

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON FASHION AND DRESS.

The fashions for the season are now generally confirmed, and we find on a review that much that was considered most distinguished in the last season, has adapted itself to the novelties of this. Thus, chequered silks are fashionable as ever. It is hardly possible they should be otherwise, considering the varieties in colour and pattern, and the richness of texture displayed in the newest silks of this description. The chequers are of all sizes, some very large and others small. Many of the silks of small patterns have flounces edged with stripes of a color different from those of the chequers. We have seen a dress composed of this kind of silk. The pattern was in fawn-colour and white, and the dress was trimmed with five flounces, each bordered with stripes of dark-blue satin, woven in the silk. The stripes were of graduated widths, the lowest rather broad. Three similar stripes ornamented the edge of the basque and ends of the sleeves. A dress chequered with light-brown and white, has the flounces striped with ten or twelve very narrow rows of cerise-colour. Another dress of a small chequered pattern green and white, has five flounces edged with green stripes graduating from a deep to a pale tint. The corsage is open in front, and the opening is filled up by alternate rows of Valenciennes insertion and narrow green ribbon, disposed *en echelle*. At the two extremities, and in the centre of each row of ribbon, are fixed small rosettes. Thus three series of rosettes ornament the front from the waist upwards. A vandyked collar is worn with this dress, composed of rows of Valenciennes insertion, alternating with narrow frills of Valenciennes lace. The sleeves are of the pagoda form and trimmed with three frills of silk and two of worked muslin, edged with Valenciennes lace. With this dress are to be worn a scarf mantelet of worked muslin, with *revers*, and trimmed with deep frilling, and a bonnet of fancy straw. The bonnet is trimmed on the outside with green wheat-ears, and the under-trimming consists of foliage of Green blonde intermingled with small clematis blossoms, white and pale pink.

Muslins are much worn at the various fashionable resorts this season, the tasteful variety which ribbons give to this simple style of toilet is calculated to lend favor to them. Colored skirts with canezou of white lace or muslin are very coquettish and charming; the canezou is trimmed with ribbons to match the skirts, nothing can be more youthful and unpretending than this pretty dress for a young lady, especially if she is slight and graceful.

But embroideries and laces form an indispensable feature of an elegant toilet, and we must not omit to mention them. In addition to the pretty morning caps of tulle that seem woven

from mist, some graceful morning caps, adapted to the half gay, half rustic life our fashionables are leading just now. We will describe one or two.

The first is composed of beautiful worked muslin and Valenciennes lace. The crown is in the medallion style; that is to say, circular pieces of open needle-work are inserted, and bordered by narrow Valenciennes edging. Loops of colored ribbon, intermingled with Valenciennes, form the border round the face. A bow at the back, and strings of the same ribbon.

The other has a crown formed of fine clear muslin, ornamented with elaborate needlework. The border consists of quillings of ribbon; and next to the face a very narrow edging of Valenciennes. Strings and bow behind of the same ribbon.

Another dress was composed of chequered grenadine; the ground white, and the pattern, which was not very large, was in beautiful shades of pink. The skirt had three broad flounces, each edged with white watered ribbon, bordered with pink. The corsage and sleeves are trimmed with quillings of ribbon. A sash or *ceinture* of white watered ribbon, edged with pink was fixed in a point at the back of the waist, under a bow, and the ribbon carried up each side to the shoulders. Thence it passed down to the point in front of the corsage, where the long ends were left to flow over the skirt of the dress. The ribbon was fixed at each shoulder by a cluster of loops and two flowing ends. The head dress consisted of two pendant sprays of white lilac placed at the back of the head and drooping on each side of the neck. A scarf of plain tulle was thrown lightly over the shoulders.

## A VERY RICHECHE DINNER COSTUME.

Dress of light colored silk, the skirt with four flounces: at the edge of each flounce is woven a wreath of velvet leaves; stamped velvet may be used which will produce nearly the same effect: a low pointed body is attached to the skirt, over which is worn a *basquine* body, three quarters high at the back, and not meeting in the front, but showing the low body; it is trimmed with stamped velvet, the pattern corresponding to that on the flounces. The sleeve is novel and extremely elegant; it has a small plain piece at the top of the arm into which is set a very full *bouillon* sleeve of white silk or muslin, which reaches nearly to the elbow; over this white sleeve are bands of silk terminating in a loop at the bottom, and below falls a deep lace ruffle; small bows are placed round the bottom of the plain piece: the appearance is that of a very full slashed sleeve. Small lace cap trimmed with pale blue ribbon and rosebuds.