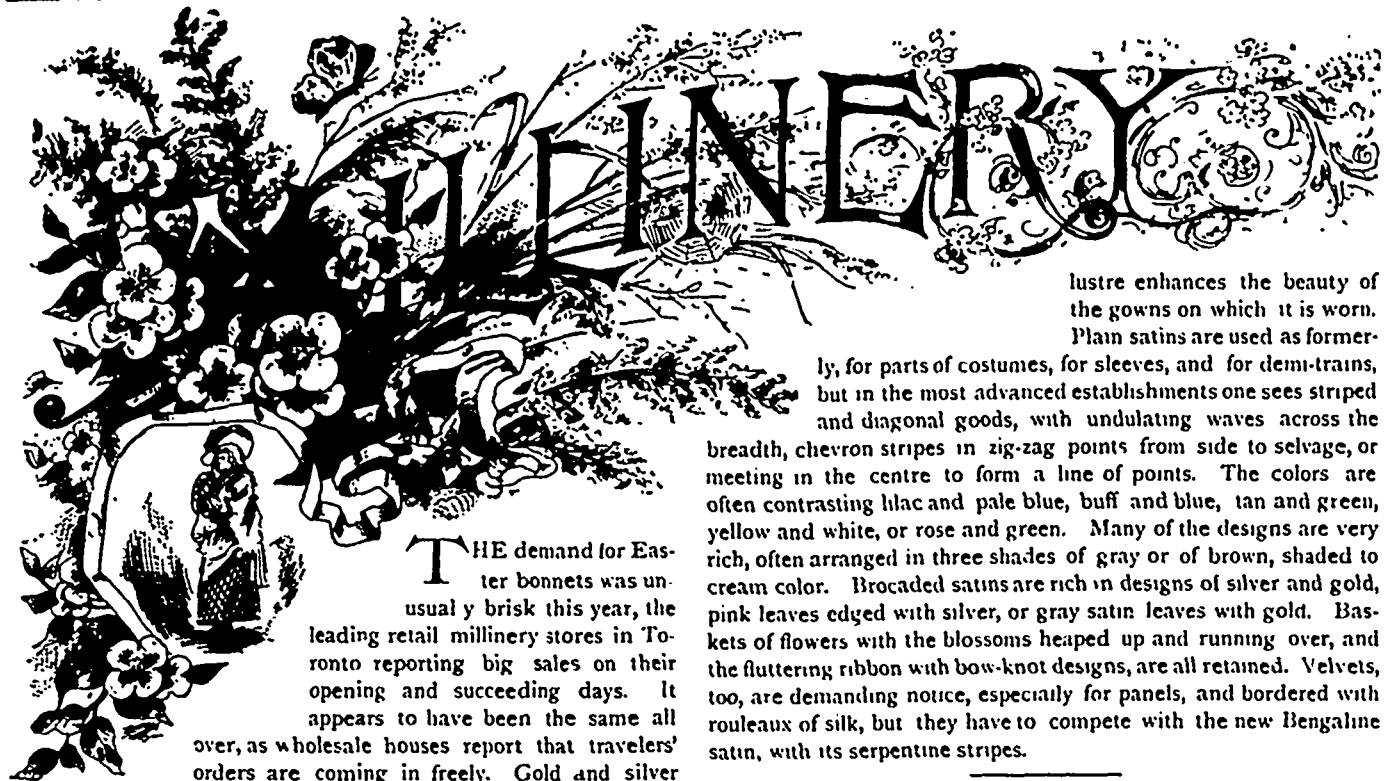




THE demand for Easter bonnets was unusually brisk this year, the leading retail millinery stores in Toronto reporting big sales on their opening and succeeding days. It appears to have been the same all over, as wholesale houses report that travelers' orders are coming in freely. Gold and silver effects in ribbons and laces have taken a big run, there being great demand for them from all quarters. Orders for flowers are also coming in freely. The buyers in the old country are therefore kept busy, and importations are arriving by almost every steamer. It is gratifying to be able to say that there is certainly no dullness in the millinery trade this season, whatever it may be in other trades.

MILLINERY AND DRESS IN MONTREAL.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

After the Easter season there is a lull in the millinery trade, but there is a steady business in goods of a less spring-like type to be worn well into June. The outline that was given last month, and the forecast that was made of the season's wants, have been closely followed, and the hats and bonnets seen on the streets and in the shops confirm those views. The prevailing idea, as was before pointed out, is still more noticeable—artistic combinations in flowers and lace, and airy effects in crepe net and lace hats. The amount and arrangement of the material is at first confusing, and seems to go beyond the limits of good taste, but habit accustoms the eye to flowers, ostrich tips and aigrettes on the same hat. The desire for gilt and jet passementerie has been modified—indeed, from the first it arose from a few interested dealers rather than from a public and general demand. Yet gold gallons, gold and silver butterflies, and large, dangerous-looking pins are in favor, and from their novelty have a striking and not displeasing effect. Even narrow-looped edges of metal, steel, silver and gold, are used to finish the brims of tasteful hats. Bandeau trimming, consisting of a band under the brim of the hat, fitting close to the head and covered by a roll of ribbon or velvet, a ruche of lace or wreath of small flowers, promises to meet with general acceptance. Hats continue low in the crown, with broad brims, but close at the back. In both hats and bonnets the fancy and open straw work prevail, and the bonnets themselves are smaller than ever. The widest diversity of effects is seen in toques. The shapes are long or crownless, with narrow or peaked fronts. The flatness extends even to a saucer shape, with fluted shell fronts. Misses hats have the open brim and are large, flat and plain. The Leghorn is holding its own, and will make a strong bid for favor as the month wears on. For young children the poke bonnet or hat in shirred surah, with hemmed strings of the same material and tips and aigrettes, or ribbon rosettes as trimming, is the favorite headwear. The use of satin has been revived, and its rich

lustre enhances the beauty of the gowns on which it is worn.

Plain satins are used as formerly, for parts of costumes, for sleeves, and for demi-trains, but in the most advanced establishments one sees striped and diagonal goods, with undulating waves across the breadth, chevron stripes in zig-zag points from side to selvage, or meeting in the centre to form a line of points. The colors are often contrasting lilac and pale blue, buff and blue, tan and green, yellow and white, or rose and green. Many of the designs are very rich, often arranged in three shades of gray or of brown, shaded to cream color. Brocaded satins are rich in designs of silver and gold, pink leaves edged with silver, or gray satin leaves with gold. Baskets of flowers with the blossoms heaped up and running over, and the fluttering ribbon with bow-knot designs, are all retained. Velvets, too, are demanding notice, especially for panels, and bordered with rouleaux of silk, but they have to compete with the new Bengaline satin, with its serpentine stripes.

PARIS FASHIONS.

The Paris correspondent of the Drapers' Record, London, England, says:—In the way of trimmings rich Louis XVI. embroidery on thick faille is being much used in the large houses, also ecru guipures and black lace, but very little gold. Jewel embroidery has disappeared, and no one is sorry. The good houses will have none of it, and the milliners are sick of it. Jet is seen on everything; in fact, it is overdone. The new capes are covered with jet yokes, long fringes, and studded with large nail heads of jet.

Feathers have disappeared. Tulle in every color, dotted with fine spangles in blue, green, gold, or silver, is much used in trimming toques. Also pearls, flowers, aigrettes, a little gold, sky-blue velvet, and frosted tulle. A pretty capote is in fancy straw, studded with crescents made of straw and pearls, and ornamented with a black lace quilling and a wreath of shaded roses. There is a new shape, a small round Louis V., in fancy straw, the brim turned up all round and lined with Irish guipure, a wreath of roses outside, and a mordore aigrette, and a small row of roses under the brim in front. The new turban has become already a favorite. The upturned brim is of striped black straw, the crown is covered with pale rose-colored crepe de Chine, around the crown is twisted a deep plum-colored velvet ribbon.

MILLINERY IN NEW YORK.

The Spanish bolero or extended turban shape is coming to the fore again. One of tan Milan has a scarf of golden-brown crepe carelessly drawn around the brim and knotted in the back in two ends and loops with a pompon of pink resting above. Sailor hats are starting up with a trimming of a ribbon and bunch of small flowers at the back. Traveling hats of coarse straw are stylish with a large bow of ribbon held by a long gilt pin. Large crinoline hats are trimmed with crepe, net or edging and a generous supply of flowers. Thus far medium-sized hats prevail. The idea is to arrive at chic and originality without eccentricity or loudness. Happy the milliner attaining this point. A toque of black gold embroidered lace has a wreath of tiny blue hyacinths. Gold balls edge a small lace bonnet trimmed with black velvet ribbon and golden pompons. A crown of shot pale-green chiffon has a straw brim trimmed with a bunch of African marigolds. The fancy for black and pink is shown in lace toques having pink pompons and black aigrettes at the back. Both black velvet and the gold or metal ribbons are worn as ties on small lace toques. A cunning toque of red crepe in many shirrings is toned down with three full rosettes of narrow black velvet ribbon at the back. Large lace and Leghorn shapes for seaside and carriage wear are trimmed with scarfs of white crepe and silver buckles, white tips and lace, or tips of gold ribbon, and one spray of lovely flowers.—N. Y. Dry Goods Economist.