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POETRY.

SPRING AND WINTER.

BY OWEN MEREDITH.

The world buds every year;
But the heart just once, and when
The blossom falls off sere
No new blossom comes again.
Ah! the rose goes with the wind;
But the thorns remain behind.

Was it well in him, if he
Felt not love, to speak of love so?
If he still unmoved must be,
Was it nobly sought to move so?
Pluck the flower, and yet not wear it?
Spurn, despise it, yet not spare it?

Need he say that I was fair,
With such meaning in his tone,
Just to speak of one whose hair,
Hair the same tinge as my own?
Pluck my life up, root and bloom,
Just to plant it on her tomb?

And she'd scarce so fair a face
(So he used to say) as mine;
And her form had far less grace;
And her brow was far less fine;
But 'twas just that he loved then
More than he can love again.

Why, if beauty could not bind him,
Need he praise me, speaking low;
Use my face just to remind him
How no face could please him now?
Why, it loving could not move him,
Did he teach me still to love him?

And he said my eyes were bright,
But his own, he said, were dim;
And my hand, he said, was white;
But what was that to him?
"For," he said, "in gazing at you,
I seem gazing at a statue."

"Yes!" he said, "he had grown wise now
He had suffered much of yore;
But a fair grace to his eyes now,
Was a fair face and no more.
Yet the anguish and the bliss,
And the dream, too, had been his."

Why those words, a thought too tender
For the common places spoken?
Looks whose meaning seemed to render
Help to words when speech came to render
Why so late in July moonlight
Just to say what's said by noonlight?

Spring Styles Costumes, Colors, and Contrasts.

[From Demorest's Mirror of Fashions for March.]

In spite of the most vigorous efforts to displace them, suits still retain the favor of the lovers of beauty. Party colored costumes are not elegant, nor can any excess of trimming make them pleasant to the eye. The tendency to vulgarity is inevitable, and as usual, our wealthy dames have sought refuge in costly black toilettes. Black silk, with velvet and lace as accompaniments, is always distinguished looking and becoming. People with smaller purses, and an equal sense of the beautiful in dress, must accept a costume of one color, and should certainly refuse to deck themselves in the absurd and violent contrasts now offered them. There is a chance for individuality in a well-cut suit of a becoming tint, and as Spring is already wooing us with visions of fresh flowers, green fields, and sweet odors, the thoughts naturally dwell on a dress in

HARMONY WITH NATURE.

Who has not felt a sense of relief in turning from the dark, heavy winter goods, to the piles of gray and cameo-tinted fabrics that suggest violet or delicate green ribbons, and misty bonnets of straw and tulle. The eyes soon tire of brilliant colors, whereas the black and white combinations, the grays and the wood shades can be modified and varied by the numberless trifles that are now indispensable to a perfect toilette. The favorite hair stripes will resume their place; silk suits of the new indefinite tints will take the lead for street wear.

These are very beautiful, and admit of lace fichus, sashes, sleeves, and sacques. The rage for lace both black and white, is on the increase. Considering its durability and becoming qualities, the wonder is that it ever goes out of fashion.

The neutral tints come in all the light woolen fabrics, cashmeres, merinos, and also in poplins and alpacas. Stylish suits can be made for the street, with self-trimming, and broad sashes of the same shade. Polonaises enjoy equal favor with the overskirts, and the small *Watteau* sacques. These are most becoming on slender figures, and give a very elegant finish to a costume. Small capes furnish another variety in the form of dress. They can be arranged with the *Watteau* fold, and ribbon s at the back, and are best

ADAPTED TO YOUNG GIRLS.

The round belted waist is very useful, as it admits of variety in the outside garment. Single skirts trimmed to the waist, with a draped apron, and sash ends, are also in vogue. An effort will be made to do away with such quantities of trimming on the under skirt, the weight of it being a drawback in warm weather. Handsome house-dresses, and evening toilettes, have long trains gathered into a *pouf* at the back with sashes. The front breadth alone is trimmed with lace or muslin pleatings.

This style is too becoming not to gain in favor as the season advances. It is peculiarly adapted to all thin Summer fabrics, muslins, grenadines, and silk. Thin white dresses can be trimmed on the front breadth, with lace or tulle pleatings, and ribbon of a becoming shade. A broad sash of the same shade holds the *pouf* at the back. The train should be finished with a deep hem, or a single pleating.

THE ROUND WAIST

with a bertha of lace, or deep pleating, and a breast-knot of ribbon.

On dotted or flowered muslins the trimming can be entirely of white organdie pleatings, or of self-pleatings, and ribbon to match the dot. All the muslins in delicate contrasts, make up becomingly, and can be successfully handled by the laundress.

Over trimming has reached such an extreme that there is danger of the opposite one of Quaker-like plainness, unless the more sensible portion of the feminine community will modify their desires, and stop the abuse of a good and pleasant thing.