

Laszlo
DURRANT'S PRESS CUTTINGS,

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Cutting from the

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Unpicturesqueness of Modern Dress.—According to the writers of gossip paragraphs in the lay press the craze for being photographed and painted in old-time costumes is spreading. M. de Laszlo, the portrait painter, pleaded guilty, in an interview with the "Evening Standard," to originating and fostering this unfashionable fashion for "period" dress in modern portraits. "How can I paint a beautiful picture of a woman in one of these modern frocks?" he declared. "There is nothing to paint! When she sits down there is nothing but bare legs and bare arms. Her head is all face, with no frame of hair. - "A young girl of fifteen or sixteen perhaps. Full of grace, radiating youth and innocence. Yes. Perhaps—her I will paint in a short frock with no shape. But an older woman, no. So I dress the ladies who come to sit to me. Here, you see—and here—and here." He drew forward pictures, one after another, of modern beauties—mostly half-lengths. This one wrapped in a beautiful shawl—this one with a scarf thrown over her shingled hair and falling on to her bare angular shoulders. This other against so dark a background that we could not tell where the close-cropped hair ended, but only where it began around the face. Yet another in a long-sleeved white satin frock of early Victorian design, falling in rich, gleaming folds the painter had surely enjoyed working on, to the ankles. With photographs the story is different (says the "Evening Standard"). Then it is the sitters themselves who choose to appear as "Pinkies," or Gainsboroughs, or early Victorian misses. And they are afraid-of-being-dated, at any rate according to two fashionable photographers. "We are delighted with the fashion, though," they both declared. "It is a blessing to us. You have no idea how hard it is to produce a pleasing or artistic-looking photograph of a woman in a short frock. Ugly limbs are so much more frequent than their owners usually realise."