

THE DEAR OLD DAYS.

"Dear old days—all the days in the 'olden time'—the days when the 'burnin' dees' an' 'the moon on the Rhine'!"

"Twas midnight, in his guarded tent—'twas spoke it high and low, while Mary trotted out that lamb 'whose name was white as snow'!"

Gimme back the dear old days that Mem'ry loves to keep, With 'Pilot,' 'tis a fearful night—there's danger on the deep!"

The old-time awkward gestures—the jerk, meant for a bow— We said that 'Curfew should not ring,' but Lord! it's ringin' now!

Gimme back the dear old days—the path-way through the dells To the schoolhouse in the blossoms; the sound of far-off bells Tinklin' 'cross the meadows; the song of 'the blue-back' brook; The old-time dictionary, an' the blue-back spellin' book!

Gone, like a dream, forever!—A city's hid the place Where stood the old log schoolhouse; an' no familiar face Is smilin' there in welcome beneath a mornin' sky— There's a bridge across the river; an' we've crossed, an' said "Good-by!" —Frank L. Stanton, in Atlanta Constitution.

A TEST

By BELLE MANIATE

(Copyright, 1905, by W. G. Chapman.)

It is to be 18 again and a debutante! sighed Rose Cantrell, as she gazed upon a young vision of loveliness entering the ballroom with her chaperon.

"I am glad you are not," said the man standing beside her. "Your little friend there is a beauty and no mistake; she will make two hearts palpitate to-night, from all accounts. Who do you think will win out, Stephen, the stalwart, or Lionel, the Gibsonian? I understand they are both devotees at the shrine of the little debutante."

"Alas! I fear the conditions favor a Lionel night," replied Rose with a sigh. "He is dangerously handsome and fascinating. Stephen is too massive and overwhelmingly in evening dress. He would look better in a uniform or in a careless hunting costume. Lionel is in his element on such an occasion."

"She is divinely tall," said the man, still gazing at the young girl. "Did you tell me she was an orphan? She seems to be chaperoned by Mrs. Weston."

"Her parents are traveling," replied Rose.

"What are they traveling for, and why doesn't she travel with them?" persisted her interlocutor.

Rose sighed and regretted the curiosity of her friend, Tom. She also



THE LITTLE DEBUTANTE.

regretted that Pearl had confided to her a secret that was not to be imparted to a third person. Fortunately, their wait was on, and Tom forgot his inquiry.

Throughout the evening Rose watched with interest the division of the greater share of Pearl's dances between the tall, broad-shouldered man in whose eyes was a world of silent adoration, and the gay, handsome youth who danced with such reckless abandon.

"It could hardly be expected, I suppose," cogitated Rose, "that a girl so young and inexperienced as Pearl would make the sensible choice and take Stephen. Still Pearl is wise beyond her years. I wonder if she will tell them what she told me. It should make no difference to a man in love, but I imagine Lionel will shy at the disclosure but Stephen, so capable of the grand passion, ought not to mind anything."

A few days after the ball Pearl came to pay a visit to Rose, who proposed on a rainy afternoon that they telephone Tom to come and divert them.

"Whom shall I ask him to bring with him, Stephen or Lionel?" she asked, turning to Pearl.

"Both," replied the sagacious maiden, with an enchanting smile.

"The Lady or the Tiger," thought Rose, as she gave Tom his instructions.

The three men promptly responded to the summons and when Rose was serving tea, Tom casually remarked to Pearl:

"You have come to the city in my absence, Miss Craig."

"Yes," she replied. "You have been away two years, haven't you? and my guardian, Mrs. Weston, only moved here a year ago."

"I believe Rose said that your parents are traveling?"

Rose tried to divert his attention, but his eyes were fixed on Pearl, who appeared quiet at ease.

"They are," she replied, "and now we are here, all friends, together. I am going to tell you the story of my life, which is known to but very few, Rose among the number. My parents are dwarfs and exhibit in a circus in England. I was sent to this country when I was quite a child to be educated. I was placed in charge of Mrs. Weston, who saw in me a resemblance to a child she had lost. I visit my parents frequently, and they are devoted entirely to my happiness."

There was a profound silence after this astonishing revelation, which came so suddenly that Rose with all her wit knew not what to say. She

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Notwithstanding this liberal carte blanche on his part, the mother is aware that too lavish outlay now will mean a reckoning day hereafter, with most undesirable pinching and skimping. Still, the family is a unit, as to the necessity that Polly shall have a creditable outfit, and her brothers and sisters are not reluctant to practice economy that she may have everything she needs.

What does an intending bride really need? This is a closer inquiry than it would be were it differently worded. We are not considering what an intending bride may wish. There is a wide distance between need and want. Polly, if she is as we suppose a sensible American girl, with a wise head on her shoulders, means to conform to her circumstances with perfect contentment. She is going to marry a young fellow whose home is in a small inland town, whose business prospects are good, and whose habits are steady. As yet, he is only living on a salary which warrants him in setting up a simple home, but which leaves no margin for display. Looking forward with brave hearts to their blended future, John and Polly are dwelling in one of those charming dreams that come true for self-respecting young people like themselves.

Put the emphasis on the adjective. The younger they are, the more years they will have to be happy together, the more courage and enthusiasm they will have, the more spontaneity of enjoyment. The rose-colored days are before them in which to climb the hill together.

To return to the trousseau, let us take the gowns first, though they are not the most important. They are, rather, the most conspicuous.

A summer bride should, if possible, be married in white, and in white attire there is a great variety of fabrics from which to choose. A bride looks as lovely in white muslin, white wool or white net, as in brocade, silk or satin, and her white wedding gown, of whatever material it is fashioned, will furnish her prettiest evening dress for any occasion which may arise during the next year or two.

A bride need not wear a veil unless she chooses. She does not, and it may be of inexpensive material, and will then be as becoming as if it were point lace. Bridal veils are heirlooms in some families. A girl likes to be married in a veil that her mother and her grandmother wore on their respective wedding days. Veils are, however, not in themselves especially attractive adjuncts. A girl usually looks prettier without one.

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For underclothing, let Polly provide a half dozen of each piece. It is well to have the underclothing made at home, and very fastidious brides like it made by hand. But it may be bought ready-made in the shops and be quite as satisfactory. Stockings, shoes, gloves and handkerchiefs, belts and stocks are to be considered as the finishing of the bride's wearing apparel.

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Polly's girl friends sometimes get together before the wedding and give her a linen shower. Nothing in the line of dainty linen comes amiss at such a time, and it is much better for a group of friends to combine and thus fully furnish a linen chest, than to scatter their gifts over many costly articles of ornament that give a passing pleasure, but are of little use. Expensive center pieces and dillies, tray cloths, carving cloths and luncheon cloths, napkins of different sizes and everything that belongs to delicate napery fill a bride's heart with pleasure. Polly's trousseau should have only sweet thoughts associated with it. It is the most beautiful time of her young life.

Let us hope that our bride will for awhile do her own work. Unless she does, it is likely that her beautiful linen and dainty underclothing will suffer many things at the hands of incompetent and careless women, who work devastation when fine linen comes to the wash board and the tub. If Polly is going to employ a maid, let us hope that she will begin by being mistress in her kitchen. A girl who is about to marry should not let her color fade or her health wane over her trousseau. But she will do well to learn some of those simple arts of housekeeping which save money and bring comfort in the new home. No matter how rich she may be, her personal supervision will be useful, and if she is comfortably poor, she will have the greater independence.

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What does an intending bride really need? This is a closer inquiry than it would be were it differently worded. We are not considering what an intending bride may wish. There is a wide distance between need and want. Polly, if she is as we suppose a sensible American girl, with a wise head on her shoulders, means to conform to her circumstances with perfect contentment. She is going to marry a young fellow whose home is in a small inland town, whose business prospects are good, and whose habits are steady. As yet, he is only living on a salary which warrants him in setting up a simple home, but which leaves no margin for display. Looking forward with brave hearts to their blended future, John and Polly are dwelling in one of those charming dreams that come true for self-respecting young people like themselves.

Put the emphasis on the adjective. The younger they are, the more years they will have to be happy together, the more courage and enthusiasm they will have, the more spontaneity of enjoyment. The rose-colored days are before them in which to climb the hill together.

To return to the trousseau, let us take the gowns first, though they are not the most important. They are, rather, the most conspicuous.

A summer bride should, if possible, be married in white, and in white attire there is a great variety of fabrics from which to choose. A bride looks as lovely in white muslin, white wool or white net, as in brocade, silk or satin, and her white wedding gown, of whatever material it is fashioned, will furnish her prettiest evening dress for any occasion which may arise during the next year or two.

A bride need not wear a veil unless she chooses. She does not, and it may be of inexpensive material, and will then be as becoming as if it were point lace. Bridal veils are heirlooms in some families. A girl likes to be married in a veil that her mother and her grandmother wore on their respective wedding days. Veils are, however, not in themselves especially attractive adjuncts. A girl usually looks prettier without one.

Some brides prefer to be married in what is now called the going away gown. We used to call it the traveling dress. When this is chosen, the bride who, like Polly, must study economy, will select a soft gray or brown stuff, which will serve later for church or visiting, or an afternoon reception. It must include a skirt, jacket and waist, should be sailor-made and very smart in every detail. To relieve and save this costume, a short black or navy skirt and a jacket of either black or covert cloth are desirable for second best. The bride should have one black silk of etamine gown, beautifully made, in her trousseau as this will be suitable for functions of every kind, both in winter and summer. If in addition to this, she can have a simple gown of gray voile she will be beautifully fitted out. One or two pique or linen skirts, a supply of cotton shirt waists sufficient to enable the wearer to be always fresh, cool and dainty in appearance, and two or three print or gingham frocks for wearing at home, are requisite. If Polly can manage it, she should have a raincoat and a golf cape, and she will need two hats—one for best and one for every day. Of course, there are brides and brides; some will get on with much less than the bride which I have indicated. Others will provide much more, but for many reasons a too elaborate trousseau is a great mistake. There is no sense or use in multiplying gowns which only grow old-fashioned.

For underclothing, let Polly provide a half dozen of each piece. It is well to have the underclothing made at home, and very fastidious brides like it made by hand. But it may be bought ready-made in the shops and be quite as satisfactory. Stockings, shoes, gloves and handkerchiefs, belts and stocks are to be considered as the finishing of the bride's wearing apparel.

As Polly will supply the household linen, she must consider how many beds she will have and think over the requisites for her table. If her mother is of a provident turn, the household linen was ready some little time ago. Two pairs of sheets and four pairs of pillow slips must be allowed for each bed, but as company or illness make extra demands on the linen closet, it is best not to be thus limited. To have as many sheets and pillow slips as one can afford, is the best rule. They need not actually be of linen, which is a term used by courtesy. Linen sheets are very nice, but fine cotton ones answer every purpose, and are preferred by many people. Four dozen towels inclusive of those for hands, face and bath are not too many. Beside these, there must be three dozen of different kinds of towels for kitchen use. Blankets, comforters and spreads are also provided by the bride.

Polly's girl friends sometimes get together before the wedding and give her a linen shower. Nothing in the line of dainty linen comes amiss at such a time, and it is much better for a group of friends to combine and thus fully furnish a linen chest, than to scatter their gifts over many costly articles of ornament that give a passing pleasure, but are of little use. Expensive center pieces and dillies, tray cloths, carving cloths and luncheon cloths, napkins of different sizes and everything that belongs to delicate napery fill a bride's heart with pleasure. Polly's trousseau should have only sweet thoughts associated with it. It is the most beautiful time of her young life.

Let us hope that our bride will for awhile do her own work. Unless she does, it is likely that her beautiful linen and dainty underclothing will suffer many things at the hands of incompetent and careless women, who work devastation when fine linen comes to the wash board and the tub. If Polly is going to employ a maid, let us hope that she will begin by being mistress in her kitchen. A girl who is about to marry should not let her color fade or her health wane over her trousseau. But she will do well to learn some of those simple arts of housekeeping which save money and bring comfort in the new home. No matter how rich she may be, her personal supervision will be useful, and if she is comfortably poor, she will have the greater independence.

MODEST TROUSSEAUS

THE CLOTHES AND LINEN THAT ARE REALLY NEEDED.

White Muslin Makes Attractive Dress for Summer Bride—Brides Usually Prefer Without Veils—Married in "Going Away" Gown—Multiplying Gowns Which Will Only Grow Old-Fashioned—Underclothing Hand-Made or Ready-Made—Advantages of Bride Who Does Her Own Work.

BY MARGARET E. SANGSTER. (Copyright, 1905, by Joseph B. Bowles.)

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