

atmospheric features, or to both these causes combined, certain it is that the peach is yearly edging towards the north. It is so also with maize, commonly called Indian corn. A few years since this grain was grown to a very limited extent in the county where we write, bordering on the Bay of Quintè; but it is now extensively cultivated. We have watched its progress for the last four years with much interest. It is, therefore, more than probable, that we are far from being aware of the real productive advantages of our country, as a fruit growing region. But it will not be many years longer. There is a spirit among us which will not suffer us to rest, until we are no longer dependent for our supplies of fruit, of the fine sorts more especially, though of these the specimens imported are generally of a very fascinating description, upon our neighbours. The occupation of fruit growing has generally been viewed as an unprofitable one; and if our agriculturists have planted trees, it has been almost exclusively with the view of supplying their own families. But this is a great mistake. The production of fruit richly repays the expense and labour of its culture, otherwise we should not find that the Americans had large orchards, one of which contains 20,000 apple trees, to supply the English market alone. Some persons seem to apprehend the over-stocking of both the home and foreign demand; but there is no good reason for the fear. The more plentiful the supply the greater the desire to possess fruit surely results. If it were not so, the many casualties of flood and field, the insects, the drought, the carelessness and ignorance of planters, would prove such an apprehension groundless.

We have incidentally mentioned the peach, and would in conclusion observe respecting it, that a very mistaken notion prevails as to its hardiness. We have one planted on the northern side of our dwelling which has stood uncovered, this winter (now passed), the severe cold of '38, and is to the very tip of its slender branches alive. The mistake about it has arisen from other causes. The tree has been commonly planted in the warmest situations, as on the warm side of buildings, or other sheltered site, facing the hot sun. If the fruit buds remain unswollen, they will endure almost any degree of cold to which our climate is liable. But it often happens that we have a few warm days during winter. This is sufficient to swell them

slightly or to throw moisture enough into them to render them tender; and if the thermometer should then sink to zero, or several degrees below it, there is scarcely a chance for them to escape. Hence a northern or more exposed aspect is far preferable. If trained on a building the Eastern side should also be avoided, as a hot morning sun upon frosted buds would be nearly certain destruction.

MRS. GRUNDY'S GATHERINGS.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE.

FIG. 1 is a dress of lavender silk; side trimmings of purple velvet, set on in three rows, and secured every three inches by buttons with a gold rim and purple centre run up each side of the skirt, which is ornamented up the front with a close row of the same buttons. The corsage is close, and buttoned to the throat; two rows of the velvet side trimmings run up each side from the waist across the shoulders. The sleeves are almost close to the elbow, where they are slashed in two points, and the points are ornamented with buttons. In all our dresses this season a profusion of fancy buttons is used.

FIG. 2 is a ball dress of pink-watered silk, covered with three deep lace flounces. The corsage is plain, and finished with a silk berthé, edged with lace, which descends to the bodice in a point; two rows of lace surround this berthé behind, terminating a little below the shoulder in front. The sleeves are short, and edged with double rows of lace.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON FASHION AND DRESS.

The variety allowed to fashion is becoming more and more unlimited. It is almost impossible, without a great effort, to design a garment of any kind that will not be in the fashion. We have already seen full a hundred different styles of summer mantillas; and as for bonnets, so long as a certain outline of form is maintained, the *artiste* may allow her taste full range.

Many new opera cloaks, *sorties-de-bal*, and jackets, for wearing in-doors, have made their appearance. The newest style of opera cloak is that called the *Manton Mousquetaire*. It has loose hanging sleeves, and is slightly confined at the back of the waist. The trimmings of opera cloaks are of the most rich and fanciful description, consisting of embroidery in gold and silver, intermingled with colored silk. A vast variety of gold and silver, and other fancy