The MANIFOLD FOLDINGS of a MODE

Whole Frocks from Little Plaitings Grow; the Mode for
Furbelows of Plaits Now Extends to Costumes in That
Fashion,—Much-Plaited Tailleurs, Frocks, and Capes

on frieze and bas-relief, wore plaited robes in
gorgeous colourings. There is something charm-
ing in their simplicity of effect, and to-day the
frocks which are made all of plaits rely on this
very quality for their appeal. Pictures of the
vestal virgins with their straight plaitsed robes
may serve to remind us that we are not setting
a new fashion; and has not Fortuny gone to the
art of Greece for the inspiration of his women
in their stately plaitsed gowns and négligées?

But what makes newness in a style is the man-
er of its treatment. In a fashion which is very
distinctively his own, Watteau has made a tradi-
tion of plaits that hang from graceful shoulders
and sweep in stately fashion through the formal
gardens of his fancy. Egypt, Greece, and the
France of Watteau—plaited costumes in varia-
tion, but for what different times and different
weathers. Now, when the Parisienne wears a
plaitsed gown that follows the traditions of Egypt

IN Paris, last autumn, when the mists of
fashion blew, they stirred the plaits that had
began to trim the tunics, sleeves, and collars
of gowns for street and tea and evening. A very
new and interesting stirring it was,—for plaits had
been out of the mode for so long. With their
return, the fashion-wise began to think of skirts
in dimensions of twelve yards, for such little
plaitsings foretold a widening of the silhouette—
and, in truth, the hoop and pannier skirts were
not long in following them.

PLAITINGS BECOME THE MODE

Now, these little plaitsings that, last autumn,
only indicated the trend of the mode, have grown
into big plaitsings and have become a large part
of the mode itself. Very persistently and very
cleverly have they established themselves in a
season when many modes are vying for recogni-
tion, and when only a very acceptable one wins.
But plaits have come in such numbers that they
have left no room for doubt.

Plaitings can influence a mode in various ways.
When they are narrow and are used as decora-
tion, they give a very piquant effect. Last sea-
son’s little plaitsed ruffles up and down the sides
of skirts were amusing and pressed crinolines
and hoops that subsequently carried us off our
feet and made balloons of us in the winter. But
now, when they have begun to play a greater
role, when they become a large part of the
costume instead of merely an added touch, they
look very different, though none the less attrac-
tive. Whole dresses of plaitsing, which have
come to us with the Egyptian mode, possess a
very different sort of charm, and though they
lack the light and spirited touch, they are as
youthful as were the earlier frocks in their
straight and simple line.

The wind that brings the fashion is indeed a
fickle gale. Certainly, things have not, of neces-
sity, to be new to be accepted, for plaits in frocks
are as old as the pyramids; those calm-eyed
Egyptian women who appear in stately progress

The delicate grace of the petal dress also
finds its summer expression in many-
tiered plaitsings, which by overlapping
points suggests sheaths of flowers.
The bodice of this dark blue chiffon
afternoon frock from Doucet is simple
and graced with silver embroidery.

When Martial et Armand turned their
attention to plaitsing, this, by the as-
sistance of capucine blue taffeta, was
the result. There is the quaintness of
puffed sleeves, also the demureness of
rounded apron, both edged with plaits
ruffles; the skirt, too, is laid in plaits

For the fair pedestrian who is torn be-
tween her freedom of motion and the
narrow silhouette, the plaitsed tailleur
is a joyous compromise. Such a model
is designed by Martial et Armand of
blue silk sable with brown leather but-
tons and thongs, just to show how
what can be done with plaitsing. Dressed
gives many to a flock of blue serge