

berthe, vandyked and trimmed with frills of narrow lace, in a style corresponding with the jupes. The berthe falls low on the shoulders, and covers the short sleeves, which are without any trimming. The high corsage is open in front, and has a basque and pagoda sleeves. The basque is vandyked, and edged round as well as the top of the corsage, and the ends of the sleeves, with frills of narrow lace. Dresses of a similar kind are made with trimmings consisting of three frills of narrow gauze ribbon instead of lace. The ribbon should have an open edge, and may be coloured as, for example, pink or straw colour. A plainer description of the same style of dress may have the scalloped or vandyked edges ornamented with needlework, the trimming of ribbon or lace being omitted.

The newest parasols of the season are of various colours and sizes. Those intended for the carriage drive are small, but for promenading a rather large size is usually made choice of. Those most generally adopted are edged with fringe and lined. A white parasol lined with pink, a pink parasol with green, or a lilac one with white, are fashionable and distingue. The plainer kind of parasol, for ordinary use, are without fringe, and are edged with a broad stripe plain or figured.

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## Items of News.

The visitors to the Great Exhibition have increased in a large ratio since Monday. "Wednesday," says the Times "a magnificent day added to the cheapness of the Exhibition, brought a great accession of visitors to the Crystal Palace. From some mistake the numbers who entered the building were not counted by the police,—but the rise in the receipts, from £1347 to £1859 4s, shows distinctly enough the gradually increasing popularity of the display,—and gives pretty clear indications of the crowds that may, by and by, be expected. Season-ticket holders included, there must have been more than 40,000 visitors. The money taken proves that there were 37,186 shilling spectators,—and mingling among those might be seen a very considerable portion of that elegant and fashionable assemblage which has provided itself with a general right of admission." The Queen visited the building on Tuesday morning, as usual remaining till eleven.

**ATLANTIC STEAM NAVIGATION.**—The Liverpool papers announce, that the British and North American Royal Mail Steamship Company have decided upon an extension of the operations of their squadron of steam-ships from that port to the United States and Halifax. Heretofore the weekly departures of the fleet from either side of the Atlantic, were confined to the summer months; while during December, January, February and March, the despatches were restricted to once a fortnight. Under the new arrangement decided upon, however, steamships will sail regularly once a week throughout the year without intermission; calling, as at present, at Halifax *en route* each alternate voyage.

**IRELAND.**—*Harvest Prospects.* The correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* states, that all the reports from the country give the most encouraging accounts of the prospect of an abundant harvest. The land has been far better and more extensively cropped than in any year since the famine,—and notwithstanding the enormous amount of emigration, much more land is under tillage. "Less wheat is now sown than in former years, but it has come up most vigorously, oats and barley have been very extensively planted; the breadth of land under potatoes is nearly as great as ever in many districts, and flax, which had been cultivated far and wide, promises exceedingly well from the rain which fell so copiously after the sowing had been completed. Thus there are the fairest grounds to anticipate a good harvest, which would produce a most potent influence in accelerating the recovery of the country."

A "Monster" National Floral Exhibition, open to all England, is to take place at Cheltenham in the course of next month, when £200 will be distributed in prizes.

**DISCOVERIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.**—The great lake, discovered about a year since in Southern Africa, though receiving the waters of several rivers, has no outlet to the ocean. North of this lake, about seven days' journey, not by rail-road but by ox teams, a ridge of very high mountains crosses the continent, and beyond it a new "river system" commences—the streams all falling to the north, and ultimately into the ocean. A chieftain, with his tribe, oppressed by a powerful tyrant in the Zulu country, twenty-eight degrees south of the equator, near the eastern coast, fled over these mountains to the north west, carrying desolation along with him, and was in turn driven further north by the boers, till he has traversed with his tribe about a thousand miles. The boers are still pressing upon the retreating lion, and are beginning to rout him from his latest lair in Central Africa, while they take possession of his territories. The Cape Town *Mail* hazards the prediction, that before twenty-five years shall elapse the whole interior of Africa to the equator, will be occupied by civilized communities of the European race.