

satin, the pointed *berthe* formed by a broad and rich *Chantilly* lace; the stomacher is ornamented by roses and foliage; a rose is also placed on each shoulder: the very short sleeve is trimmed with *Chantilly* lace. The skirt is looped up on each side, and fastened by a full blown rose and foliage.

OBSERVATIONS ON LONDON AND PARISIAN FASHIONS FOR DECEMBER, 1853.

The unusually favorable weather we have been enjoying during nearly the whole of the past month, has caused our *Artistes des Modes* to produce some delightful novelties in bonnets and cloaks for out-of-door costume. In Paris, the *MAGAZINE DE LA PRESIDENCE, Rue de la Chaussée d'Antin*, has produced many charming mantles.

Black lace, deep silk fringes, and bands of *moire antique*, continue to be the favourite trimming for cloaks, whether of velvet or satin: for cloth or cashmere stamped velvet is used, of which there are an endless variety of patterns. For dresses for the *promenade*, narrow fringes and black velvet are used as trimming for flounces. For home costume, *caracos* of velvet are worn, with silk, poplin, or cashmere skirts; they are generally made closing to the throat.

For evening dresses a new material, called *Lama d'orée*, will be much in favour; some of these have only one band to the flounces, and the dress spotted with gold."

GENERAL AMERICAN OBSERVATIONS ON FASHIONS AND DRESS.

The preparations for the winter balls and soirées are already apparent in the number of new and rich ribbons which have made their appearance. Many of these new ribbons have gold and silver tastefully interwoven in patterns composed of flowers of every hue. The skilful combination of gold and silver, renders these ribbons admirably well adapted for head-dresses during the winter. One of the most elegant and *distingués* coiffures we have seen, was composed of blue thierry velvet ribbon figured with silver and flowers. The ribbon, which was rather wide, was disposed in a point which drooped over the hair on the left side of the head. To this point were attached two bows of the same ribbon with very short ends. From the centre of the bows issued silver sprays, which imparted great brilliancy to the head-dress. Some of the new head-dresses consist of *fanchons* of white or black tulle, ornamented with embroidery in gold, pearls and velvet application.

"Dresses of black silk have recently been very much worn. They are trimmed with flounces, more or less richly ornamented with braid or vel-

vet. Two or three rows of black velvet ribbon, one above the other, are very generally placed at the edge of the flounces of black silk dresses. Ornaments of velvet of an open-work arabesque design, or of the palm-leaf pattern, are rich, the latter being sometimes large enough to cover the whole flounce. Trimmings of black velvet are very effective on a dress of plain violet or dark-blue silk. Trimmings of violet, dark-green and dark-blue velvet, are employed to ornament black silk flounces. It should be borne in mind, that flounces ornamented with velvet trimmings, require very little fulness.

"Among the new dresses may be mentioned some of grey and steel-color silk, having flounces bordered by a band of plush woven with silk. This plush is often of a deeper tint than that of the silk composing the dress, and it is frequently figured. A dress of green silk, just completed, flounces edged with bands of plush ornamented with spots, in black, maroon, and brown.

"We must not omit to mention a very elegant dress which has been made up. It consists of dark-blue silk, and is without flounces, but the skirt is ornamented with twelve horizontal rows of black velvet foliage. The corsage has a basque slit up at each side, and open in front, the opening being filled up by rows of velvet foliage and bows of black velvet. The sleeves are slashed; having two openings, the one above and the other under the elbow, and the edges of these openings are united by *traverses*, or horizontal rows of velvet and bows of velvet ribbon.

"Black velvet will, this winter, certainly hold its wonted place among the favorite materials for dresses. Some black velvet dresses are made with the skirt quite plain, the corsage and sleeves being edged with braid figured with velvet. One, however, has the skirt ornamented with plain leaves embroidered with bright-green silk. These leaves are of graduated sizes, the smallest being near the waist. An embroidery of palm-leaves is carried up the front of the corsage, which is close and high as the throat. The sleeves are of the mousquetaire form, having revers or turned cuffs, entirely covered with embroidered palm-leaves. The dress we have just described has been made for a lady of rank and is intended to be worn in the carriage or in the negligé home costume.

"It appears probable that close corsages will be more prevalent during the winter months than they have been for some time past. The open corsage has had so long a reign, that a re-action in favor of an opposite form may reasonably be looked for."

Bonnets are still worn back on the head, and it will apparently be some time before this ungraceful style of wearing the bonnet goes out of favour: some are even mistaking this style, and wear the ordinary form of bonnet thrown back on the head, whereas it is the peculiar form of the crown which gives this appearance, by being made very low and sloping towards the back: the bonnets, viewed in the front, have the form of the brim oval, which is the opposite to those worn last winter; they were wide and had a flat appearance.

DOCTOR.—Now for chess. [Doctor reads.]