

THE TAILOR MADE GIRL.

Something About the Young Woman Who Started the Mode.

It is not generally known that Miss Johnstone Bennett, the young woman who has met with such success in the farcical sketch, "Jane," is the original of the "tailor made girl." It was no passing whim that impelled her to adopt the cut-away coat, the mannish hat and vest, the high collar and four in hand tie, for in speaking to a reporter of the causes that led up to the striking change in her apparel she said:

"I never could get a woman's flummery of ribbons and laces to look well about my neck and shoulders, so I sought relief in a man's high collar and four in hand tie. To me there was a dressiness in men's wear that feminine bow knots and what nots could not approach. I am credited with being the first woman to start the fad, but I was not conscious how far I had gone until I next adopted the coat and vest of the liege lords. There I paused, and since that time I have rested in my so called dress revolution. Except for the extreme comfort and artistic effect that I realized in my vests and cutaways, I would have discarded them and returned to the conventional straight jacket styles with which I was afflicted before. The storm that fashion's votaries raised about my ears after my debut in vest array took every form of misconstruction, but I trusted to time to set me aright. I knew that women, as a rule, are like sheep, ready to follow every drift of the fashion's tide, without a thought of the consequences to themselves. I knew again that there were some women who would, in their mad race after some new style, scramble and scratch to get to the front and lead the pell mell, in a new chase after another craze in another direction. These were my convictions and I have had the satisfaction of knowing that they were repeatedly upheld in the interval. Why, look at the latest thing my sex is guilty of—that appropriation of a poor man's suspenders. To me it is the ugliest idea possible and totally at variance with the natty folds and curves of the natty coat and vest. The only alarm that the absurd suspenders now occasion me is that the men will take to wearing supporters in the same way. But I feel that the length of the average man's coat tails will be a preventive against the introduction to the public eye of his properly concealed braces. Nothing was further from my mind than the sensation which my departure in costume created. I had consulted my own taste in the matter, and being well contented with the freedom in movement that the new attire vouchsafed me, I braved the talk and have quite survived. Perhaps, had I been in private life, instead of an actress, my fad might not have been noticed, and being ignored, might have passed away into oblivion, unwept and unsung. It is fortunate for fashion's guiding spirit that it remained for a meek young actress earning a salary of only \$20 a week to unwittingly steal a march on it. While the whole world has amused me right along, I haven't minded a word of the distinction, especially when the fashion has dragged forth the anything but natty suspender from its well known