

joy to the eye. Another—or possibly the same one—in order to please a customer of less taste will produce a bonnet of colors and substances so glaring and incongruous, as to occasion neuralgia of the spectator's optic nerve if it did not cause dyspepsia of his nervous system; *Cela choque les yeux*. "That shocks the eyes," said a delicate Frenchman, who was shown a picture the colors of which were in-harmonious. Among much that is pleasing in present styles of millinery goods, there are some features which, "until we get used to them," shock the eyesight as a false chord shocks the ear.

Plenty of glitter is everywhere to be seen. Colors, in feathers and flowers are very much mixed; the colors are like those of Joseph's coat, while the gleam of beads and ornaments resembles that of the Assyrian cohorts or the sheen of their spears. It is to the credit of Parisian milliners, however, that artificial roses are greatly in favour there. They will be largely used in every known shade. "I noticed," said a buyer just returned, "a touch of coral pink in almost every bonnet I saw on the streets of Paris in January." The favorite colours in flowers appear to be this coral pink, three shades of *Suede*, also gold bronze, Tuscan and maize. Gilt cones, tulip leaves, hyacinths, begonias are imitated and, as if the forest and the garden did not afford variety enough, the sea has been resorted to for patterns, and we find sea-weed, sea-flowers and even kelp on the tables and shelves of the millinery houses.

Then colored wax beads are mixed with the flowers. Beads will be largely worn on bonnets; those of jet, from the size of a pin-head to that of an acorn, are laid on in rows, while pearl, wax and satin beads of every imaginable shade may be had. Cocoa beads, in natural and unnatural tints are especially "the thing." We are told that among the Americans there is a craze for these, all wax beads having gone up in price fifty per cent. since November. The feeling in favor of jet is stronger this season, whether for dress, mantle or hat trimming. Pins continue to be largely worn in head gear, but the novel thing is buckles, for hats. In unmounted goods, lilacs, marguerites, buttercups, violets and lilies of the valley are worn, while all kinds of imitation grasses are used for mixing.

Many fancy feathers go to the trimming of hats, wings and breasts of birds. These appear in all the new light shades, whether true to Nature or not, doesn't matter. Ostrich tips, in varied colors, and half-plumes are likely to be used by fashionable milliners for high class trade. Prices of ostrich goods are extremely low; plumes and tips in black and colors, are in great variety.

Greater variety than ever may be affirmed of straw goods. We have seen American, English, Swiss and French hats and bonnets. The braids most in request appear to be satin straw, pearl straw, needle braid, fancy Mackinaw, brilliants, Milans, Tuscan, lace straw, Cobourg, Bedford, Leghorn and many fancy Fayals. It is predicted that the colors most worn will be three shades of *Suede*, two of beige, gold and gold bronze, in addition to white and black. Fancy lace straws appear to be the rage for summer hats. There are also some pretty Tam O'Shanter in brown and grey straw. High-crowned shapes are mostly preferred, and there is a greater disposition towards rolling brims, such as the Gainsborough. A leading shape is the Belmore; there is also the Waldemar and the Atherton. Lundsman may chose, if they will,

the Strand, Deerpark, Rosewood, while old salts will choose the Nautilus or the Puritan. Hats will be trimmed, as last season, namely in front, but those who aim at the nobbiest novelty will place the trimming at the back.

According to one importer, "the feeling in every European market is in favour of stripes for dress trimmings. Not the plain stripe of a past season, but fanciful designs in stripes. These are brought out in all characters. Merveilleux, Surah and *faillie Francaise*, and the plain materials are made to correspond." This, it must be confessed, seems a little like the tail wagging the dog, when the stuff of which a dress is composed is subordinated to the trimming. Such is clearly the case in hats and bonnets, but we might have expected the line to be drawn there. *Velours Jacquard*, made, we presume, upon a Jacquard loom, and *gauze raye* are two rich and beautiful substances for dress trimmings.

Shapes of mantles are not much altered from a former year. Visites are largely worn, short back and long front, Sicilienne and *faillie Francaise* the ruling materials. English, French and German are in full supply. A new feature this season will be the Guipure, in either wool or silk and wool. Ottoman cords and Brocades are still worn. Pekin striped satins are also in vogue. Short Jersey jackets will be worn in summer weight stockinets and light curls. Other mantle materials are broche grenadines, broche *faillie* velvets and brocatelles. Plain black sicilienne, *faillie Francaise* and ambrosia are in use for over-skirts. Mantles are trimmed with beads and laces; the newest features being dull and bright jet on the same garment. Wood and cocoa beads are used the former as a heading to lace trimming.

THE BRITON MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSOCIATION.—A petition to wind up this company has met the approval of the directors. It seems to be beyond question that the assets are insufficient to meet the liabilities in full; and under the English winding-up Act, of 1870, a reduction in the contracts will take place in case of a compulsory liquidation. The choice lies between a compulsory winding up and a transfer of the assets to some other company, if any one can be found to take them over. The Canadian policyholders, who now number something less than four hundred, are probably secured in full by the deposit made with the government, at Ottawa, which consists of Western Australian securities, £7,500, Cape of Good Hope do., £13,500, stock £240. The Canadian policyholders need not, we think, submit to any sacrifice. In case of winding up, the deposit will probably be sufficient to meet their claim; and there can be no transfer of assets without their consent.

LANDED BANKING & LOAN COMPANY.—This company's loans now amount to over a million dollars, the new loans exceeding the repayments last year by \$115,000. Deposits and debenture borrowing are both much increased, their aggregate being about \$500,000 as against \$400,000 last year. Besides this, they have \$33,000 more of shareholders' capital with which to work. The net profits of 1885 business were \$36,693, out of which six per cent. dividend was paid and \$10,000 added to Reserve Fund. The Contingent fund remains at \$3000. From this showing it is apparent that, as the president stated, "the funds of the company have been kept invested at favorable rates." The advantage of a low rate of dividend is in this case distinctly felt.

HOME SAVINGS AND LOAN Co.—The business of this company continues to grow year by year. Its deposits are increased to \$1,338,000 at the close of 1885, while an increase is also observable in loans on stocks and loans on mortgages. Its holdings of municipal and other debentures and bonds remain practically the same as at the close of the previous year. The real estate and securities held against the loan mentioned in last annual report being not yet realized upon; the contingent account has been enlarged to \$30,000 to cover any loss. Ten thousand dollars has been added to the Reserve, and the usual dividend paid.

—The Ottawa Board of Trade appears disposed to take a leaf out of the book of the Toronto Board, in adding to its membership merchants who are not residents of the capital. On this day week a committee was appointed to so revise the constitution and by-laws as to admit outside members, and so "make the board an institution representative of the whole Ottawa district in accordance with suggestions made from many towns in the district." Mayor McDougal, vice-president of the board, is to take the necessary steps to secure power to extend its scope as contemplated. The Board of Trade room will be in the Scottish Ontario Chambers, at once fitted up. The secretary, Capt. MacCuaig, was authorized to communicate with the different Boards of Trade, announcing the opening of the Ottawa board, and to make the necessary arrangements to get daily commercial and financial reports from Chicago, Toronto and Montreal.

—The council of the Woodstock Board of Trade met last week, R. Whitelaw, Vice-Pres. in the chair and discussed the projected branch line of railway from the C. P. R. to London and Detroit. The council was unanimous that Woodstock should be the connecting point on the main line for said branch. Mr. Gray, manufacturer of stone and fancy delf ware, requested the council to facilitate the establishment of his works at Woodstock. A deputation was appointed to wait on the town council to submit the matter to that body. The secretary was instructed to return thanks to the G. T. R. Co'y., for granting at the council's request return tickets at single fare on Saturdays to Woodstock from stations north, south, east and west.

—In the Toronto stock market shares of local banks have been strengthening. Federal, Dominion, Toronto and Commerce have all been strong, although the last named reacted to 123 from 125½, which it touched on Tuesday. The decline in Insurance shares was quickly recovered, buyers for British America and Western being 9% and 8% respectively above the bids of a week ago. Dominion Telegraph rose to 93½, Canada North-West Land fell from 74/- to 72/6, rose to 76/9 on Tuesday and closed weak on 25th at 75/-. London and Canadian Loan continues to be the centre of attraction amongst the Loan Societies' shares, going up 4%, to 163 and closing with a sale at 161.

—Our Montreal correspondent, writing on Wednesday night, says that the commercial situation presents no noteworthy changes from that of a week ago. "We have been favored with more snow, which was badly needed in the country, where traffic was at a standstill on account of bare roads, and with the more seasonable weather trade is likely to improve. As it is, several lines show a very fair movement; groceries are going to the country