

Quoted in RH Sept 12, 1865

A Woman on "Waterfalls."

Mrs. L. MARIA CHILD writes a letter to the *Independent*, in the course of which she uses the following language in regard to the latest fashions in hair:

"Thinking of the great and blessed work done during these last four years by women, in the Sanitary Commissions, the hospitals, and the school-houses for the emancipated, I seemed to see a bright light dawning on our future career. But the vision receded in the distance when I looked from my window and saw a bevy of damsels sailing by with hencoops in their skirts, and upon their heads a brimless pan of straw with a feather in it—utterly useless for defense against wind or sun. To make this unbecoming head-gear still more ungraceful, there descends from it something called by the flowing name of waterfall, but which in fact looks more like a cabbage in a net, tricked out with beads and wampum. If I had met them in Western forests, I should have taken them for Ojibway squaws, but their dress was *a la mode Parisienne*. This tyranny of France is, I suppose, one of the things that must be endured, because it cannot be helped, till our brains are better developed. In process of time, I trust the Empress Eugenie will sleep with her illustrious ancestors, and that no other fantastic queen of fashion will come after her, to lead the civilized world such a fool's dance. What a set of monkeys we are, in feathers and furbelows, dancing to the tune of that imperial show-woman."