

St. Andrew's Ball Gowns.

THE first public ball of the season always brings out the newest and choicest of evening gowns. At the preliminary small dances pretty dresses are worn, but the best are held in reserve for the ball *par excellence*, which, in Toronto, means either St. Andrew's or the Yacht Club.

For these the Paris or London gown is shaken from its careful wrappings by the fortunate woman who has spent her summer and her pin money abroad: while the stay-at-homes put on the *chef d'œuvre* of the home costumer, which, in many instances, is fully as artistic as the foreign article.

The gowns worn at the first large ball declare the season's fashion in evening dress. What is worn then will be worn with slight variation through the winter gayeties, until Lent gives breathing space and opportunity to renovate the wardrobe.

of white satin, with or without train, and with orange blossoms at the shoulder strap.

A prevalence of tulle, gauze and muslin gowns was noticeable. Among the dancers some of the prettiest gowns were in this material, made over white or colored satin. There were also several organdie muslins. One especially pretty gown was of woven silver gauze or muslin. Another, worn by a lovely girl, was of tulle over pink satin. The light, foamy effects achieved by these materials are in favor for the season.

And next in favor came the plain satin; while the softer silk, with small figures made a close third.

Gowns of these materials in almost every instance had sleeves and bodice trimmings of lisse or silk gauze.

The bodices were all much trimmed in front, sleeve, shoulder and upper edge. The back of the bodice also was in many cases garnished with a soft, narrow little frill formed by the edges of the corselet belt, which is a feature of all gowns this season.

The bodice trimmings were of chiffon, silk

Several trimmed skirts were in evidence, in narrow foot frills and knife pleatings, and in pointed lace flounces. No fur trimmings were to be seen, and no bolero bodices were shown. A number of the skirts were slightly trained, and all were longer than a season or two ago.

There was a noticeable revival in flowers. A number of one-flower bouquets were carried. Several *debutantes* carried lilies-of-the-valley, clusters of blush roses. Violets and orchids were also carried.

Pansies and violets were the favorite shoulder flower. Crimson roses nearly equalled the former, maiden hair fern was in evidence, and, of course, heather.

The shoulder strap in many cases consisted of the favorite flowers.

We illustrate a few of the gowns worn.

Fig. 1 is a model of a number of gowns worn. This was of white silk woven with small Dresden effects in pale pink. The high corselet was fastened at the back, giving a soft frill up the centre of the back.

Fig. 2 was of pink satin, with upper edge of the bodice garnished with heather and girdle belt of green velvet. A Gordon plaid scarf was caught



St. Andrew's ball opened the Toronto season, and a sketch of the dresses will be of interest.

In colors white prevailed, but there were enough of blues, pinks and mauves to give variety. Only a few yellow gowns were seen, and one scarlet. Two seasons ago yellow in varying shades predominated, but fashion seems to have largely dropped this rich effective color for the time.

Black gowns were few. A rich black silk trimmed with jet and chiffon and garnished with violets, was worn by the lady of the Government House; one or two black satins relieved with white, and one black velvet court train were the only ones marked.

The chaperon gowns counted many brocades trimmed with rich laces, but in the dancing gowns plain and slightly figured satins with tulle, lisse and gauze over dress or garnishings, were chiefly in evidence.

There were no marked departures in general style, but several novel features in the detail, which are worth noting.

A few full trains were observable upon the dancing floor, but these were chiefly instances of bridal gowns. The ball was marked by the presence of many brides and a large number of *debutantes*. The former wore the wedding gown

gauze, deep lace, velvet, flowers and combinations of all of these. Plain bodices were worn by the plump women with pretty shoulders. But the tendency was toward much fluffiness and plentitude of garnishing about sleeves and bodice edge.

A peculiar feature was the odd sleeve. Many of the gowns had the sleeves unlike. One a slight puff, the other falling in frill; one with velvet garnishing, the other without. In some cases velvet bow or strap, flower and puff were all upon one shoulder, while the other was a simple frill of deep rich lace, or shirring of the material drooping slightly and unadorned.

The law of correspondence does not prevail in the season's evening dress.

Concerning velvets, bodice trimmings of harmonizing or contrasting shades was noticeably a favorite fashion. Folds at the upper edge and shoulder bows or straps of the same, forming effective finish for the gown. Occasionally also the fold was at the waist, but the preference seemed to be for the plain or piped lower edge, giving princess effect to the gown.

We may refer, just here, to the fact that piping is a feature of the season. St. Andrew's ball showed much of it in finishing bodices at top and bottom, also in sash edgings.

at one side of the bodice, brought up over the shoulder and draped in "plaidie" fashion. The scarf was clasped with cairngorms and heather bunches.

In Fig. 3 we show a novel and effective bodice for the too slender woman, or one who objects to full décolleté. This was worn by a dark girl and was decidedly pretty. The gown was of pale blue satin, with garnishings of black velvet and silk chiffon.

The bodice was cut with an apron front, with round neck, and broad straps coming over the shoulder to meet the back, which was plain. The apron front and bodice was piped with black velvet. The sleeves of chiffon over the silk were garnished with black velvet bows.

One of the handsome gowns was of striped satin, pale green ground with alternate wave stripes of pale green and pink in vari-tints. Bodice and sleeves were finished with deep, cream lace above which was a soft folded edge of palest pink velvet. A corselet belt of the velvet finished the bodice.

A lovely gown, Fig. 4, worn by a well-known fair Toronto belle, was of tulle over pink satin. The gown was of delightfully foamy effect. The sleeves were puffs of tulle, garnishing of pink