TO WRITE A LETTER

GENTLE ART NEEDS CULTIVAT-ING BY YOUNG WOMAN.

Some of the World's Most Charming Literature in Letter-Form-"Lavish" Handwriting Suggests Paucity of Ideas - Don't Write Too Much Nonsense Until You Know Your Correspondent.

BY KATE UPSON CLARK.

(Copyright, 1965, by Joseph B. Bowles.) We are told that the telephone is killing correspondence. Even before the telephone came in, correspondence was in a bad way, and we were told that the young ladies' schools taught only note-writing. Notes of invitation and acceptance-of thanks and of condolence—these, we are told, are all that is left of the old art of letterwriting, the art which has given us some of the most charming books in the whole range of literature, and which reveals the soul, as, perhaps, nothing else does. Rousseau used to say that he often left home just for pleasure of getting letters from the loved ones there. A distinguished society woman laughingly told her husband before a company of intimate friends that it was his letters' that

won her heart. More things have been wrought by all know how dangerous letters may become. The spoken word passes. The written word stands there. If it is bad, it is a more nearly fatal witness than almost anything else, for it implies a deliberation which is most prejudicial.

If it is good, its goodness is trebled by its constancy. There it lies—that sweet thought—that amusing, whimsical turn-that agreeable suggestionto be read over and over, until its charm masters the soul. In these days, when competition bristles on every side, the girl is a fool, particularly if nature has "rather been unkind" in outward gifts, to neglect the art of letter-writing.

How shall you write? Do not scraw! all over the page, with a few words. There is an appearance of panic about this wide-spaced, lavish handwriting. It suggests also an alarming paucity of ideas. If you are merely saying that you cannot come to a party, very well. If you are pretending to write a real letter, you cannot more deeply insult your friend than by this labored, thin, outspread of one thought, or less, per page.

On the other hand, if you use the small hand which most literary and highly cultivated people prefer, do not press your lines too near together. The first essential to the success of a letter, is that it shall be easily and comfortably read.

Then, after having learned to condense your handwriting, learn to condense your forms of expression. We all have some correspondents who cannot express themselves briefly. It is with a feeling of almost dread that one receives their bulky letters.

Itissaid that the habit of making one's handwriting economical leads also to the economizing of words. Possibly this is true. If so, we commend the rapid and constant study of the diminution and compression of the meminution and compression and compre the economizing of words. Possibly section of our population-especially of the girls, who are more likely to err than their brothers in the matter of A second garnitures is easily mandiffuseness. If you really wish to aged. It consists of four rows of vallearn to write that very attractive composition, a good letter, your words must bear a decent proportion to the number of your ideas. There is no arbitary rule, but there is a standard of taste in the matter, which should be carefully observed.

A COLUMN THE PARTY OF Beware of abbreviating, especially when writing to those whom you do not know very well. "Had company last evening. Haven't seen John," may do for a family letter, but put in all the words to make the sentence complete when you are writing to less intimate friends. Abbreviation and condensation are two very different things.

Emerson has many bits of good advice to give upon this subject, and none is better than this: "In a letter, any expression may be abbreviated rather than those of respect and kindness. Never write, 'Yours aff'ly.'" It is astonishing the difference in effect between that phrase when written out or be the inspiration for original adap- across the water. heartless way.

And what shall we write about? agreement among the thousands who have written concerning this interesting theme, that the writer should make herself the chief topic of her letter. Not in an egotistical way, but by one might not show to every passer-

ference, probably, what you write in with alternate rows of insertion about. Describe what you have been and embroidery. In the third seven reading, the places where you have clusters of tucks alternate in the front been, new friends, almost anything, of the garment with beading embroidprovided it be done with spirit, and, if ery. possible, with humor. Spontaneity perfect naturalness, an absence of all straining after effect, these are essentials of the perfect letter.

Scott said to Byron: "There is no made of pine and the cover fitted tightsurer mark of regard than when your ly on and fastened with brass tacks. correspondent ventures to write nonsense to you." But do not write too fringes in colored cottons suitable for a much nonsense until you know your finish. Old chairs may be covered so correspondent. Nothing is more like- completely that all identity is lost; and

ing the decline of correspondence, we are inclined to think that there is still a vast deal of really interesting letter- the cover to make a good showing, as all writing done. The world is so large that one cannot generalize. Over in Europe, we are always hearing, "Americans are thus or so." You may tell them that a few people in a few states the centers of population, are thus and stand this, because the extent and varicty of our nation are incomprehensible it, of the best weave you can affordto the provincial mind.

THE EMPIRE CHEMISE.

and Shown in a Large Variety of Patterns. The vogue of empire chemises brings many charming patterns to light,

many of them as simple as they are charming, says a writer in the Chi- Beautiful and Influential Woman : cago Tribune. The little empire chemise of olden times, with its guimpses of lace and linon embroidery and mousseline de soie or tulle accessories, with elaborate epaulets and befrilled sleeves, was bothersome to tuck into the corset.

at its best creating an ungraceful and unwelcome thickness. To-day these pretty, yet clumsy, creations have evolved into soft, adaptable models, which make them popular for the ball toilet and for the demi-decolletes and other effects, worn at the concert, theater and at dinner.

The shoulder pieces are nearly all detachable, so that they can be rejected when need be. They consist of a ribbon, which passes through the edging and is knotted in the shoulder, or a lace insertion bordered with embroidery or lace. Some laces are put in plain, others, like the valenciennes, are applied in dainty flower effect.

The body of the chemise takes on two forms. The one is perfectly straight, the other is curved slightly to the figure beneath the arm. In the latter case the garniture encircles the arm hole and the shoulder pieces are made larger and shorter. These letters than the world dreams of. We chemises are higher than the others and please the gentle-woman who finds the pure empire model too devollete.

> The trimmings are most varied. Sometimes embroideries are made on



the same material; sometimes insertions or motifs of lace are used as incrustations sometimes insertions are gathered on large bands.

The empire designs shown presen different models, which can be varied with ease. In the first broad valenciennes insertion is separated by a band of linon of the same breadth. A second band, ornamented in the center with fancy stitching, supports the lace which runs around the top of the

The shoulder pieces are made with a band of linon, edged with lace. If cal parties, conservatives and liberals, the trimming is to be simplified use is democratic enough to further the injust one band of insertion. It would terests of labor unless forced to do so by casual observer.

enciennes insertion, separated by narrow fancy tape, which consolidates them. It would be equally pretty to it is rather scornfully phrased, bzt in replace the second and fourth row by this country we have nothing to equal some dainty bow of embroidery or by the interest shown by the English wobands of linon, whose sheer plain- man in state affairs. She does not mix ness would contrast effectively with in, she is in; as a social power she wields the transparent lace.

Far more elegant than this is the chemise which shows a handsome embroidered edge, cut by little apertures through which is threaded a ribbon. Five tucks ingeniously conceal the fastening of the trimming to the a glimpse of this place held by the Engchemise. It is done by invisible lish woman of high degree in the politistitching under the last tuck. A fancy braid with square figures borders the lace insertion which forms the center of the shoulder pieces, and also encir- the English society woman is a woman cles the chemise below the tucks. that has a broad grasp of public affairs. Deep light lace is placed above the embroidered edge of the decollete and again around the shoulder pieces. If you are handy with an embroidery votes for somebody; but are just openneedle this model will offer a charm- ing our eyes to realization of the deciding piece of work without much labor ed power in the hands of the ladies tations that are simpler.

A fourth model is seen a simple insertion of embroidery to which the chemise is gathered with a little grace-There seems to be a substantial ful fullness. The same faces the shoulder straps, and all are edged with narrow lace.

chemises a square neck is outlined, bad thing if educated, clever, zealous with embroidery, through which runs women here were to inform themselves opening her heart and revealing what a ribbon. Lace edges the sleeve and of social needs. The countess of Warneck. In the second an elaborate de- wick is by no means the only one of her sign is undertaken. A half V is cut country women well acquainted with the In point of fact, it makes little dif- out of the chemise proper and filled working of her government.

In Cretonne Room.

Charming little tables are covered en-There are many pretty braids and

ly to be taken amiss by a dense mind. in England, where so many such covers In spite of all that is said regard- are used, generally loose ones, so as to be removed for washing, cheap pine or "deal" forms are made, depending on wood may be so concealed.

Of General Service.

If you are in search of a handsome blouse suit that will do service for are thus and so-but not more. Or all social house affairs, and later for one little knot of people, remote from more public wear, choose the plain. circular skirt rippling from corset end so, and that the statement is really from stitched plaits, and a bodice with untrue. They cannot usually under- | high, elaborate belt, yoke, stock and lower sleeves of white lace-plenty of and mousquetaire or butterfly sleeves

COUNTESS OF WARWICK HAS JOINED RANKS OF SOCIALISTS.

Work for the Cause-No Sudden Whim, But Convictions Growth of Years.

Socialists' ranks in England have a new supporter. No less a personage than the beautiful countess of Warwick. Chatelaine castle, country seat, town

house, mistress of many broad acres-23,000 or so-the countess has cast in her lot with the people that stand for radical things, change in existing conditions in creed, as given by herself to a correspondent of the New York World: 'Adult suffrage irrespective of sex; disestablishment and disendowment of all churches; abolition of land monopoly; abolition of the house of lords; abolition of all indirect taxation; free maintenance of children in state schools; abolition of school rates; nationalization of



the land: control of labor on cooperative principles, and 48 hours the maximum of week's work.

To understand the above mentioned list of suggested reforms, one must have a better understanding of conditions in rural, commercial and political England than that possessed by the average American; but this much is patent, the countess of Warwick is espousing the cause of the many, not engrossed in the pleasures and duties of a mere leader of society. It is socialism rather than society that appeals to the wife of the earl

Of a truth she confesses herself very weary of the latter, says society consists of bores and those that are bored; that she has ever tried not to be counted among the bores, and now has decided to escape from being bored.

The earl of Warwick does not go so far as his wife, especially on labor questions, but he sympathizes and helps her in many ways, does not oppose her. It is no caprice, no mere momentary

enthusiasm, the countess' joining of the social democratic federation. For several years her sympathies have been with the labor party of England; the reason she gives for her stand with this party will so control the house of commons as to be able to place the economics of this country (England) on a very different footing."

In America we are more or less used to see women try "to mix up in politics" as a strong political influence, has keen intellectual interest in political matters, ia much better equipped than her American sister to take part in shaping government.

English novels now and then give us cal world, and the newspapers occasionally, as in the instance of the countess of Warwick, acquaint us with the fact that We read of Lady This electioneering in the interests of her husband, of the countess of Somewhere striving to get

seems to us the American woman is be- the cause of bird protection. hind the English. It may be the former could never, so different are conditions in America, have opportunity to take that "You can't teach an old dog new just such a position; here state and church and society not being so closely In the first model of the fitted bound together. But it would not be a

HENRY HOWLAND.

Clerk Was Discerning.

naturalization bureau. The clerks are hung colored charts, that they may have all they can do sometimes to pre- readily identify the individuals they serve their dignity while listening to have observed. In some cases prizes the answers given by the men who are offered for the best compositions tirely with the goods when used in a are anxious to cast their first vote for on birds and their habits, and these cretonne room; any shape desired can be president of the United States. The contests are apt to do much good, es-New York Times gives two incidents which caused a smile.

A little man with a red beard stood in line. When the court clerk asked him if he would promise to support the constitution of the United States. he hesitated, and then said:

"I support my mother-in-law, too, since I come on dis country." An Italian, who was the next candidate, was asked where he was born. He bowed politely to the clerk, and, smiling, said:

"My brud' he been here five-a-year too, he can't speak-a so good like-a me. Many peop' he-a tink like-a you. me-a American. Plent' men take-a me for Lorn Unit' State."

"Well," returned the clerk, "I don't think you were born in the United States. From your talk I thought you through the efforts of the people acwere morn in their."

"Louis america mes yours greets Cat," roplied the frether.

WHAT AUDUBON SOCIETIES ARE DOING FOR FEATHERED TRIBE.

fluence - Special Work Being Done with the Children of To-Day.

Literall: without fuss or feathers. the women and men who compose the Audubon societies are working together quietly, steadily, thoughfully for the protection of birds, and hence for the good of all mankind.

As we saw last week, all the states and territories in the country, with the England, for a readjustment of the land exception of about a dozen, now have holdings. This is Lady Warwick's Audubon societies, and as soon as these few come into the field, the problem of bird protection will be easier for everybody.

The existing societies regard as their most important line of action at the present time, the awakening of public sentiment regarding the protection of birds. Compared with the population of the country, the entire membership of all the Audubon societies is but a handful, and, work as they may, they can accomplish little in the fight against the innumerable enemies of the birds, unless the rest of the people, or at least a considerable part of them, are in sympathy with the great Audubon movement. One of the first things an Audubon society does after becoming organized itself, is to urge the organization of numerous branch societies in different parts of the state, or at least of appointing local secretaries at widely-scattering points, and thus securing little centers of interest from which to spread the gospel of bird protection. Wisconsin has nearly 800 such branch societies, with a very large membership, including both grown people and children. These local branches can in their turn spread the good work in many ways. They can encourage the organization of school societies and of bird clubs; they can urge the purchase of bird literature for the local libraries, arrange for lectures on birds, get up exhibits of hats, decorated without the use of the plumage of wild birds, and they can arrange for "bird walks," to be taken in the woods and fields, with a view to studying the birds.

In a number of instances, Audubon societies have, by their influence and contributions, succeeded in having established in some library a section devoted to bird literature. Such a plan is very useful in large towns and cities, but in order to cover the rural districts, it is found better to institute traveling libraries, each consisting of a small collection of good bird books, which is sent from point to point throughout the state, and allowed to remain at each point for a stated time.

The Audubon societies also do much good by arranging for lectures on birds.



MILLINERY EXHIBITS ARE AR-RANGED

In some cases a society engages a lecturer who speaks to the members and their friends and neighbors, and in other cases a lecture on birds is prepared by some competent person, and a typewritten conv. with the lantern slides neces. sary to illustrate it, sent on application to different parts of the state, there to be read by some local bird-lover.

The millinery exhibits are arranged for with local milliners, who submit numbers of hats trimmed without the use of wild birds' plumage, the object being, of course, to show how attractive hats may be made without decorations which involve the death of one or more of our feathered friends. The public is invited to these exhibitions, which In this respect of national feeling, it usually benefit the milliners as well as

But the Audubon societies realize that there is much truth in the old saying tricks," and that, in the end, the work for bird protection which will bring the greatest results is that which is expended on the children. And with this idea to the front, great attention is being paid to the school children, since these youngsters can be got at readily through the teachers and brought up great importance, not only to them but to the country, and to the whole world. They are taught to closely observe the Many funny things happen at the birds they see, and in the schoolrooms pecially if preference is given to those compositions which show evidence of original observation. Some times it is possible to add Bird-study to the curriculum, and in many states a "Bird day" has been established, in some cases by law, and in others by an arrangement with the teachers. Sometimes, when circumstances do not permit of an entire day being devoted to birds, it has been arranged that a part of "Arbor day" be devoted

to this subject. Next week I shall have occasion to speak of the National Association of Audubon societies, which has just been incorporated, of the work it is Kidney Pills I have tifted 600 pounds doing for the protection of water birds, and of some of the splendid results that have been accomplished tirely interested in the Audubon move-

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Gotham—That fellow must have a to-bacco heart, with a Havana filler and a Connecticut warmer Vonkers, States. Connecticut wrapper .- Yonkers States Board Bill and Billboard.

Bill had a billboard. Bill also had a board bill. The board bill bored Bill so that Bill sold the billboard to pay his board bill. So after Bill sold his billboard to pay his board bill board to pay his board bill the board bill no longer bored Bill.—Yale Expositor. De principle on which dis day en

goes is ter take dis worl' ez you finds it, ea take de whole business at one swipe—ef you ever gits a lick at it!—Atlanta Constitution. WILD WITH ECZEMA.

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N. Y. Times.

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with the knowledge that birds are of In this country they are semioceasionally great importance, not only to them but roasted.—N. Y. Mail.

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and felt no bad effects. I have not felt the trouble come back since, although I had suffered for five or six years, and other remedies had not helped me at

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