

trimming a dress of gros-de-Tours, of which we subjoin a description. The gros-de-Tours is of a very rich quality, and the color pearly grey. It is covered with a running pattern of wreaths of flowers *brochee* in a tint of pearl-grey, a shade darker than the ground. The skirt of this dress has three flounces, each edged with two bands of the plush trimming. These bands are of different widths; the broadest being placed nearest to the edge of the flounce. The corsage is open, and has a long basque with the corners in front rounded. The sleeves are slit up to the elbow and the corners at the ends slightly rounded. Over these sleeves there are upper sleeves, which descend half way down the arm: these upper sleeves being also slit on the outside. The ends of the sleeves, as well as of the basque and corsage, are edged with bands of plush. A half-high chemisette and under sleeves of Alençon lace are worn with this dress. An *attache* of onyx is fixed at the point in front of the corsage. The bracelets which accompany this dress are of a *recherche* description. They each consist of a broad band of black velvet, upon which are affixed five pieces of onyx of an oval shape; forming, as it were, so many medallions.

## PARIS FASHIONS.

The luxury of the ladies' toilet is daily increasing in Paris, and the richness of the goods employed is only surpassed by the elegance of the trimmings. Embroidered ribbons, lace of the most costly description, are all the go.

The newest fashion for evening toilets, is that called *Doas de l'Inde* (Indian Snakes.) This light and elegant dress is made of a "spider-woven" like goods, twisted in a peculiar manner and forming a long boa which ends by two tassels of silk or of gold *guipure*. This muslin snake is twice rolled around the neck, and when the theatre or party is over, it may be used as a scarf to cover the head and shoulders. The ariel tissue may be, with much reason, compared to a cloud around two stars—those of the sparkling eyes of the lady who wears it. The muslin boa has taken the place of the hood, and is intended to have an immense success among the ladies.

The dresses are always made with additional skirts called *basques* (jupes). The favor of this style of dress is to be attributed to its graceful and distinguished appearance. The *volants* are also much worn for the "dressed" dresses of ordinary silk, but whenever the dressmaker employs for her making a stiff and heavy silk, it is not customary to use *volants*. The only ornaments of the dresses are velvet and lace.

The Scotch plaids with black ground, either of

plain silk or velvet, are considered as very fashionable.

I will also mention the *Valenciás* with large horizontal stripes of satin and velvet. The woolen *brocatelles*—the water *barpoors* and plaid *popelines*—and last, not the least, a cashmere dress, with oriental ornaments of yellow silk, imitating gold and forming a frame to checked squares of various colors. This article is somewhat like a Harlequin dress, but it is really charming, particularly for ladies of dark complexion.

The "tiger velvet" is also much used for boddice and bonnets.

The *coiffures* for soirees and balls, are of a very variegated number and style. They may be called a *Salmigondis* of fruits, flowers, leaves, ribbons and laces, and though, to my taste, they are somewhat heavy for the head, they offer a brilliant sight to the beholder, particularly when they are placed on a lovely head and well arranged by the hair dresser.

The grape leaves, with gold wheat and falling gold herbs, are also quite fashionable this winter. But the most elegant and becoming *coiffure*, particularly for ladies of a certain age, is composed of velvet and lace—*à la Marie Stuart*.

The toilet of gentlemen is always the same, which is to say—for the *neglige*, long riding coats and surtouts tight to the waist and falling below the knees.

The *redingote* half-dress is made with short skirt and large sleeves lined with cherry-color silk.

The pantaloons are still made tight to the body. The largest plaids are much used for morning costume, but in the evening the black coat, pants and fancy silk, or embroidered cloth waistcoat, are the *ne plus ultra* of fashion. At the fashionable theatres, as the Grand Opera and the Italian Theatre, the dress coat in blue cloth, with gilt buttons, is considered as quite fashionable.

The fashion has inaugurated a new style for serving up dinners, which is worth being mentioned here. Instead of serving the viands on the table at the beginning of a dinner, the dessert is placed on the cloth, with vases of fruits and flowers, whilst the dinner is served on separate tables and the bill of fare is distributed to the guests, printed on very elegant pieces of thick paper. The napkins are made very small, with the initials of the host embroidered in the centre, in red cotton or silk. In many houses the napkins are changed for the dessert, and they are made with the finest linen and trimmed with lace.

And now for my own part in the Shanty drama. Here is chess, and I give you fair warning that I mean to take two pages in the next number, as a chess tournament is now being held in Toronto, and I shall require that space to do justice to the games that are played. (*Reads.*)