

ing to taste, but the painting and decoration must exhibit the same blossoms. If preferred the painting can be done on tightly stretched silk or satin of a pale mauve tint, or the design might be embroidered.

• • •

The last drawing-room was largely attended, and the dresses and flowers were remarkably beautiful. One costume I must tell you about, because it was unlike any that I have ever seen before, which is likely, considering the clever and original people who made it. It was worn by the Hon. Mrs. Egerton, of Talton, and emanated from that centre of taste, the Maison Parisienne, New Bond street. It was a perfect reproduction of a court dress of the period of Louis XVI. in France. The train was composed of most superb brocade of *chartreuse* satin and silver. This was lined with palest mauve, which was turned back, and buttoned down like the revers of an old-fashioned coat. It came from the back in a true Watteau pleat, and hung beautifully. The *four eau* skirt and bodice were of mauve satin, like the lining of the train, the hem ruffled with marabout and trimmed above with a wide border of gold lace in dark gold, light gold and silver. The bodice was nearly entirely composed of lace, with bands of gold face to keep it in position.

• • •

Tea gowns are delightful garments to get into after a hard day's shopping or riding, or after a long journey, when one is too tired to dress for dinner, and yet must look respectable. Though everywhere the afternoons are decidedly lengthening it is still dark enough to have our tea-table talk round the fire, with lamps lit and curtains drawn, and to wear a pretty costume suited to the occasion. Tea gowns, just now, in Paris, have reached a degree of splendour never hitherto seen. It is, I think, to be explained by the present



Snakes are the latest—must I call it?—folly in Paris as a trimming for hats and bonnets. Originality is, I think, refreshing and delightful, but this is going a little too far for real elegance, and verging on what is downright eccentric. So I give you a sketch of a model hat that was made the other day at a celebrated milliner's in the Avenue de l'Opéra, Paris. The crown is composed of black velvet arranged in folds, and the brim is of frilled black lace. A brilliant snake of open-work jet and gold, winds round the crown, and raises its head with sparkling ruby eyes under the black



feathers at the back of the head. In my opinion it is more realistic than pleasant, as those serpents selected for this adornment are in form, very good miniature imitations of the dreadful flat-throated cobra worshipped by the ancient Egyptians. I am glad to say that the newest bonnets are still to have those pretty coronets of jet that in a small size were worn last season. They have not grown very much larger, but the shape of the bonnets is so diminutive that what was formerly small looks less so on the tiny *capôtes* of this spring season. The sketch represents a bonnet with a twist, or torsade of ruby velvet (green if preferred is equally pretty), a little coronet of jet, and a black aigrette fixed into some *coquilles* or shell-shaped frills of black lace.

• • •

The American lady explorer who sailed lately from England, compels one's interest and pitying admiration, for she seems so earnest, yet so very unpractical in her wild enthusiasm. It is certainly very courageous to think of emulating the great African travellers, and her object is most praiseworthy, *i.e.*—to try and get hold of the native women, to know them better, and to help them to civilization by kindness and sympathy. As aids to accomplish this end, she is taking out with her clocks and sewing machines, through which she expects to impress them by her own refinement and the civilization of her surroundings. It argues but little knowledge of the experience of her forerunners in these regions to expect that these very primitive aborigines will have the intelligence necessary to appreciate refinement of any sort. I am also at a loss to discover what benefit they will derive, occult or practical, from the gift of a clock, when they have already an infallible time regulator in the sun, nor when they neither have nor require clothes, except of the most fragmentary description, where the sewing machines will come in, except as toys. Considering how both these things get out of order, and become useless even in civilized countries with the best of care, I hardly think they will serve much purpose in the hands of their sable possessors. Mrs. French Sheldon will be accompanied by one white woman, formerly a stewardess on a Cunard steamer, "highly educated and refined"—again the rather wasted refinement—but who fortunately possesses some medical and surgical knowledge. It strikes me that it would have been more in the fitness of things if Mrs. French Sheldon's husband, who goes only as far as Naples with her, had shared her wanderings, and the most suitable companion in every sense. We can but wish well to this rather foolhardy "belle Americaine," though with little hope that she will ever return alive to tell the tale of her adventures in the beautiful but savage lands she is going to penetrate. • • •

The Order of the King's Daughters, which was originally instituted by ten very clever and enterprising ladies in New

York, is a valuable and useful society. It came into existence in 1885, for girls and women who bind themselves to a life of usefulness, and under this pledge they help the poor who are too impoverished to pay for doctors; they supply home and foreign missions; sanitation and education come under their care, and all and every kind of help that women with kind and sympathetic hearts and ready hands can render. I quote a few lines from the testimony to their efficiency given by the municipal authorities of New York: "It gives us pleasure to testify to the excellent work and aid which has been rendered by the 'King's Daughters.' Providing food, medicine, and other personal and household articles, trained nurses to care for the sick, and the thousand and one things which any woman in the exercise of practical sympathy can devise, they have worked hand-in-hand in the homes of the lowly poor with our inspectors for the relief of suffering humanity and to restore the sick. The inspector had but to indicate on a postal card, supplied by the Order, what was most needed in any individual case to have it promptly supplied, not as a diffusive, ill-judged charity, but as the kindly helping hand in time of need." Lady Henry Somerset is doing her best to set this organization going in England, for it has done untold good in Canada and the United States. A badge is worn by the members in the shape of a Maltese cross, with the first letters of the watchword "In His Name." This is attached to a ribbon of royal purple. In five years the society included a hundred and fifty thousand members, and established a branch for children, called the "Guild of the Silver Cross."

• • •

A pretty photograph frame I saw the other day that opened in triptych fashion with little doors. It is a capital way for using up old pieces of rich brocade, for these doors were first padded and then covered with brocade, the outside edge or framework being of rich olive plush. The brocade may be further decorated with flowers in raised Turkish embroidery, which is most ornamental and capable of being applied to the decoration of any such dainty table furniture.

#### A Buddhistic Encyclopedia.

A work of great historical interest and peculiar value will shortly be deposited in the British Museum. It will come through the Asiatic Society of Bengal, which has succeeded in procuring it under somewhat singular circumstances. Through the agency of a native emissary, and after many years' correspondence, the society has secured from Thibet a copy of the "Jangym," a monster encyclopædia of Thibetan Buddhism. It comprises two hundred and twenty-five volumes, each of which is two feet long by six inches thick. Three thousand rupees formed the price for the work, which was formerly in the possession of a Buddhist monastery in Thibet.

#### Our Engravings.

(Continued from page 315.)

ST. JOHNS, P.Q., SNOWSHOE CLUB.—The Palm Leaf Snowshoe Club, organized among the members of "B" Company, Royal Infantry School Corps, stationed at the Infantry Barracks, St. Johns, P.Q., have just closed for this season their long distance tramps. Since the opening of the season they have in their long walks covered a distance of over two hundred miles. Their longest tramp was on Dec. 30th, when they covered the distance (43 miles) to St. Albans, Vt., in 13¼ hours—less 2¼ hours stoppages—which would make the actual tramping time 11 hours. They had other tramps of 6, 30, 35, 15, 22, 24 and 25 miles, on all of which good time was made. The list shows the mettle of which our permanent force is composed. The club consists of 43 members, who are uniformed in grey with red facings. It was organized three years ago, and has received warm encouragement from the Countess d'Orsonnens, Col. d'Orsonnens and the officers of the company. The indefatigable Sergeant Major Phillips is the captain of the club, and has led the members in all their long tramps.

CROSSING THE ST. LAWRENCE ON THE ICE.—This scene will be familiar to most of our Montreal readers. It shows some farmers from Laprairie (above the Victoria Bridge on the south side of the river) taking loads of hay into the city for sale. The ice is strong enough for the greater part of the winter to sustain great weight, and excellent roads are thus formed across the river, which is over two miles wide at this point. The engraving also gives a good view of the Victoria tubular bridge, one of the greatest triumphs of modern engineering skill.

craze for wearing sumptuous materials trimmed with gems. We should not otherwise hear of such an one as the following. It is composed of violet velvet, with a half low-bodice, and under-skirt of golden or silvery net or gauze, dotted over with pearls. This regal arrangement has a gorgeous waist-belt of gold, set with precious stones. Such things, however, are hardly suitable for every-day wear, and I merely tell you of them that you may hear what is the very newest and latest attire designed in the gay French capital. I send you instead a little design that you will find quite possible for your dress-maker or maid to fabricate, and which is built on the lines of the Parisian one just mentioned. It is of velvet. There is many a cheap make of this beautiful material which is quite nice enough for the purpose, or a good velveteen does very well in any dark colour you like—deep emerald green, royal blue, dahlia, or deep chestnut, are all good tints—lined with old gold satin or silk, and the upper-dress of *crêpe de chine* or tussore silk of the old gold colour. The neck and under-sleeves have a band of gold galon which may be embroidered, or studded with the pretty artificial stones or jet that are now so fashionable sewn on to it. The same forms the girdle, which, with the long outside sleeves, is finished off with some brilliant drop ornaments at the end.

• • •