

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



For the fair pedestrian who is torn between her freedom of motion and the narrow silhouette, the plaited tailleur is a joyful compromise. Such a model is designed by Martial et Armand of tan silk serge with brown leather buttons and thongs. Just to show what can be done with plaitings, Drecolle gives many to a frock of blue serge

IN Paris, last autumn, when the winds of fashion blew, they stirred the plaits that had begun 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 plaitings 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 plaitings that, last autumn, only indicated the trend of the mode, have grown into big plaitings 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 recognition, 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 decoration, they give a very piquant effect. Last season's little plaited ruffles up and down the sides of skirts were amusing and presaged 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 rôle, when they become a large part of the costume instead of merely an added touch, they look very different, though none the less attractive. Whole dresses of plaitings, 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 lines.

The wind that brings the fashion is indeed a fickle gale. Certainly, things have not, of necessity, 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

on frieze and bas-relief, wore plaited robes in gorgeous colourings. There is something charming 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 plaited 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 plaited gowns and négligées?

But what makes newness in a style is the manner of its treatment. In a fashion which is very distinctively his own, Watteau has made a tradition 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 variation, but for what different times and different wearers. Now, when the Parisienne wears a plaited gown that follows the traditions of Egypt



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

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