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Rivers as Factors in War.

Aside from the siege operations at Port Arthur, a large part of the heaviest fighting has been along river banks—at the Yalu, the Ai, the Talise, the Sha, the Hun, or the Liao. The positions defended have been either parallel to rivers or upon sites which owed their strategic value to their proximity to rivers.

The facts suggest in a striking way

one of the reasons why the boundaries of states and nations from the earliest times have been determined so often by river courses, without regard to other considerations. The rivers, by affording natural advantages for defense, have fixed the limit not upon what conquering nations wanted to possess, but upon what they were able to take.—Chicago News.

Deaths From Poisoned Flour.

According to a recent issue of a Chinese newspaper, upward of 40 deaths have taken place lately in the vicinity of Amoy through morphine poisoning. The drug, which is subject to a heavy duty, had been smuggled into the port and stowed amid a shipment of flour. By some mischance some of the packages were broken open and the drug thus became mixed with the flour. When the flour was landed, instead of being destroyed, it was sold to customers, the result being that most of the persons who used it were poisoned.

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NEW YORK FASHION LETTER

Estelle Clairmont Prattles of Styles, Colors and Materials

New York, Aug. 5.—The linen frock is more ubiquitous than ever this season, and one might easily fill columns with descriptions of linen frocks of the elaborate class, Irish lace and all the other handsome heavy laces, hand embroidery of every description, the sheer laces, such as valenciennes, usually in combination with heavy embroidery, braiding, painting—all of these are considered appropriate trimmings—and some of the most costly frocks turned out by dressmakers this summer have belonged to the linen group.

Much has been said of the costs of broderie Anglaise on linen, the princess linen robes enriched in almost every square inch by lace, embroidery, stitching, the lace frocks whose lace identity is almost lost beneath the wealth of trimming in embroidered linen, and the linen foundation; but, after all, it is the simple tub frock of linen that means the greatest good to the greatest number, and, because of its general appeal to women, is the most important of linen items in the summer modes.

One hears that the shirt waist frock is out of date, but it is only the name that is past. The severe shirt waist blouse has lost prestige, but the simple blouse and skirt costume of linen, pique, madras, that has been incorrectly ranked under the shirt waist head, is still with us.

Pique, in eclipse for a time, has come back into favor and found a hearty welcome, for there's no denying that it keeps fresh longer than linen, the latter musing badly, though its excellent laundering qualities offset this fault to a great extent.

The beautiful mercerized madras stuffs, especially in white, are popular, too, for the type of tub frock under discussion, the frock firm enough and heavy enough to retain some degree of freshness and trimness even after a hard day's wear—a thing impossible to the very sheer stuffs, with their tendency to bedraggled limpness under slight provocation.

These madras materials in the better qualities have a high lustre which is not lost, though toned down to agreeable softness in laundering, and, at their best, they have small effective designs of circle, dot, lozenge, etc. The large damask patterns are still shown, but are not popular this year.

White is always the best choice for a frock that is to undergo frequent tubbing, and despite frequent assertions to the contrary every summer is primarily a "white summer." No other color is so universally becoming, particularly at a season of flushed faces. Nothing else looks so cool, nothing else launders so well, and appreciating all these points the sensible woman has a majority of her tub frocks in white.

The colored laces are frequently embroidered in white, broderie Anglaise being here, as elsewhere throughout fashion's province, particularly favored. Sometimes the handwork is nothing more complicated than the button-holding of scalloped edges on collar, cuffs, etc. Sometimes it is more elaborate, and it is done in the color of the linen even more often than in white bands and motifs of embroidery on white linen are also used to trim simple frocks of colored linen.

Linen soutache in white trims some of the pretty linen frocks, or rather assists in trimming them; but these frocks are usually of the bolero and skirt persuasion. A costume in blue linen with triple bolero trimmed in white soutache and finished at the neck with heavy lace and white cordelieres belongs to this class. Another bolero costume, without the soutache feature, is in soft green linen, with collar revers and cuffs of fine white lingerie.

The bolero and the linen long coat are both popular for the morning costume of linen—the latter, when beautifully tailored being considered the smarter of the two; but the appearance of the long linen coat after its wearer has been sitting some time, or has been attempting to hold up her skirt in the back, is lamentable, and the hip length coats severely tailored keeps their freshness and contours better than the five-eighths length which is so much in favor.

Princess gowns of all kinds continue to hold high place in fashion's favor and the makers grow more and more clever in the shaping of these difficult robes. One rather spectacular, yet by no means loud, princess gown which recently aroused the enthusiasm

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writes Mrs. L. E. Clevenger, of Bellevue, N. C., "at my monthly periods, all my life, but the first bottle of Cardui gave me wonderful relief, and now I am in better health than I have been for a long time. I think Cardui the greatest woman's medicine in the world."

of fashion observers in Paris was of silk mousseline in a dull gold tint. It was made of great fullness of mousseline in the skirt and fully draped bodice, but absolutely without trimming save for a stole which fitted in yoke fashion around the shoulders and ran down to the hem of the frock in front, narrowing at the waist line and broadening slightly in its progress from belt to hem.

This stole, which clung closely to the lines of the figure, was in superb heavy lace, tinted to match the mousseline and embroidered in dull golds with touches of warm brown. The description sounds complicated and the stole was, of course, a costly work of art, but the long, straight lines of the gown with the concentration of its richness in the one piece of trimming, gave the toilet an originality and beauty that made it a sensation.

The draped bodice shares honors with Louis coats, princess robes, empire and directoire modes, and though the blouse has lost its prestige, the smooth fitting tight basque of other days with which we have been threatened has not, so far, materialized save

in isolated freakish instances. Such drapery defining the bust curves, yet with no suggestion of stiffness, is the order of the day, so far as bodices are concerned, and it must be admitted that the idea fares better in the hands of the artist than in those of the ordinary dressmaker.

ESTELLE CLAIREMONT.

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