The Midwinter Woman.

READY FOR A CHRISTMAS TRIP TO THE HOLIDAY SHOPS.

ROMANCE OF A CHARLESTON BELLE.

How an Independent Southern Girl Became the Influential Countess of Litta.

From Nyon, Switzerland, comes the announcement that Miss Jane Johnson Perry, daughter of the late Hon. A. S. J. Perry, of Charleston, S. C., has married His Serene Highness, the Duke of Litta, viceregal Arena.

The wedding was celebrated in the presence of a small company of the Duke's closest and most intimate friends. The new Duchess looked beautiful enough to wear one of the proudest titles in Italy, more than beautiful enough to heal the wounds made by her famous predecessor.

Thus does an American girl step in to fill the gap created by one of the greatest scandals that have troubled royalty in Europe during this century.

Owing to the prominence which her father secured through his long term of political activity, Miss Perry became one of the sought for girls in and around the particular districts where she had lived all her life. Upon the death of her father she left the old family homestead and removed to New York, where she lived for the month prior to her departure for Italy.

Surely she had no aspirations to become the wife of a member of nobility when she stepped across the Atlantic lines. She was alone, with the single exception of her maid, an old colored "mammy," who had been a member of the Perry household since the days before the war. A typical American girl, undaunted by the seemed disadvantages of traveling alone, Miss Perry did not care a rap for the scorching criticisms usually bestowed upon unchaperoned tourists. She was ambitious. She wanted to study art, and with the comfortable fortune placed at her disposal upon the death of her father she determined to make her debut in the white of art—Rome.

Her remarkable beauty attracted the attention of all with whom she came in contact in Rome, and it was not long before Miss Perry began to receive invitations galore to attend the fashionable affairs which are a nightly feature of the famous old city. Her beauty, proved her password; of course the very exclusive set made the usual inquiries of the American Consul as to the eligibility of Miss Perry as a candidate for social honors, but as all inquiries met with but favorable response, the American girl soon found herself the petted and courted idol of Roman society.

Then came the meeting with the Duke. He was considerable older, to be sure, but then was he not a member of nobility, and the heirs of one of the most illustrious titles in all Italy? He stood to manifest his admiration for Miss Perry in a manner, peculiarly all his own. He is rich, and that money could be burned readily. He began to shower presents of the most costly nature upon the little American girl who at first refused to even so much as recognized her mighty lover, although he bore a title.

Probably the thought of some curly headed Jack, whom she had known in her schoolboy days nestled in her heart. At any rate, Duke Litta did not have a walkover in winning his suit with the girl whom he determined to marry. His attentions were always of the high order of deference customary in Italians, and it may have been this fear that kept the coy Miss Perry in her stronghold.

At any rate, it was not until the Duke had promised to spend his summer in America that Miss Perry finally did consent to marry him. This His Highness promised to do, and in less time almost than it takes to tell about it, plain Miss Perry was made the Countess Litta. The happy couple have decided to winter in Paris, and during the summer season they will visit America, where the Countess will have an opportunity of introducing her high-born husband to her circle of friends in Charleston, S. C.

H. JEROME TAFFT.

THE FORMER COUNTESS OF LITTA, WHO HAS BEEN SUCCEEDED BY AN AMERICAN GIRL.

FASHIONS IN CHRISTMAS FURS.

Some Hints for the Man of the Family to Read and Follow.

IDEAL FOR GIFTS.

A Woman Will Greatly Prize a Cape of Two Contrasting Materials.

MUFF AND COAT NOVELTIES.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—The first thing you notice about furs for this winter is the way two kinds of fur are combined on one cape or jacket.

For instance, astrachan is combined with blue fox, and seal is trimmed with either green or sealine. Only mink, sable and gray or red fox seem to be used without a contrasting fur. And these are not always alone by any means.

No end of expensive and pretty collarettes and short, very full, circular capes are shown, with often the muff and boaset or hat to match.

THREE PIECE SETS.

These three piece sets make the most charming Christmas gifts. They come in small cases, the cape, hat and muff cuddling comfortably with the cape laid around the muff and the hat nestling on a small pedestal. Many of the capes are the newest neck effects to be worn with a cloth coat.

Then, too, there is a chance to wear the little cape with the heavy cloth gown which is so comfortable for street, either for shopping or informal calling. It is thickly padded and has a "warm as toast" feeling, while looking very smart and trim.

The little sets of three—hat, muff and boa—can be bought quite inexpensively. The muff and boa come together. For the hat a strip of fur is bought and taken to the milliner who uses it in fashioning one of her latest designs.

One of these three-piece sets was a long, narrow, square piece of chinchilla, edged with a four-inch ruffle of light gray silk, lined with velvet of the same shade. The little round hat to match had a broad roll of chinchilla around the brim, a full fold of gray silk around the crown and a single gray ostrich tip which nodded high above the pompadour. The accompanying muff was a great big chinchilla one lined with gray silk.

An elegant set of gray fox was made in rather a startling manner, but was very chic withal.

A WHOLE ANIMAL.

An animal head with the grinning white teeth was placed on each shoulder with the four legs hanging down and apparently the rest of the furry coat of the animal, including the brush, coming down quite below the waist line. The muff was as low-swung, as it looked almost alive. It was quite large and with the head, four little legs and the brush hanging, at first glance, it looked like some new and weird pet. Some beautiful jackets of black astrachan are seen. One particularly handsome one was made in the new cutaway style, and having the narrow vest and revers of blue fox. The high rolling collar was of astrachan and the large, round muff was of the same fur.

One of the most becoming capes showed another combination in furs. A cape of seal, cut circular with rounding fronts, had a deep ruffle of sealine simulating a round yoke. The high flaring collar was lined with sealine which proves as becoming to the complexion as the ever-popular white satin stock.

For very dressy occasions nothing could have been more appropriate than a set of Russian sable, rounded with amethyst velvet. The high flaring collar and rounding yoke were of sable from which depended a full circular ruffle of velvet.

This was lined with satin a shade lighter and a little under-pleating of satin just showed from under the velvet.

AN EMBROIDERED HAT.

The full, puffed turban of velvet was embroidered with pinkish pearls, a band of sable was near to the hair, and a pearl buckle held a bunch of sable tails, some upright and others drooping over the hair.

The muff was a creation of velvet, satin and sable and was held by velvet ribbons. Grebe is almost invariably used with seal. It lights up that sombre fur in a remarkable degree, and makes it becoming and not too old for even a debutante.

MARY GOODWIN RUBBELL.

THE NEWEST FASHIONS IN FUR SETS.

AN IDEAL $10.00 GIFT FOR A MAN.

Constance Merrifield, Round-the World Traveler, Tells Our Women Readers How She Would Buy a Gift for a Man.

If I had $10 to spend on a man I should spend it as a man would spend $10 on me—royally!

If I had $10 to put in a Christmas gift for a man this year I should, no matter what his age, provided he were over 3 and under 80, buy him a fine umbrella. I should select one with an animal's head. One of the new kind, cut out of brown tone, or in the natural wood. If a dog, he should have a collar around his neck; if a horse, there should be a silver bit and bridal and a flying mane.

If I had another $10 gift to buy for a man, I should get short studs.

A Paris newspaper offered a prize of a sum of money to the woman who should, by popular vote, send of name the ideal Christmas gift for a man, under forty francs. The decision was given to a shirt stud woman. It sounds prosy, and it certainly isn't poetic, but it is popular. I shouldn't try to decorate the studs very extensively except for a simple enamel or with a letter stamped on the reverse side of the stud. They would be of the latest patent, warranted to find their holes every time, and as near noticeable as a shirt stud can be.

If I could make a third trip, with a $10 bill securely folded in my little purse, I would buy a ring—if the man were near enough to me! Man is an egotist and likes the sight of his initials next to the sound of his voice. Unless he is the owner of a great, gaudy ring which he dislikes and which prejudices him against the whole ring family, get him one of those inexpensive affairs and one I've pleased he will be. Have it big and with the initial stone carved to fit finger.

You can't make much display in cuff buttons at $10, but you can get a pair of good dumb-bell cuff buttons which are a sort of link with a knob on each end, and a tiny chip diamond set in the knob.

With another $10, were I to be gifted by the Christmas Santa, I should buy a man a lot of toilet articles. Heavy things with silver backs and substantially marked all over them. They would be sunny brushes for man in front of the curtyscuts.

If I had $10 more to spend in a lump sum upon an ideal gift for a man—but why speculate further. I have only one $10—that which I shall receive for writing this article for the newspaper—and I have spent it so many times over now that I'm in debt, so here's to Christmas just!

CONSTANCE MERRIFIELD.

SHIRLEY DARE'S SERMON.

She Tells Our Women Readers How to Keep the Hair from Turning Gray and Falling Out.

Women out of health should be cautious in using strong irritants for bringing out hair—the cantharides and croton oil preparations, which too often "bring out" any little hair that is left.

Use mostly vegetable preparations for the hair. Animal fat, beef marrow, bear's oil, even when pure, turn rancid and then do more harm than good. There are few depilatories surer than rancid oil.

Let one never despair of owning a good suit of hair or of curing baldness, no matter how lasting. Hair bulbs may shrink and disappear from sight, leaving a bare head for years, and yet, with improved health and patient treatment by electricity and aromatic lotions, the scalp revives and growth follows. This may take place in a very short time.

GETTING GRAY.

The treatment for turning out the hair is just as good to prevent graymoss, which results from contraction of the vessels, so that the pigment can not enter the colorless tube of the hair.

A CAREFUL TOILETTE.

This may result from severe cold, which contracts the minute blood vessels, or from grief and anxiety, or from deposits of lime in the vessels, which causes the grayness of age.

Elderly persons will find lime juice and glycerine of great benefit for decomposing this chalky deposit. The following is an excellent recipe for its preservation:

Take half a pint of lime juice or lemon juice, one-quarter of a pint of rose-water, six tablespoonfuls rectified spirit, added gradually and stirred or shaken; after twenty-four hours strain through muslin, and add two and one-half ounces of glycerine and half a dram of lemon or cedrat, and shake well. It will be fragrant and inviting. It should be milky, without sediment.

FOR BLONDE.

To prevent the grayness of blond hair, dress it slightly with the yolk of an egg, beaten with a little glycerine, and wear a cap, washing the hair in the morning. The sulphur in the egg restores the color in the hair.

A homely but effective application to keep dark hair in good color is a decoction of walnut's bark. The comb should be wet in this and drawn through the hair. Care should be taken not to get the hair too wet, or at least to dry it. Castor oil or ovine oil, scent of hedge rose or lavender are the best hair dressings, but on using any dressing the hair should be brushed smooth and well wiped with soft flannel to remove all excess from the surface.

The oil or pomade should be applied an hour or two before doing up the hair, to give a natural, glossy appearance.

SHIRLEY DARE'S RECIPE.

No question is more frequently asked than how to bring a good growth of hair on a bald pineapplet by a bare, where a few hairs appear. If people would use electricity to stimulate the hair, rather than to remove it, the result would be more satisfactory.

Nothing is more likely to excite the dormant bulbs of the hair than a weak current applied twenty-minutes daily, after washing and drying the bald spot.

A woman in the twenties complained that all her hair is turning a dark, ugly shade and falling out. She should stop this loss at first by washing the scalp with warm water and yolk of egg, well rinsed off, then each night and morning apply a specimen of this mixture:

Pure glycerine, three ounces; rose water, four ounces, rubbing it into the roots of the hair with a sponge brush.

In two weeks add one-half ounce tincture cantharides to the same mixture, brushing it in thoroughly. In a few weeks she will have an abundant beautiful growth of hair.

Shirley Dare

THE SHOULDERS OF AN ATHLETE.

THE RED CROSS SHOE.

This is the latest fad of the society girl who must still be army-like, though the battle is won. There are still, and will be for many a year, sick soldiers to nurse, and the heroine, self-appointed, to take care of these, must mark herself suitably.

There come the most charming little crosses in white and red which can be fastened to the shoe to show whether the wearer is a red or a white cross worker. These are in enamel and can be made any color desired, but, of course, the little army nurse wants to wear either the Red Cross of Nations or the White Cross of America.

One of the White Cross girls wears been upon the top of her shoe is a quite bewitching spot, where the shoe appears the instep. Another, the one of the Red Cross, clamps here upon her toe. It matters not where the cross is set.

One of the noticeable features of the Red Cross shoe is that it is very modish; the heels are strictly French, the toes pointed, and the instepes very arched.

Ultra girls wear silk shoe laces to match the cross on top of the shoe. Then, indeed, one can pray for showery days and damp walks.

THE RED CROSS SHOE.

I've shot a bird upon the wing,
Scared from his forest home;
But I cannot shoot a gentle fawn
When he stands and looks at me.

I've shot stiff the squawking duck,
In the cold, bleak wintry morn;
But, no! I've never found the nerve
To wound a gentle fawn!