

credit and financial reputation of the plaintiff was for the time being completely ruined. Mr. Cossette thereupon entered an action, claiming damages, and the Superior Court at Montreal awarded him \$2,000. The agency appealed to the Court of Appeals for the province of Quebec, when the amount of damages was reduced to \$500. From the latter judgment Mr. Cossette appealed to the Superior Court, Ottawa, and judgment was rendered allowing his appeal, restoring the judgment of the Superior Court and ordering the defendants to pay \$2,000 damages and the costs in all the courts. The defendants contended that the information contained in their report concerning the financial standing of the plaintiff, had been by them obtained and communicated to their subscriber in good faith and in the usual course of their business; that mercantile agencies such as theirs are lawful and useful, and that they are now considered as a necessity by the mercantile world; that the report in question was communicated by them confidentially to one of their subscribers at his request, and in consequence, the communication was a privileged one for which no action would come against the agency, though the plaintiff suffered damage thereby. The Supreme Court held against the agency on all these points, and decided that mercantile agencies which make it a business, to supply for a reward, information concerning merchants and their business, must suffer the consequences resulting from the false and incorrect reports communicated by them to their subscribers.

DRESS GOODS FOR 1891.



CORRESPONDENCE to the New York Dry Goods Economist, from Paris, says: There is little doubt that one-color ulster cloths will be in good demand next spring, although they have been staple goods and will be so all winter. It is not a question whether cheviots or cloths will have the preference, as both styles will be in cheviot finish, while for the better grades cloth will be preferred. Vigogne will be the favorite material for the most stylish novelties.

The diagonal chevron stripe will again be seen both on cheviot and on cloth. The greater attention will be given to plain cloth-like fabrics, which are made in all styles. These goods have done well for the fall season, and buyers have declared their intention of taking them up again for spring, so the manufacturers who have sampled them liberally are hopeful of success. Elegant finished goods, not too heavy, so as not to be too expensive, will, together with colors well chosen, help these fabrics to a good consumption.

The blue shades will retain their lead for the most staple goods, and bluish grays will also be favored, but many other shades compete for favor. Among these are bronze and gold brown, the medium and light shades of mode, greenish grays, iron gray and ash gray, nickel and platinum shades with bluish reflex, and steel gray.

Stripes on cloth grounds and croise cloths in the heavy grades are advocated for jackets, as they are adapted for the corded styles, which will be much worn next summer. Melange cloths also deserve mention, and will be seen in the light and dark mode shades and in reseda, shades similar to those used on gentlemen's over coats.

Five vigogne tissues are seen in straight, crossed and chevron stripes, also in squares; these squares are not Scotch, but are formed by broad colored stripes, which look well on the light ground. Light gray grounds are squared by means of finger, broad brown stripes.

Another novelty is a one-colored worsted ground striped with fine lines, a dark blue ground showing light gray lines, a brown ground having red lines; white reseda lines are seen on a dark green ground. Although these goods may find friends, they are not expected to enter into large consumption.

Novel effects are also obtained with tapisserie wool, the stripes being ornamented with small tuft design in the wools. Another style of stripes is in imitation of guipure lace, the design being in silk thread in relief. Special mention is due to the styles in cube

squares, in straight or cross dispositions in which combinations of black and white play the chief role. These styles are crossed with fine lines, straight or cross, ornamented with neige and tuft effect.

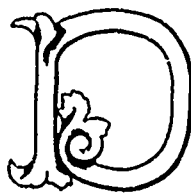
The fashionable winter colors are black, heliotrope, silver, and iron grey, myrtle green, mordore, and bleu royal.

The taste prevailing for gentlemen's wear is again adopted largely for next season's dress goods, especially in the cloth like qualities which show small dull square, and fine stripes on twisted ground. Crepes, batistes, silk and wool tulles and etamines will be worn. White ground flannels and serges in fine stripes also deserve attention, as they find more friends with every succeeding year.

Laces are again very fashionable, and will be largely used as garnitures for society dresses during the coming winter. This refers mostly to Irish laces, which will have the preference in white, Honiton and Limerick.

A white silk nightshirt has colored sailor collar and cuffs, or is trimmed in front and below with lace frou-frou in light blue. The sleeves, except for the sailor style, are loose and wide.

GENTS' FURNISHINGS.



DURING the past year the retail trade has been, taking everything into consideration, very good. Some of the retailers in the large cities say it has been the biggest year they have had. The fall trade was not so good as the spring trade, but it was ahead of the previous fall. The Christmas and New Year's trade was exceptionally good, and one gratifying feature was the fact that money came in well.

SPRING FASHIONS.

A man whose complexion is neither very dark nor very light has the choice of any color, but he should be careful to select a shade which will go well with the clothes he wears. Two shades of the same color should always be avoided, as they never harmonize. A man whose complexion is decidedly light or blonde, should invariably favor the blue shades in neckwear, care being taken in selecting the proper shade. A little patience and experience in trying on the various shades will be rewarded by the right one, and the purchaser will know it thereafter. Blue or kindred shades should be avoided by the man of dark complexion. His colors should be red, brown, or a neutral gray. In buying neckwear, the choice of patterns is a matter of individual taste largely, but there is a certain character displayed in the various designs. A man should endeavor by trials to discover the particular design most fitted for him.

With these few preliminary remarks we will proceed to relate the fashions in neckwear for the coming spring. They are almost in every conceivable shape. The four-in-hand will be mostly worn, but there are many pretty designs in made-up bows and ties to tie in a bow, along with new puff scarf and large knots. There never has been anything likee them.

In the latest English collars there is a tendency in styles to have the flap still further back and the collar high, from 2 1/4 to 2 1/2 inches, the latter being the most favored. Cuffs are mostly for links.

In underwear the disposition is to keep to the natural wools and silk and natural wool mixtures, the latter in light weights being much superior to cotton. There is the novelty of their being in black.

Black silk handkerchiefs seem to hold their own but for fine dress, white and cream silk patterns are in demand.

For full dress shirts the favored style is the plain front with one stud but two or even three studs are still used. White cambric ties are the fashion for full dress. More white kid gloves with plain backs are in demand than those with stitched backs.

In umbrellas the fashion tends to the plain rustic handles and plain wooden stick without the fastening at the top.