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WOMEN OF HOLLAND.

Dutch Feminine Costumes Are Too Complex For Words.

The women's costume is a trifle too complex for verbal description, as feminine belongings usually are, but the white lace cap which covers the head from eyebrows to nape of neck and from ear to ear, curving out in rounded wings on each side of her cheeks, is always a conspicuous and inevitable portion of a woman's attire. It may possibly be that on Sunday this cap is a trifle whiter or stiffer or daintier than on week days, but the difference is not very apparent.

The ladies assure us there is a vast difference in the quality of the net and the amount of handwork employed, but the lens made no special note of that. In shape and outline the camera finds great distinction between these caps and those of Katwyk or Marken or Bols le Duc, but between Sunday and Monday caps in Volendam it records none whatever. For the rest of the costume feminine Holland asks above all things apparently a very flat, narrow chest surmounting enormous hips, and Volendam is no exception to this fashion rule. The invariable black "best waist" of the elder women is usually brightened by a square yoke of lighter color and material, and the dark apron or overskirt is topped by six inches or more of gay plaid or bright colored band worn over an underskirt of dull blue striped or black material and uncountable petticoats. About the throat a collar formed of many rows of heavy dark red coral beads is fastened by huge silver clasps, and the number of rows, the size and quality of the beads are matters for feminine pride. Long hair is not the glory of women in Holland, save perhaps at Marken. It is usually hidden and at Volendam is cut quite close and entirely covered by a tight fitting thick black silk cap concealed beneath the snowy white lace. The younger girls, from the tiniest toddler to the young matron, old enough to wed, wear dresses and caps the exact counterpart of their grave mothers, no less full of skirt or narrow of chest, but much gayer in color. A group of tiny maidens in a stiff breeze on the dike resembles nothing more than a swarm of butterflies.—Florence Craig Albrecht in Scribner's.

He'll Get the Girl.

Tommy Rattles was turned down when he asked Elsie's father for his consent. The old man said that Tommy was a good boy, but lacked persistency.

What is Tommy going to do about it?

He goes to the old man and asks him for his daughter three evenings every week.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

His Reformation.

"Yes," said the reformed cannibal chief, "I used to eat every missionary that came out here."

"That was before you got religion, eh?" queried the new missionary.

"No; before I got indigestion."—Catholic Standard and Times.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

No small noise sounds as bad as that made by squeaky shoes.

Lift any little woman's thumb and you will find a man under it.

How few people are as polite to their friends as they are to strangers!

People seem to begrudge a preacher everything he gets except his vacation.

The child that is ruled by love and the child that has its own way live at the same house.

If you were a mind reader you would learn a lot of unpleasant things which now you can only surmise.

The man who prides himself on being a "great observer of little things" can usually be relied upon for a few unpleasant remarks.

Soon after a boy ceases to credit his father with being the smartest man on earth he imagines his father should consult him on all doubtful issues.—Aitchison Globe.

Inflection.

The wife of an army officer at a western post recently had occasion to visit a small neighboring town to do some shopping at what is called the general store. She was much entertained by the variety and antiquity of the stock of goods, and as she passed out her eyes were attracted by a pile of mottoes, elaborately lettered and ornately framed, the upper one being the Scriptural passage, "Walk in love."

As she paused the clerk, a dapper young man of more affability than advantages, stepped forward with the remark: "Them are the latest things in mottoes. This top one is swell to put over a young lady's door—'Walk in love.'"—Lippincott's.

The Outdoor Boy.

Let the boy learn to hit the bright spot with a rifle, and if war comes he can hit the button on the coat of an enemy the first shot and does not have to be taught to shoot over again after he enlists. If he is familiar with guns, boats, water and the wild woods, he will be handy anywhere, and you can't lose him. Any boy who has got a father who won't do the right thing by him and give him a chance to love the woods and the water and the free, clean air that God serves free, when you get far enough away from man's city can come along with me some time, and I will show him how to have the time of his life.—Outer's Book.

Just Two Kinds of Men.

"There are two classes of men," said the close observer. "One knows nothing about woman, having spent years in studying her. The other knows everything, never having studied her."—Chicago Journal.

At 3 A. M.

His Wife—You needn't make any excuses, John. It's all right. You're just in time to walk the baby for an hour or two.—Puck.

Skill and assurance are an inimitable couple.—Dutch Proverb.

J. M.

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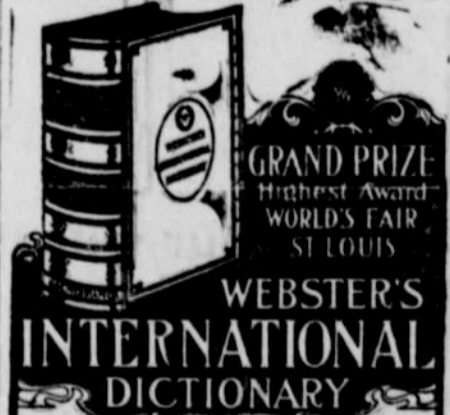
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