THEY CRUSH THE POWERS

This is written in mid-October. The long, oppressive summer is quite gone. Fading leaf, withering tree and the rustling corn in the fields are signs of the season. Fog, frost, rain, snow,—they are coming. You remember last winter; of 1900 and 1901. The weather was cruel. Ah! the thousands it killed, and the hundreds of thousands it maimed and crippled. Oh, the rough grasp it laid on men at work, women at home, and children in cribs and cradles. Coughs that began before Thanksgiving Day are racking and tearing them still; yes, and growing worse as they dig deeper into the poor, tired throat and lungs. Many were cured by using Benson's Porous Plasters. For the soothing and healing power of these Plasters is wonderful. They conquer the complaints

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THE HOUSE OF BETSEY ROSS.

Quaint Old Building in which the American Flag was Made.

The stranger in Philadelphia who looks upon the little house numbered 239 Arch street with no knowledge of its history will be nevertheless impressed by its diminutive quaintness. Notwithstanding that it is two stories and a half high, it might be placed upon the ground floor of some of our modern buildings, with room to spare between its own roof and the ceiling above. Yet in this tiny house was born the flag which came triumphantly through the Revolution, survived our domestic strife, spread its protecting shadow over the Island of Cuba and now floats proudly in every quarter of the globe.

Excepting the store window at its front, which was added in comparatively recent times, the Betsey Ross house is today very much as it was over 100 years ago. The old-fashioned ridge roof sloping down toward the street, whose eaves all but blind the little many-paned windows of the second floor, the straight sills and its indescribable quaintness not to mention the flaring sign in front which announces that it is open to the public, all serve to distinguish it from its modern neighbors.

Within, as well, the historic house has been slightly remodeled. The low ceilings and square woodwork and quaint though badly lighted rooms all bespeak the olden times. Passing from what was probably the parlor through a small, dark hall, we find ourselves in the flag room. Square and low and dingy, this room nevertheless has one feature which is sure to catch the eye. It is the old-fashioned fire-place, whose shape and size tell that it was made for use. Doubtless in its day it not only gave warmth and cheer, but rendered culinary service as well. Here and there its front is still studded with such of the old Delft tiles as have escaped the relic hunter. There are but 12 of them now, and to the mind of the present day the hand-painted decorations under their highly glazed surfaces cannot but recall the toil with which our forefathers purchased what are now the simplest of ornaments.

As we stand in this room the oft-pictured scene of Betsey Ross and flag committee rises inevitably to our minds. Here was the stalwart figure of the old Quaker financier and there the stately and dignified colonel and the never-to-be-forgotten features of the Father of his Country, while opposite to them with the unfurled banner in her hands, sat the famous needle-woman.

As you doubtless recall, it was in June, 1776, that the committee, consisting of Washington, Robert Morris and Colonel Geo. Ross, first called at the little house on Arch street. Mrs. Ross, the widow of the Colonel's nephew, was already widely known as an upholsterer of much skill and taste, as she was, indeed, in many other branches of needlework. Washington, on many other previous occasions, had been a guest in her house, and so was acquainted with her ability.

The committee, who for some time had been considering the subject of a flag for the United Colonies, had previously made a design of the proposed banner, which they now submitted to Mrs. Ross. Her answer to their questioning as to whether she could make such a flag was: "I don't know whether I can, but I'll try." But, contrary to the suggested diffidence of this reply, further discussion made clear to the committee that their hostess had some very decided opinions upon the subject in hand. At her suggestion, not only did Washington redraw the design, but in the new plan he substituted the five-cornered star for the less graceful figure of six points.

No doubt you have often seen pictures of the flag which drew out of this meeting. It differs from the present banner only in that it has but 13 stars arranged in a circle upon the blue field. The original Betsy Ross flag was carried, for the first time, by Washington's army when it passed through Philadelphia on its way to check the advance of Lord Howe, who was then moving up the Delaware.

It has been said upon good authority that the new flag was in general use shortly after the Declaration of Independence, yet it was not until a year later that Congress resolved "that the flag of 13 colonies be 43 stripes, alternate red and white, and the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." It was further provided that in the future this new constellation should be increased by one new star of each additional State admitted to the Union. The stripes of the flag are now and will ever remain 13 in number, one for each of the original States.—*Youth.*

A Victory to Order.

The Duke of Wellington, while a member of the British Ministry, once turned a drawn battle into a glorious victory. When the news of the bloody action of Ferozhuhr, in India, arrived there was great consternation in the ministry; at best it was a drawn battle. Sir Robert Peel was much affected at the Council, taking a most gloomy view, when the Duke lighting up said:

"Make it a victory; fire a salute and ring the bells," and so it was ordered and done.—*From the Argonaut.*

THE TOYS.

My little son, who looked from thoughtful eyes,
And moved and spoke in quiet grown up wise,
Having my law the seventh time disobeyed,
I struck him, and dismissed
With hard words and unkissed,
His mother, who was patient, being dead.
Then, fearing lest his grief should hinder sleep,
I visited his bed.
But found him slumbering deep,
With darkened eyelids, and their lashes yet
From his late sobbing wet.
And I, with a moan,
Kissing away his tears, left others of my own;
For on a table drawn beside his head,
He had put within his reach
A box of counters and a red-veined stone,
A piece of glass abraded by the beach.
And six or seven shells,
A bottle with bluebells
And two French copper coins, ranged there with careful art,
To comfort his sad heart.
So when that night I prayed
To God, I wept and said:
Ah, when at last we lie with tranced breath
Not vexing Thee in death,
And Thou rememberest of what toys
We made our joys,
How weakly understood
The great commanded good,
Then, fatherly not less
Than I, whom Thou hast molded from the clay,
Thou'lt leave Thy wrath and say,
"I will be sorry for their childishness."

—*Coventry Patmore.*

FINISHING TOUCH TO THE SHIRT WAIST.

Instead of the neat and inconspicuous little band that once finished the neck of a bodice fashion now demands wonderfully constructed stocks. The same elaborate handiwork that makes the gown so beautiful shows its influence upon this important detail, and each collar and stock is designed specially to suit some one style of frock or shirtwaist. Best of all, the new collars fit the throat perfectly, whether they are half high or the extreme width, designated the "Sarah Bernhardt."

Lace, mousseline, oriental and fine French embroidery figure prominently on the latest designs, and it is the exception to see a stock made without a tab in front. Sometimes there are three of these pointed effects, arranged to overlap and caught at the throat with a jeweled buckle. A narrower turnover in an irregular shape makes a suitable finish for the upper edge, and this style may be varied in a thousand ways.

Nearly all the collars of the fancy type are made upon a thin foundation, usually mouseline stiffened occasionally with covered bone.

One of the recent oriental effects shows a plain collar having a deep turnover of Chinese or Japanese embroidery. This bit of handiwork falls in a point in front. Of the designs the prettiest is one displaying a graceful grouping peacock feathers in the natural blues and greens. The stock is made to go once around the neck and at the back the bread silk ends are tied in a pretty bow.

A butterfly stock is an attractive novelty in silk or embroidered Swiss. The band displays little ornamentation—sometimes fine tucks or stitchings in a contrasting color—and at the front is fastened a butterfly shaped piece of material. The head and feelers of the butterfly reach up on the collar proper and impart a realistic note.

Sets of collar and cuffs are popular with women who like neat and trim effects, though the new accessories by no means resemble the old-fashioned stiff linen sets. A few of the sets come in silk and some lace ones are seen, but the prettiest are those fashioned from fine ecru batiste, embroidered or appliqued with lace in the same tint. The collars are perfectly plain round ones, fastening at the back with three or four tiny pearl buttons and as many loops. This is a chic arrangement for a woman whose face is young enough to find it becoming. The cuffs are made in the same stye, and may be the same width as the collar or narrower.

A pretty set in pale fresh butter colored batiste displayed a corder of embroidery worked in open scallops. In these spaces was an applique of coarse meshed lace, put on so as to give the effect of forming the background for the embroidery. Irish point, curtain, filet and all of the crochet laces are made into stunning yet simple collars. The lace is cut in some odd straight shape, with a curved and fancy upper edge, which is then bound with a bias fold of silk. This may be further enhanced by French knots or cut steel or pearl beads.

On washable stocks in place of the lace, fine embroidery is used. The edge may be trimmed with a tiny roll of the white batiste caught to the foundation by means of faggoting.

The novice will find difficulty in shaping a collar so as to give it the proper length in front without a break. In many cases the turnover itself is elongated to form deep points which round at the tip. These must lie perfectly flat and smooth, otherwise the trim effect is lost.

All kinds of embroideries are employed on these important dress features, and if a stock is intended for a certain bodice, the motif of the latter is adhered to as closely as possible. It is the endeavor to make the collar seem a part of the dress waist, instead of being an addition, and for this reason it has taken to itself frills and fancies to keep pace with the increasing elaborateness of frocks.

For the tailor girl who has been forced to progress in the way of fussiness there is a stock that is somewhat stiff, decidedly trim and not altogether plain. Piqué forms the foundation, and the close fitting collar comes well up about the throat, fastens at the left of the front with small white buttons and loops, while directly in the centre it is curved down to make a modish point. Stitching makes a neat finish for both edges, and there are four wide up-and down slashes in the outer section. The first two come just beyond the center in front, and the others have the same relative position in the back. A fine linen tape binds the edges of these slashes, and through them is run a silk four-in-hand tie that is crushed in folds, is fastened in the reguistion knot directly in front and then has both flowing ends drawn through a fine slit, which is horizontal and extends across the front point. The ends of the scarf also are pointed and stitched several times around the edge. Black peau de sole is always a good combination with white pique, and for variety there are some gorgeous green and blue plaid effects.

Turnovers serve two purposes—they keep the underneath collar fresh and are ornamental without being to elaborate. The latest models are made of heavy linens woven in stripes, cords or basket effects, and they run straight around about an inch in depth. It is a fad to have them embroidered in colors not on the edge—for scallops have gone out entirely—but in groups of three designs, one in the front and the other two toward the back. There are curious Chinese letters worked in green and black silk upon pure white mercerized oxford, tiny clusters of grapes in white bordered with black, with black large disks in blue, green or white, etched with black and all sorts of quaint and pretty patterns. Monograms, crests or odd ciphers furnish motifs for some of these styles of neckwear.

DESERVED TO SAVE HIS LIFE.

Unparalleled Fortitude Exhibited by German Forrester.

Fritz Werner was a German forester. One day a stag gored him frightfully in the abdomen.

As the infuriated animal pulled out his antlers, backed away and prepared for a second charge, the injured man propped himself on an elbow and fired just as the stag was closing in on him. The animal fell dead and the man fainted away.

When he recovered counsciousness he found he could not attract attention by shouting. He realized that he was out of the beaten paths and that unless he dragged himself to a frequented place he would surely die. So he began dragging himself through the forest in the direction of his employer's house, three miles away.

He started on his journey at noon; at 3 o'clock the next morning the occupants of the house were aroused by the explosion of a gun nearby. Investigating they found the forester in a dead faint, and nearly dead from loss of blood, lying on the lawn. By his side was a smoking gun.

When the injured man got so that he could speak and tell his story, his master asked him:

"But why did you drag that heavy gun all the way?"

"I knew that I couldn't shout when I did reach an inhabitable place," was the reply, "so I brought it along to attract attention. I didn't think of it until I had crawled for half a mile, then I crawled back and got it."

Points From the Paragraphers.

New York World: Wireless telegraphy suggests wireless telephony and a voice calling over the Atlantic "Busy!"

Birmington Age-Herald: The new German tariff is another pacific blockade. It is an adjustable Dingley tariff on wheels.

Atlanta Journal: Congress simply proposes to appropriate money to fight the trusts, instead of passing a law to control them.

Washington Star: If the price of oil continues to go up, a rise in the tallow-candle and pine-knot market may next be expected.

Buffalo Times: The blockading force rather mixed those babies up when a British cruiser captured a Venezuelan ship carrying a German cargo and the owner lodged a complant with the United States Consul.

Evening Wisconsin: The trouble between the Tobacco Trust and the independent dealers will cause a great deal of smoke; that is, if the fight is marked by a sharp cutting of prices.

The Uncurbed.

Surprising results are often attained
By the easiest kind of means;
Souls blacker than hell seem far whiter than snow—
Its only a question of screens.
But the tongue that is loose and the tongue that is wild,
And the tongue that wags both left and right,
Points once at the breast of immaculate truth,
And it's painted as black as the night!

Went Naturally.

"I never had nobody what kin ter me ter be lynched," said the colored prisoner, "Dey all died nat'ral deaths."

"They did?"

"Yes, sub, dey wuz hung by law."

"Keep away f'um trouble," says Brother Dickey, "kase dey's mighty few mens dese days what got money enough ter go ter court en prove dey innocence."

—*Atlanta Cowstitution.*

MILLER'S

New Year's Greeting.

The Christmas season is drawing to a close, and with it the old, old year. I wish to extend to my friends and patrons

Many Thanks

and the very best wishes for a Happy and Successful New Year.

As in the past, my stock of fine and staple goods will be uniformly large and varied, and at the most reasonable prices consistent with purity and full measure.

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