Manuscript pages (incomplete): Article on Dress

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and Vienna for the real master pieces in a season's wardrobe. The great dressmakers and milliners go to the same cities for their models. Those who cannot go abroad seek inspiration and ideas everywhere. Those who have gone or seen the fashion plates they import. The French or Viennese mode started on upper Fifth Avenue spreads to 23rd St., from 23rd St. to 14th from 14th Street to Houston and Canal. Each day some it reproduced in materials, a little less elegant and durable, its colors a trifle vulgarized, its ornaments cheapened, its laces poorer. By the time it reaches Houston St. the $400 gown in brocaded velvet from the best house in Europe has a cotton velvet from Lawrence or Fall River become decorated with mercerized lace and glass ornaments from Rhode Island! A travesty and yet a recognizable travesty. The East Side has over it as Fifth Avenue has done the original. The very shop window where it is displayed is strewed and painted and lighted in imitation of the uptown shop. The same process goes on inland. This same gown will travel its downward path from New York to Buffalo, from town to town until it arrives in some cheap and gay mining or factory town. From start to finish it is imitation, and on this imitation vast industries are built! — Imitations of silk, of velvet, of lace, of jewels, in varying grades of quality until the end in the mines. These imitations are a far greater extravagance cheaper as they are far newer; bought from the original world.

For the buyer of the latter came from that cloth where money does not count. While the former is of a class where every penny counts.
soundness must be forever duplicated, instead of freeing industry to go ahead producing other goods and permanent things.

What it all amounts to is that the instinct for ornament has gotten the upper hand of a great body of American women. We have failed so far to develope standards of taste, fitness, and quality strong, sure and good enough effectually to impose themselves. There is no national taste in dress; there is only admirable skill in adapting fashion made in other countries; there is no national sense of restraint and proportion. It is pretty generally agreed that getting all you can is entirely justifiable. There is no national sense of quality, even the rich to-day in the country, wear imitation laces. The effect of all this is a bewildering willingness to follow to the extreme the grotesque and the fantastic. The very general adoption of the ugly and meaningless fashion of the last few years - peach-basket hats - hobble-skirt - slippers for the street - is a case in point. From every side this is bad - defeating, a purpose in the line of the corrupting national taste and wasting national substance.

Moreover the false standard it sets up socially is intolerable. It sounds fantastic to say that whole bodies of women place their chief reliance for social advancement on dress, but it is true. They are or are not as they are gowned! The worst of the fantasy, perhaps is not that it forces too much attention from useful women but that it gives such poise and assurance to the ignorant and unlearned.

If you look like the women of a set, you are as "good" as they are, is the democratic standard many a young woman holds. If, for any reason she is not able to produce this effect, she shrinks from contact, whatever her talent or charm! And she is not altogether wrong in think she will not be welcome if her dress is not that of the circle to which she aspires. Many a woman indifferently gowned has been made to feel her difference from the elegant she found herself among. If she is sure of herself and has a sense of humor, this may be an amusing experience. To many, however, it is an embittering one.

Now these observations are not presented as discoveries! Recently in New York a critic of these little essays thought it sought to discredit them, because there was "nothing new" in them! They are not offered as new. The writer has never so far in her life made any discovery or had any ideas which she had not been able to trace
at least, as far back as the Greeks! She is unable to see anything in the so-called
woman's movement, which in its essence did not exist then. The stream of human
aspirations, with its stretches of wisdom and of folly, has flowed steadily through
the ages and on its troubled surface, man and women have always struggled together
as they are struggling today. These little comments are not offered as new— but as
old truths. They simply seem to the writer worth making because for the moment they
are not getting as much attention as they perhaps deserve. Certainly the tyranny
dress exercises over the woman in this American Democracy is an old enough theme.
Indeed it has always formed a part of her program of emancipation. Out of her revolt
against its absurdities, has come the most definite developments in American cos-
tume which we have had, and that is the sensible street costume, which in spite
of efforts to distort and displace it, a woman still may wear without differentiating
herself from her fellows.

The short skirt and jacket, the shirt-waist and stout boots a woman is al-

lowed today, are among the many good things which the Women's Rights movement of

the 40's and 50's secured for us. When those able leaders made their attack

on man, demanding that the world in which he moved alone, be opened to them,
they were quick enough to see that if they succeeded in their undertaking they
would be hampered by their clothes. They insisted

True they did not include in their historic list of "injuries and usurpations on the part of man towards women" the

He has compelled her to hamper herself with skirts and stays, to
decorate her head with rats and puffs, to paint her face with poisonous compounds and walk on the streets in foot gear which is neither suitable
or comfortable.'
This statement, however, would have had exactly the same degree of truth is it of several which were included in the historic "list of grievances" as much as the declaration:

"He has compelled her to submit to laws in the formation of which she has had no voice."

"He has denied her the facilities for obtaining a thorough education, all colleges being closed against her."

Dress reformers quickly sprang up in their ranks of the agitators. The initial revolt was thorough-going. They discarded the corset, discarded it when it was still improper to speak the word! They cut off their hair in a day when every woman owned a chignon and many wore still in fashion. They discarded the corsets, cut off their hair and adopted bloomers!

The story of the bloomer is piquant. It was launched and worn. It became the subject of platform oratory and had its organ. Why is it not worn today? No woman who has ever masqueraded in man's dress or donned it for climbing, will ever forget the freedom of it. Yet today the only woman in the Christian world who wears it at once naturally and with that touch of coquetry which is necessary to carry it off, as far as this writer's observations go, is Madame D'Eulafoy, and Madame D'Eulafoy is protected by the French government and an exclusive circle!
What hath all that story about "the gray state" to do with our little John Doe? It seems that every friend and acquaintance of his has been through some sort of trouble or pain. He must have many stories to tell. Perhaps he should write them down. Perhaps he should...
reason. "Wanted to dress like other girls"
"Wanted pretty clothes."

This habit of buying poor quality clothes
not only in the girls' life will kill her

When she marries she carries it into her house. Declining. Not

furnishings is the key note of all the

women's lives. It is the stuff of all the

best furnishing. The elaborate,

priceless, expensive furnishings. High

draperies, crockery. You a hog

which I fill the place of the artistry.

Guarantees of the great stuff. To all

Guarantees of the rich and famous.

Why should we expect anything else.

If ever she is married she employs the

wives of the rich and famous. But all

wives of the rich and famous. The first citizen

wife. Who is married. The first citizen

wife. Who is married. The first citizen.

And when one of the others she is a

any more of the married someplace

in Paris or Vienna.
All that I now relish in national property
Is the coat of linseed

What has all that to do with property?
The effect on the building budget is clear.
The effect on the family budget is
Million-dollar.
In the
Among nothing of permanent value
acquired by the good times. Under the
All "all and" forms - the "head cent"'s
or coat - is the standard garment.
While the swiftly acquired & shall only
my cambric. The climb of old the

pretty little shoulders end is a work.

sold furniture, such as dignified
the European wardrobes rare

passage, the mortise & tenon for

plain - are objects of contempt.

in their law. By the

line. Even the daughter's

old new myrtle & tamarins areроболi my

ade to suffer for a young face pressed

seen & stretched thereby. With another

grand, only a瞬间 feel pressed

grand may come up? I buy it all new

of fabrics of linen but the want of?

This production of it & my

clotted - cheap! Here to cheap furniture.


I maladies - win 2 money & simply

rich until my gave been wasted &

the print & values.
What it all amounts to is that the mind of man has been trained to look for ornament and to feel the upper hand of a vast body of American money. We have failed so far to develop standards of taste, finish, and quality, to keep our own and good enough. Effectively to inspire Americans, there is need in a country managing grade in other countries. There is no natural sense of material economy. It is generally true that if they see people of similar abilities, they think of the rise of the country and they think of the rise of the country. The rise of the country is a bewilderment.