of black lace. The bodice has a flaring collar of white satin, covered with black lace, and a vest front of white mousseline de soie, overlaid with black lace. The sleeves are of the mousseline de soie, veiled with black lace, and come far down over the hands. About the waist is a crush belt of purple velvet. The gloves are of black undressed kid. The stockings are of black silk and the high heeled slippers of black satin.

called by her friends, "le Mouse," and the tiny, innocent little creature—innocent of all good—is said to have been intended for Lady Brooke, just as her husband is reputed to represent the late Duke of Marlborough, while the parvenues who bought their way into London society are a well known family of English birth who made their fortune in the Nevada mines.

It is funny how many women omit the getting of their Easter bonnets to the very last thing and then are dissatisfied with them. As a natural sequence comes a bad temper. That doesn't give a pretty look, for it makes the wrinkles come, shrivels the skin about the eyes, changes the mouth into a hideous shape and draws the lips together after the fashion of a steel purse. Every blessed woman had plenty of time to get her Easter gown and bonnet, but the general one only decided just what she wanted a week before, and the most obliging dressmaker in the world has not learned yet how to when she has 500 frocks on hand, to make each of the 500 first, each becoming and each well fitting. The smartest milliner you ever talked to can't toss up a bonnet like an omelet, and the consequence is a lot of disappointed women who consign of dressmakers and milliners and call them everything disagreeable, covering the alphabet of unpleasant words from alpha to omega.

A disappointed woman is always a great mistake—that is, the one who shows her disappointment. She will cry—ergo her nose will be red. She will be cross—ergo her digestion will be out of order. She will sulk—ergo the man into whom her heart goes out will direct her for another woman whose face is wreathed in smiles, even if it should be framed in an old bonnet. Men commended in their language, chopping off their words in the fashion that the average Scotchman does, must understand the noble art of saving to the last drawer. Yet I have liked some Scotchmen. Haven't you? Ah, my friend, I know that as well as I do that there are charming men of all nationalities, and you and I would be very poor types of women if we did not recognize their charms when we met them. Hush! Oh, by their general meanness—usually, though, by the fact that they are intensely appreciative of your charms and of the charms of

Bab

Caprices of Fashion.

A new tea gown is of light green silk muslin, with bands of satin, and pale yellow lace and a touch of light blue at neck and belt.

A trimming gaining in popularity is the fringe in all styles, that of chenille perhaps leading in favor when used on dinner and evening gowns.

A pleasing blouse is of antique ivory satin, tucked in vandyke across the front, opening with a frill fastened with turquoise buttons to show a vest of yellow lace.

On some of the new evening gowns, where three or four frills of mousseline de soie form the sleeve, each frill is edged with small paste diamonds.

Turquoise is a very popular jewel in Paris and is worn in amazing profusion. Muff chains are set with them, ribbon slides, collarettes and stickpins also bearing a bit of blue gem.

THE MOTHERS' CONGRESS.

Enthusiasm Among the Women of America Over the Approaching Convention to Be Held In Washington.

[Copyright, 1898.]

There has never been a society formed in the history of America that has attracted and held the attention of women as has the National Congress of Mothers, and necessarily so. Every woman on the face of the earth is a mother at heart unless indeed she be a monster in feminine shape. The majority of women have children of their own, either fruit of their bodies or adopted to them mostly by ties of blood. Every woman feels herself, or herself not a child, then some other dear one who is in some way dependent upon her.

When Mrs. Theodore Birney made public her thought for a national organization of mothers, from a small a germ that summoned the whole mother clan to her side. The first congress last year in Washington was a surprise even to the enthusiastic founder. Hundreds of women were crowded out at each session owing to the impossibility of accommodating the eager crowds. Child life and motherhood were treated in all their aspects by the able speakers, and absolute satisfaction and harmony prevailed throughout the entire session. To an outsider the absence of hitch or confusion and the calm demeanor and decisions of the president were evidences that this movement was not only the outcome of thought, continued and concentrated thought, but the life purpose of a noble, wise woman. One used to the average or even the superior woman's club and the administrators was especially struck with the gentle and firm dignity shown in moments of crisis by a woman who started this gigantic movement with only knowledge or experience to guide her.

This year the board of officers who are arranging for the coming congress have something to guide them in their preparations. The work has grown tremendously during the past year, and Mrs. Birney could easily keep busy 25 hours of the five allotted to the secretary who are at present employed. The chief work of the secretary and her assistants consists of correspondence with and advice to mothers' clubs all over the country, the distribution of circulars giving details of proposed work and the keeping of records. Recently, in response to urgent demands on the part of clubs and of individuals, there has been organized a book department, and arrangements have been made to fill all orders for books recommended by the congress as suitable for children or for mothers' clubs. Among the books recommended by the congress are Felix Adler's "Moral Instruction of Children," Froebel's books, "A Study of Child Nature," by Harrison, "Children's Rights," by Kate Douglas Wiggin; Hill's "Children of the Poor," Fernald's "The New Womanhood," "Nursery Ethics," by Florence Hull Winterburn; "Little Knights and Ladies," by Margaret E. Sangster, and "In the Child's World," by Emma Poulsson. Copies of all the discussions of last year's congress are also issued from the office at the small sum of 25 cents.

The forthcoming congress is to be held the first week in May in Washington, as before. In 1897 the meeting will be held in another of the large cities of the country, to be selected at the coming congress. It is the intention, however, that in each alternate year the gathering shall occur at Washington. The programme is not, of course, finally and absolutely settled upon. Many eminent authorities on child culture with whom Mrs. Birney is in communication have not as yet given a definite answer as to whether it will be possible for them to be present or not, but of those who, it is expected, will address the meeting the following names have been given: Dr. Stanley G. Hall, the president of Clark university; Professor Charles Thurber, Mrs. Mary Lowe Dickinson, Dr. Minot J. Savage, Mrs. Maud Nathan, Dr. A. Graham Bell, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford of the Philadelphia board of education, Dr. Martin W. Barr, Rev. Anna Shaw, Dr. J. Madison Taylor, Mrs. Alison Hensley, Dr. Mary Wood Allen, Mrs. Harriet Neil of kindergarten fame, Booker T. Washington, the witty champion of the colored race; Mr. Hobart Richards, Mr. J. Wilson Gill, Miss Kraus-Boelte, the pioneer kindergarter; Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Dr. W. T. Harris, the national commissioner of education and the universally known editor of educational works; Professor Elmer Gates, Miss Laura Fisher, Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson and Sarah J. Farmer, whose summer schools in her beautiful home in Maine have been so widely talked about.

Dr. Mary Wood Allen is the author of some most interesting as well as valuable books for the use of mothers when the difficulty confronts them of acquainting their daughters with the deeper mysteries of human existence. Dr. Minot Savage, who hopes to be present if his many duties will admit of it, will probably speak on home life, the relation of parent and child. Mrs. Mary Lowe Dickinson is well known as the president of the National Council of Women. It was she who at the congress last year replied, in the name of the congress, to Mrs. Birney's address of welcome. The congress generally will be glad to note the name of Professor Elmer Gates on the programme this year. At the last congress, although not officially announced as one of the speakers, he kindly consented to give the mothers some account of the experiments in heredity and transmitted tendencies made in his office and laboratory. His clear, decisive words on the subject of a woman's responsibility for her child's good or evil natures moved every mother present to a sense of the power which parents exercise in the beginning of a child. Dr. Gates laid great emphasis on the necessity for the restraining of every evil emotion not only during the period of gestation, but for months previous to the conception of a child. The further and fuller presentation of his ideas and theories, as well as their practical exposition, will be one of the serious attractions at the second congress. An interesting feature of the congress this year will be a reunion of all the speakers at the last meeting Saturday afternoon and evening will be devoted to short speeches from each.

As at present arranged the programme is as follows:

On the congress will be in session six days.

The first day will be devoted to receiving delegates, distributing badges, hearing reports of national officers and five minute reports from clubs represented.

The second and third days will be devoted to questions bearing chiefly upon the relations of mother and child.

On the fourth and fifth days subjects involving the duties of both parents will be discussed.

The sixth day will be given to a discussion of methods to be employed, from the individual, social, municipal and national standpoints, which shall give to the child both before and after birth such conditions as shall insure to each successive generation a higher type of humanity.

General receptions will be held on the first and third evenings of the congress.

For the accommodation of visitors and delegates there will be a temporary postoffice and a bureau of information in the building where the congress is held, and arrangements are already made for the accommodation of delegates. Mrs. J. H. McGill of Le Droit Park, District of Columbia, chairman of the committee on entertainment, has charge of this department.

All delegates from any mothers' club in the Union will be given badges and specially accredited seats. Clubs of five members are entitled to send one delegate and those of 20 or more to send two.

The expenses of the first congress were borne almost exclusively by Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, the first vice president and generous friend of the organization. Feeling that the public should now be given a chance to contribute toward the expenses of the congress, the board of management has established a fund, called "the memorial fund," to which all who wish to make an offering in memory of some dear dead child are asked to contribute.

MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST.

The congress will be regularly organized at the forthcoming meeting. In its constitution will most probably be embodied the principles at present held by the society.

From every part of the country ever since the initial step of the congress the board of management has received offers, suggestions and advice of all sorts. All of this that was worthy has been enthusiastically and carefully considered, but in the main the lines previously laid down by Mrs. Birney have been followed.

"Not that I feel myself to be wiser than others," the president said recently in a personal interview, "but sometimes these suggestions come from people who do not realize that the questions that they are now considering for the first time or the new thought that has just flashed across their minds is all old ground to me. Every detail of the congress, every possible contingency, the pros and cons of each question, were minutely and carefully thought out months, years, before the idea was mooted at all. The matter brought to me for consideration, by some good friend of the congress perhaps, is very likely one over which I have pondered through sleepless nights long months ago and which, having been thought out exhaustively, has been relegated to the regions of unpractical or at present unwise procedure."

It is useless to try to reform social abuses, to stem the torrent of moral evil that is defiling the world, unless the fountain head be reached. Follow the torrent back to the little stream, the little stream to the source, to the one who is the head of all society, because the head of the home, the mother. Teach her world principles, world duties, world needs, and she will respond and through her the whole social world. Such is the idea of the mothers' congress, and such being the idea society bids it godspeed.

MRS. ALMON HENSLEY.

MRS. THEODORE BIRNEY.

The Tourmaline A National Gem.

The tourmaline, "the flower of the mineral kingdom," has become the fad. It is a distinctive American gem and consequently, aside from its value and beauty, arouses the patriotic spirit and appeals to the "love of country" sentiment. And fashion has declared in its favor. Of all the precious stones it possesses the one mysterious quality of holding a lower place than in the same crystal, and for this one reason it will deserve its growing popularity. It has the peculiar property of polarizing light.

Despite the recent discoveries of fresh deposits at Mount Mica, Me., which yield large numbers (the greatest stores not known) of exquisite specimens, it is still comparatively rare, and this will enhance its value both commercially and as a social and fashionable favorite.

This Mount Mica is near the town of Paris, in the rock ribbed state of Oxford, Maine, and fish. There, on the brow of a little hill, crowned with the spars of the "streaked mountain," is one of the most remarkable mineral deposits on the globe. From an area 30 feet square there have been obtained nearly 30 varieties of minerals, some of them of extreme beauty and rarity. This spot was discovered as long ago as 1820 by two students, Hildah C. Hamlin and Ezekiel Jones, while hunting for geological specimens. Subsequent mining by hands discovered many cavities which were literal treasure boxes, lined with beautiful crystals of rainbow hues.

Incidentally it may be stated that there is a strong inference that the magnificent ruby in the Russian crown is in all probability a tourmaline, and as likewise may be the monster red gem which names as a pendant to the pearl necklace, formerly belonging to the Chinese emperor, which is now the property of the French government, having been captured at the taking of Peking in 1860. A magnificent group of pink tourmalines was given by the king of Burma to Colonel Sykes while the latter was commissioner at his court.

Tourmalines are also found in Siberia, in the Ural mountains, in Ceylon and in Brazil, but none to compare with the American crystals which have been mined in Canada, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and slightly in some of the northeast counties of New York, and in California black crystals 4 to 5 inches in diameter occur in feldspar veins in the mountains between San Diego and the Colorado desert. Some of the crystals are red at one end and green at the opposite, while others have a green exterior and a red core. Blue and purple varieties are occasionally found. Mineralogists are unable to account for this eccentricity of hues, and physicists are equally puzzled by the strange electrical properties of the tourmaline. It is a natural magnet, with a positive and negative pole of attraction and repulsion.

The United States, aside from diamonds, seems to be prominent in gem production. The bulk of the world's supply of fine turquoise is now obtained from New Mexico, where great numbers of large stones equal in quality in the best of Persian origin are mined annually. They even hold their color better. The finest garnets in the world are also found here. In the vicinity of Moscow, Ida., the volcanic rocks are found honeycombed with cavities, which in many instances contain precious opals. The gem material is supposed to have been deposited by water when the rocks were hot. In Oregon some very beautiful ones are found in a bed of volcanic ashes. Large masses of cinders being broken open reveal them, and one in it is a "fire" or a "noble" opal.

The garnets of New Mexico occur in loose gravel, which is disintegrated rock brought from a distance by the flow of streams. On the Navajo reservation the Indians collect them from ant hills and scorpion holes, the insects and arachnids having brought them to the surface in digging.

The only possible rival of the tourmaline for the distinction of being called the national gem of America is the precious stone hiddenite. This beautiful species of crystal, which sells for $100 a carat, was found in abundance in Alexandria county, N. C., the only place in the world where it is found. Its discovery was accidental, some specimens being picked up by a farmer while under aide. Its color is a lustrous, transparent green, and, according to mineralogists, it is a variety of spodumene.

Mistakes Men Make In Wooing.

Nature has not been lavish in the amount of tact she has given to the masculine half of the population. The great mistake is to imagine all girls are alike and that what pleases one must of necessity please all the others.

The majority of men make love as though their inamorata were a kind of fort which can only be captured by strategy. This is all very well sometimes, only, unfortunately, girls are quick witted—much sharper than you are yourselves, mesdames!—and if they discover the strategy either they will begin to laugh at you, which will be absolutely fatal to your hopes, or else grow angry, on the whole nearly as undesirable an occurrence.

All girls hate to be made conspicuous, especially when their minds are not quite made up. And the man in love is rather like the ostrich in his optics—that because he is too much occupied to see the rest of the world the rest of the world does not see him. So he hangs over the object of his affections, never takes his eyes off her or talks to any one else.

WOMEN'S WORK AND WOMEN'S WAYS.

Mrs. Emma Hanson Thayer, who has been appointed by Governor Adams of Colorado as commissioner of fine arts from that state to the Transmississippi exposition, is not only an author, but an artist. Her book, with its water color plates of the "Wild Flowers of the Pacific Slope," has been adopted as the standard among students of botany. Mrs. Thayer has just returned from an extended tour of Central America, where she painted the flora of the tropics and collected orchids.

A banquet was recently given in France in honor of Clemence Royer, who been authoress for lectures and writings on scientific subjects nearly 40 years ago. She was one of the earliest to advocate and develop the atomic theory and the theory of luminous vibration.

Until lately the work of the general postoffice, London, has been performed by men, but with a new comptroller a small staff of women is being introduced, composed of an assistant superintendent, a principal clerk, five first class clerks and 24 second class. Miss Nina Lankester, a sister of Professor Ray Lankester, has been appointed the assistant superintendent. She has already seen a good deal of service and has been for over 18 years in the postal order branch. Her salary commences at $1,000 and rises to a maximum of $1,200.

Miss Susan M. Lesley of Rowland, Ky., a college graduate, is the fully equipped, officially authorized, and legally bonded station agent at that place, and, according to her official superiors, her service has been altogether satisfactory in the four years she has been a railway employee.

One young woman, Miss Susan Brayton of Brooklyn, is a student, and a highly enthusiastic one, at the Veterinary college of New York city. She says: "The treatment of dogs and cats and of pet birds is one of the largest branches of the work in cities. In New York the number of pets that are constantly needing attention is remarkably large. Veterinary doctors have all that they are able to do in this line, both in answering calls and in office work. The fee is from $2 to $5 a visit, and animals are not hard to treat."

Miss Katharine Osborn, who has blossomed forth as a rival of Mrs. Alice Shaw, the world famous whistler, is a New Haven girl of the old Osborn family of that town. Until this season Miss Osborn has been merely a society girl whose willingness to contribute her musical gift to any and every charitable programme or to small drawing room entertainments won her a wide local popularity. The first New York appearance was at an entertainment of the Press club. Then she was engaged to whistle at the notable production of "Cinderella" given at the Metropolitan Opera House. As a result of her success she was engaged by Mrs. Joan D. Sanderson to be the feature of an afternoon programme for which she had out cards.