

quietly until a head dress of three white feathers and a width of tulle about two yards long was handed me to inspect for my own wear, then I rebelled and said that I would not wear such a thing, or if I did, I would let the feathers droop instead of having them stand up in that unbecoming style. I was soon informed that I had no choice in the matter, as the Lord Chamberlain had said it must be done and the feathers must stand up. At first I was disgusted and thought I would abandon the whole business if I had to be told—and by a man, too—how I must dress. But when I had reasoned myself out of my rebellious spirit, the fact of having a man, appointed by a court of the realm, to superintend the details of my toilet seemed to impart to the entire arrangement an importance that was simply charming. Lady de Armand coached me well in making courtesies, nine of which I had to make in retiring from my presentation;—nine—no more and no less—and how could I remember to do them all!

We were compelled to have a certain hair dresser who came to the house and dressed my hair in the regulation style. Then the drawing room bouquets arrived, and how lovely they were, with dewy roses and graceful smilax tied with trailing white ribbons. It seemed to me there never were such flowers before! As I donned each article of dress I seemed to grow in importance, and the court train, finally adjusted, seemed to sweep away all the monarchical prejudices I had ever known. I scarcely felt like myself and looked around hastily, half expecting to see the Star Spangled banner floating behind me or hear the strains of "Yankie Doodle" coming from the pincushion. Queen Victoria had no more loyal subject in her entire realm than I, after my Court toilet was made. Lady de Armand's improved appearance in her costume gave me some idea of my own changed looks and I smiled complacently and wondered if I really looked as well as I felt. The maids helped me with our trains and bouquets and once inside the carriage, with the Major to look after us, we felt quite equal to the occasion and drove to the Palace where we had to wait for some time,