

CHILDREN'S FASHIONS.

The fashions for children, and even for young girls, before they are emancipated from control by marriage, are very simple and sensible. The time has gone by when the elaborate designs for grown women were reduced in size merely for their young daughters, and among people of taste and intelligence, at least, it is now distinctly noticeable that children, girls as well as boys, have styles of their own, which, instead of being modeled after those of adults, consist, especially in the case of girls, of quaint and picturesque, yet simple forms, which their mothers cannot wear on account of their unconventionality. A style of this kind, once introduced, cannot be gotten rid of, but is employed, season after season, planting its own seed, and reproducing itself with out effort or regard to any attempt to supersede it. Such a style was the girls' "Princess" dress, and such also the square cut "Mother Hubbard." About the latter there is no novelty, nor is it a genuine "Mother Hubbard," which was full at the neck, while what is called the Mother Hubbard of to-day consists of straight breadths gathered to a plain, square yoke, exactly like what was known as the child's "French" apron years ago, only the apron was open upon the back, while the dress is closed, and the yoke in the dress instead of being the same, is often of contrasting material. For two years this dress has been growing in favor, until of late it has become so common that it is, to use a current expression, "run into the ground." This fate befalls most of the ideas of the day which are simple, and yet stylish and pretty, and then they are laid aside for a while, to be brought out again some time in the future. There is one subject of congratulation in the dress of little girls, and that is the failure to shorten the skirt to "ballet-girl" brevity. Every little while there is an effort to introduce from abroad some immorality of this description, and it is a matter for rejoicing that the sense and judgment of American mothers frown upon and discourage it so that it is given up, and the dress skirt retains its decent length. We use the term "immorality," advisedly, in connection with this subject: it is immoral, and tends to weaken all ideas of modesty and virtue in a child's mind, or rather hinders their development, for the poor little legs to be exhibited to, or above, the knee. Mothers must cultivate in the child those qualities by which they desire the woman to be distinguished, and if they disregard the first essentials of womanhood, they are to blame for the consequences.

The early fall clothing is of great importance to childhood. The change of the seasons produces disturbance which should be promptly met by additional or warmer under-clothing, care in this respect often preventing severe illness. Suitable underwear, protection in the way of cloaks, waterproofs, rubbers and hoods, procured in time, not waited for until the season is half over, is of far more importance than the silk dress or coveted article of jewelry. To do the

mothers justice, however, it is not the desire to spend money on gewgaws that stands in the way of the acquisition of comfortable clothing for children half so much as the difficulty of procuring the necessary funds at the proper time from their husbands. Those men who do not put a regular part of the income into their wives' hands for family purposes or for clothing are usually inadequate in estimating the cost of even the most necessary articles, and often postpone their acquisition until the mischief they would have prevented has been done or much discomfort has been endured. The first thing to look out for in our changeable climate is warmth and protection from the effects of the sudden transitions; and we can best protect ourselves and our children by complete suits of woolen underwear, graded in thickness according to the season and temperature, and soft flannel or other all-wool dresses, whose very touch is sanitary. It is much better to put money into warmth and care and comfort for the children while they are young and can be helped by it, than to make childhood a misery and put money in the bank to be squandered, or in overmuch land to eat out the heart of young and old. It is easy to make pretty clothes at little expense, for materials are cheap enough; but the aggregate cost is something and should be amply provided for, particularly when the thrifty wife and mother saves more than half by doing her own sewing.

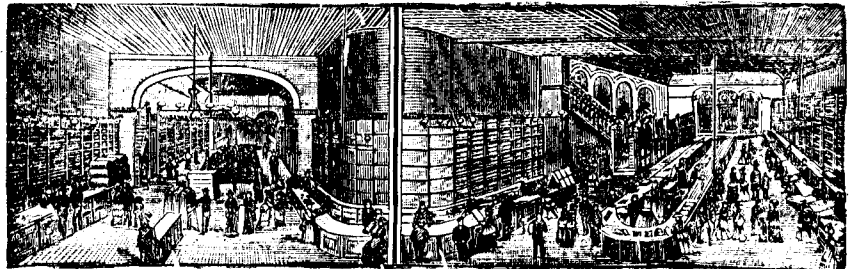
The designs illustrated in the present number show how fashionable is the combination of plain materials with checks and plaids in girls' costumes, and the pretty effects produced by this combination. The "Pauline" costume is a very pretty and becoming design, and can be utilized in different ways, in two contrasting colors, or in wool with velvet corslet and border to flounce, or in shepherd check with velvet mounting. It is also a good design for white muslin or any dressy material, pongee, foulard, nun's-veiling, or net with silk or satin border and bodice.

The "Emie" and "Ninetta" costumes are uncommon, yet easily made. The "Emie" is a pretty little princess dress, with full front and back attached to a square yoke and extending to the top of the plaited ruffles. The sides are mounted with little sash draperies, which should also be of the plaid material. The "Ninetta" costume is not so striking, but it is very dressy and adapted to lighter, more flowing materials, dotted nun's-veiling, muslin, cambric and the like. A lace-trimmed design is never suitable for school wear. The "Nyra" dress is suitable for flannel, velveteen, or any solid fabric upon which trimming can be laid flat. It gives the effect of a coat with full shirt-front, below which is a short plaited skirt. The sash is not really required, and may be omitted, or it may be put on as a bow at the back and omitted from the front. The "Carola" skirt will please those who like trimming and draperies. It is a very effective design in thin, dotted materials, with silk pinked-out ruffling the color of the dots. It may be accompanied by the "Cassie" basque, with full or plaited vest front of silk matching that used upon the skirt,

INTERIOR VIEW

OF THE FIRST FLOOR OF

PETLEY & PETLEY'S

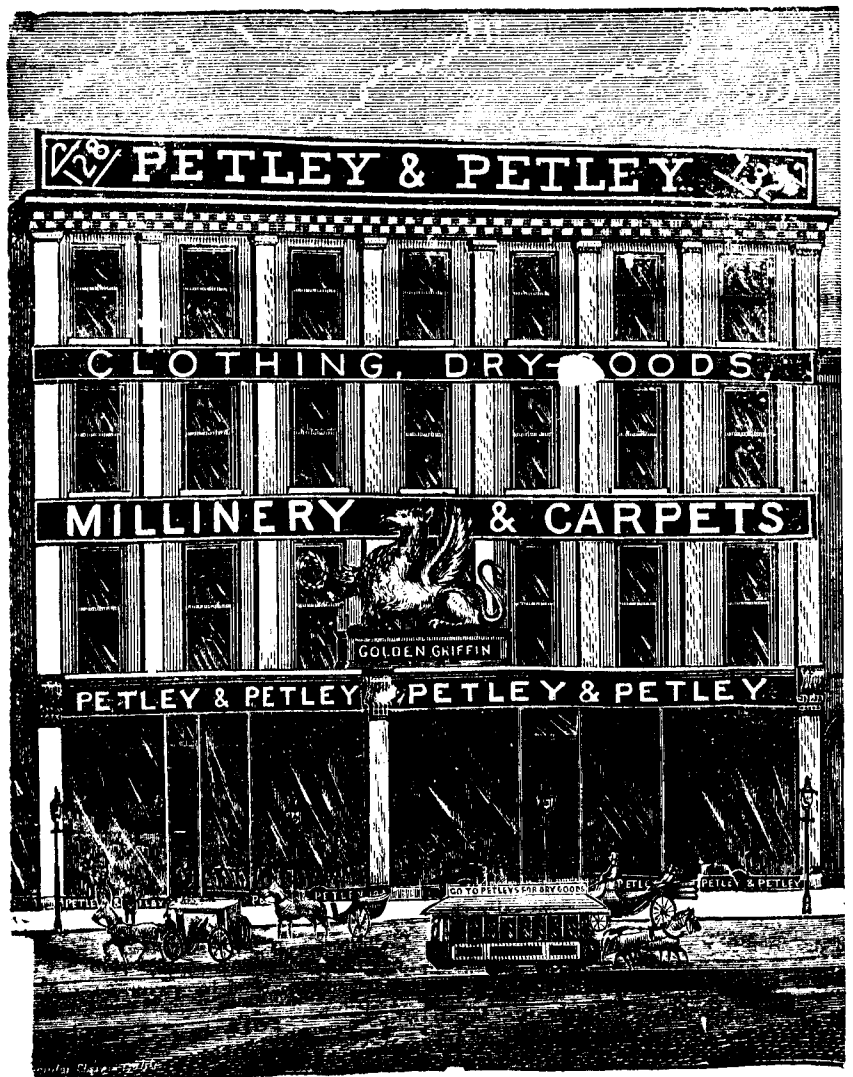


Great Dry-Goods

—AND—

CLOTHING HOUSE

TORONTO.



NOTE THIS.—All Street Cars pass our Stores, ask the Conductor to let you off at

PETLEYS,

128 to 132 King St., East.

↗ Six doors East of St. James' Cathedral. ↖