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CASTELLANE' FLOWER BALL.

Remarkable Features of His Recent Paris Entertainment.

Count Boni de Castellane excelled himself in the gentle craft of the man-milliner when he designed the "flower ball" with which he and his American wife dazzled Paris the other night. Women as symbols of the garden and conservatory, men in chromatic evening dress—such was the leading idea of a fete that was carried out on a scale of splendor made possible by the millions of the late Jay Gould.

It was preceded by a dinner to which were bidden 130 guests of various nationalities. Every person present was dressed fantastically. Each woman represented a flower. The men did not represent anything in particular, but they wore bright colors.

The Countess was arrayed as a poppy. She wore a short skirt and succeeded in not looking self-conscious about it. She looked very well. Her guests whispered among themselves that the Count had designed her costume.

Nothing could have harmonized more kindly with the Countess' black hair and eyes and almost sallow complexion than the red flowers in the wheat which

Gleam redder than drops of blood
On a dead king's golden mail.

The Count himself was a dream—a vision in pale yellow. His satin coat was almost the hue of his blonde hair, which stood back from his forehead in fetching waves. Like the rest of the men, he wore knickerbockers. His were of ivory white moire. The pretty modeling of his calves was set forth by a pair of scarlet silk stockings.

Madame reserved the place of honor at her right for an English duke. It was His Grace of Manchester. His boyish but dissipated face smiled vacuously over a pale blue coat and a saffron colored waistcoat. His knickerbockers were black satin.

Among the women were roses of various kinds. Mrs. Marshall of New York, for example, was a red rose; Mrs. Edwin Gould was a pink rose; Mrs. Michael Herbert was a white rose; Mrs. Kingsland was a rosebud.

Mrs. Arthur Paget wore a superb costume symbolic of the Egyptian lotus. The Duchess de Rochefoucauld, a tender study in pale blue, presented an emblem of the forget me-not. Madeline Lemaire was an orchid; Mrs. Eugene Schneider a thistle.

And so it went. Count de Castellane had created a garden of women. The modistes had applied themselves to the study of horticulture in order to reproduce it in fabrics, and the result was beautiful.

As for the men, they made a brave effort to excel Solomon in all his glory. The least imposing of them all, chromatically, was an American—Edwin Gould, the hostess' brother. He was the only one in modern evening dress, but he had so far made a concession to his brother-in-law's desire as to have the coat lined, including the revers, with yellow satin. This was hailed as "democratic simplicity," but a witty American woman pointed out that it was not the democratic simplicity of Jefferson, who went to a ball in Philadelphia in all the splendor of a sky-blue coat, crimson waistcoat, yellow plush breeches and pink silk stockings.

Seventy additional guests arrived for the cotillion and all were in bright colors.

The decorations and illuminations were lavish and artistic. In this branch, too, the Count had exhibited his taste for pretty things, and the Countess amably accepted the compliments called for by his success. Staircases and corridors were lighted with tiny red globes. The beautiful garden, in which the guests strolled between the dances and partook of ices and champagne, was hung with dark yellow lanterns representing pumpkins.

The festival was marred by an accident which might have proved disastrous but for the promptitude of the guests. Countess Gansy, daughter of Mr. Henry Ridgway, of New York, ventured too near a lamp, and her diaphanous gown caught fire. The Duke of Manchester and several other men, rushed to her assistance and slapped out the flames with their hands before any great harm was done.

Count Boni de Castellane's chief delight was in the costumes of the men. He is ambitious to accomplish that in which even the Prince of Wales has failed—the reform of masculine attire. The stuff outlines and dingy colors of modern days are his abhorrence. Trousers he considers an outrage on the human form divine.

It was not to be thought such an ambition on the Count's part should escape the attention of the Socialists. They have begun to murmur at the "flower ball" as an insidious attempt to restore the manners and customs of royalty.

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