

The entire length is approximately estimated at 2,500 miles, and the submarine portion of it at from 1,400 to 1,600 miles. The peculiar advantage of the line being divided into several submarine portions is, that if a fracture should at any time occur, the defective part could be very readily discovered and repaired promptly at a comparatively trifling expense. From the Shetland Islands, it is proposed to carry a branch to Bergen, in Norway, connecting it there with a line to Christiania, Stockholm, Gottenburgh, and Copenhagen; from Stockholm a line may easily cross the Gulf of Bothnia to St. Petersburg. The whole expense of this great international work is estimated considerably below £500,000, but to cover contingencies, it is proposed to raise that sum by 25,000 shares of £20 each. We confess that we consider this plan as by far the most feasible one which has been yet produced for connecting Europe and America by the electric telegraph.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.—The organ builders of England may be taken at 400 in number, and putting their gross returns at £500 per annum each, we have £200,000 a year in this branch alone.

The materials used by them are pine, mahogany, tin, and lead. The materials employed by the piano-forte makers are oak, deal, pine, mahogany, and beech, besides fancy woods; hair, felt, cloth, and leather, brass, steel, and iron. Of the two leading houses in this branch, the Messrs. Collard sell annually 7,600 instruments, and the Messrs. Broadwood 2,300, which at the very low average of sixty guineas, gives as the annual business of these two firms only, about £250,000. If the whole number of piano-forte makers of London, about 200, is taken into account, the annual return in this trade cannot be less than £2,000,000. Violins, and other instruments, are almost entirely imported, the prejudice being in favour of the foreign makers. The annual import duty on them is probably not less than £15,000. The cost of the wind instruments required for a regimental band, exclusive of drums and fifes, was said to be £224, and as there are in all about 100 regiments, the capital represented by these is nearly £100,000. The number of workmen employed by Messrs. Broadwood and Collard respectively, is 575 and 400; they are all more or less skilled workmen, some of them in a very high degree.

MRS. GRUNDY'S GATHERINGS.

LONDON AND PARISIAN FASHIONS FOR NOVEMBER, 1852.

Black lace and velvet are very fashionable as trimmings for bonnets: narrow black velvet intermixed with flowers is much used for interior trimming. Caps are trimmed with very broad satin or gauze ribbon: some are made entirely of ribbon edged with blonde. Lace with deep vandyked edges is the most fashionable for sleeves and caps.

For our costumes we are indebted to the following distinguished Parisian houses:—In the 1st plate the *peignoir*, or morning dress, is from Mme. Colas; the other dress from Mme. Lafont; the cap from Mme. Laire, *Rue Lafayette*.

DINNER COSTUME.—Fig. 1st.—Dress of white muslin; the skirt has two very deep flounces beautifully embroidered; at the top of the second flounce are placed small rosettes of pale green satin ribbon. The body *à basquine* is half-high, and opens *en demi cœur*; it is embroidered entirely round, and edged with a narrow lace. The half-long sleeves are slit up in the front of the arm; they are trimmed with lace and finished by a rosette.

DINNER COSTUME.—Fig. 2nd.—Dress of light purple satin; the skirt long and full, has the front breadth embroidered, and a row of small bell buttons down the centre: the body *à basquine*, is three-quarters high, does not close in front and has the corners of the *basque* rounded and trimmed with black lace, it is embroidered to correspond with the skirt. The short pagoda sleeves are open to the elbow, they are embroidered and trimmed with black lace. Waistcoat of white lustrous, closing to the throat, with small coral buttons. Blonde cap, trimmed with very broad satin ribbon; that part of the ribbon crossing the cap is edged with blonde set on full and forming a *fanchon*.

Dresses are still being worn with flounces woven *à disposition*: an additional novelty is, that in silks the edges of the flounces are finished by a narrow fringe: if the flounces are striped, the fringe is the color of the stripes; if otherwise figured, the fringes are of the colors of the flowers. In dark silks the flounces will be either woven with six or seven narrow black stripes at the edge, or embroidered with black; we may remark that black is becoming very fashionable for trimmings. For the style of bodies and sleeves now being worn, we refer to our costumes.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON FASHION AND DRESS.

A great variety of cloaks have already made their appearance in anticipation of that approaching change of weather which will render envelopes desirable. We shall from time to time present, in our illustrations, patterns of the shapes most generally approved; but, in the meanwhile, we may observe that the large round form so much worn last winter is far from being discarded, especially in morning negligé, for which its comfortable amplitude is peculiarly well adapted. Cloaks of this form, intended for the morning promenade, are usually made of cloth, that is to say, a soft light kind of cloth now employed almost exclusively for that purpose. Cloth cloaks will be generally worn this winter. Those of black cloth are most fashionable, and next to black, very dark brown, grey, and drab are favourite hues. These plain cloaks are usually trimmed with braid, or narrow black velvet. The braid may be either broad or narrow; if broad, one or two rows are set on straight; if narrow, it may be set on in a pattern. The narrow velvet is usually set on in a Greek design. Velvet cloaks of the round form are made of smaller size than those of cloth; they