

Mink sets are coming in fashion again.
Chenille hair nets are coming in vogue.
Bucksin underclothing grows in favor.
No short wraps will be worn this winter.
Skirt brades are not used on house dresses.
Stylish boas are two yards long and round.
Silver fox is still one of the favorite fancies.
Mopogans are seen on everything this season.

The new dolmans have backs that simulate a French cascade.
Ladies of sober tastes still prefer sealskin sets of muff and bonnet.
Matalasce goods, either silk or wool, are the fabrics for dolmans.
Far bands will be worn more this winter than for several seasons past.
The only trimming for deep or widow's mourning is black English crape.
The Radamere is a new mourning cloak material; it is a figured fabric.

Black and brown cony bands make pretty fur trimmings for inexpensive suits.
Rubies and diamonds, the fashionable jewelry with Parisians at this moment.
Deep mourning bouquets are made of crape only, and trimmed with the same.
Coquettish little boys and pocket-ettes are seen on the dolmans of very young ladies.
Broad elastic bands are better than strings to "fit-to-back" skirts and polonaise draperies.

Ladies who have velvet dolmans will wear them, but few new velvet ones will be bought.
An article for the removal of superfluous hair is advertised.
A new way of ornamenting the bottom of dresses is to use thick trims, filling over box and knife pleatings.
"Marie Antoinette" and elbow sleeves of light fitting coat sleeves down to the wrist are both worn for evening.

Black is the favorite color for dolmans but lighter ones for mild weather are made of gray or drab camel's hair cloths.
A fan-like effect is given to the back of dress skirts by raising a draw-string in a casing across the back breadth just below the knee.
Mourning cloaks are trimmed with tany or basket-woven braids, but heavy lustrous silk bands cut bias are preferred by conservative ladies.

For second mourning, or when crape and bombazine are discarded, the hat or bonnet is of plain, lustrous black silk or felt, trimmed with such silk.
New left balconials have no pleats or gathers around the waist; they fit smoothly over the hips with a slight fulling made by a drawing-string in the back.
A pretty, new caprice is sleeve trimmings is to place a band of ribbon or galloon just above the elbow, fastening it down with a button, a loop, and two short ends.

For mourning handkerchiefs there is no departure from the plain linen cambric ones, with plain black hems or borders, and the initial or monogram in black in one corner.
Dress skirts are not lined; modest ones use horse-hair facings that are very strong but not stiff. These facings are half a yard deep, covered half way down from the bottom with an alpacas facing.
Dress skirts are not bound with braids this winter, but faced with a wide alpaca galloon, which peeps below the bottom of the skirt like a piping. It requires two rows of stitching to keep this braid in place.

RUSSIA'S COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

THE GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS AND HIS CHIEF-OF-STAFF.

[From The New York Sun]

The Grand Duke Nicholas, who has been appointed by the Czar to the command of the Army of the Danube, and who yesterday left for his headquarters at Kioehener, Bessarabia, is one of the three living brothers of Alexander II. He is the third son of Czar Nicholas, and used to be famous monarch's great favorite, on account of his being the only son who resembled him both in face and stature. The likeness between the two is as well physical. The son is, as usual, as the father was, a staunch disciplinarian, endowed with an obedient, despotic will, a hater of every form of liberalism and progress, and a drill sergeant to the backbone. The Grand Duke, however, seems to be far inferior to that of the father. He was always reported throughout Russia to be the most stupid and dull of all the Princes of the Imperial house. His brothers, the Grand Dukes Constantine and

Michael, always made fun of him at court, and spread the most complimentary remarks about him. Even Alexander himself, before he became Emperor, could not resist the impulse to play jokes on his brother. But the worst of all the jokes is said to have been that which his father played on him when on his death bed he ordered his son to marry his second cousin, The Princess of Oldenburg, daughter of Prince Peter of Oldenburg. The Princess Alexandra, Wilhelmina was the beautiful young lady that could have been found at any European Court twenty years ago. It is said the Grand Duke cried like a child when he had to go to his wedding, but the match was not to be broken off.
He was then a handsome six-footer of twenty-five years of age, and the presence of a little red haired, red-faced, plainly-looking woman by his side did certainly not contribute to increase his prestige. For a few years the Grand Duke tried, however, to make the best of this match. He had two sons born to him, purchased large farms in the vicinity of the Capitol, and gave all his spare time to cattle and poultry, the breeding of which was always a favorite pursuit of his wife, and of all the members of the Oldenburg family. These domestic occupations rendered him still more ridiculous in the eyes of the idle and fast Russian aristocracy. Meanwhile his official position was constantly growing in importance. From a mere Inspector of the Engineer Corps he rose to the position of Inspector-General of Cavalry, to that of the Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Guards and of the military district of St. Petersburg. To nearly all of these positions he arrived by right of seniority. After his eldest brother had become Emperor, and had consequently to give them up. His brother Constantine would have had priority over him if he had not been brought up as a sailor and a statesman, and placed at the head of the Marine and of the Council of State.

With the growth in importance of his position, which took him away from his farms and tied him more closely to the Court and the capital, the personal habits of the Grand Duke seem also to have changed. Poultry and cattle gave place to the ballet and ballet girls, for which the Komnoff dynasty has at all times had a particular weakness. Things went so far that one of his favorite dancers had a house built for her directly opposite the palace of the Grand Duke. His appointment to the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Army was not attributed to the same cause which brought him to all the other posts he occupies. He gets his command merely as the senior military Prince of the empire. A good disciplinarian, and now probably an experienced military administrator, he has never had chance to show any ability as a general, for, although already a man of forty-five years of age, he has never been under fire. The Grand Duke will, however, be well supported by the Chief of Staff, Gen. Napokoytzkiy, one of the best superior officers the Russian army possesses. Hitherto he has been kept back solely because of his being a Pole by birth, and his appointment to so important a post now shows that the Czar highly appreciates the abilities of the man. The General was Chief of the Staff of the Army corps commanded by Gen. Luders during the war of 1854. He went then through the whole campaign on the Danube, and thus became thoroughly familiar with the region in which he will have to operate now. It is more than probable that the Grand Duke Nicholas will be a mere figurehead during the forthcoming war, and his Chief of Staff will be the actual Commander-in-Chief.

CAUGHT AWAY FROM HOME.

New York, Dec. 8.—A Frenchman, who gave the name of Arthur P. Devere, but whose real name is Ernest Gerhardt, was arrested today in this city, on the charge of murdering a young girl in San Miguel, a town a five miles from San Francisco, California, on the evening of September 14th last. It appears that Gerhardt was engaged to be married to Miss Blanche Bureau of San Francisco. The latter and another young lady, named Miss Jennie Bennett, left San Francisco for San Miguel, and while at Mr. Nasmar's hotel, both ladies being given to playing practical jokes, Miss Bennett crossed herself in male attire and accompanied her friend for a frolic through the town. At night they retired to rest, and Gerhardt, supposing them to be a man and a woman and that his affianced had a lover and had half a dozen shots into the body of Miss Bennett, who fell dead on the spot. Gerhardt then fled to Savannah and afterwards came to this city, where he was arrested. He will shortly be taken to San Francisco.

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