

Cultivator who has spent many years at different periods in England, assures us he is satisfied that this debasement and ignorance is to be mainly attributed to the beer soaking system.

POSTS HEAVING BY FROST.

I have observed in clayey soils that are so heavy and tenacious as to prevent the water from draining off, the frost has more power on fence posts, by drawing them out of the ground. Is there no remedy against the frost, by placing some substance round the post, such as coarse sand, gravel, coal, ashes, or tanner's bark?

Placing gravel or coarse sand around the post would obviate the evil, if it were not that the clay about these substances holds water like a tub, and keeps them filled, so that in freezing the difficulty is not removed. If an underdrain were cut directly under the fence, or close at its side, the moisture from the sand and gravel-packing would of course be immediately carried off, and the remedy prove efficient. Tan would effect ready drainage into the ditch, but would not hold a post firmly. Such a drain would pay for itself by its improvement of the adjacent land, besides its beneficial use to the fence. Where this remedy cannot be properly applied, and indeed in all cases whatever, a most effectual help in preventing the upheaval of posts, is to bore a two-inch auger hole near the bottom, and into this drive a pin of durable wood, so that it may project several inches each way, at right angles to the post, and when the earth is rammed about it, will hold the post firmly in the ground, and prevent its rising by frost.

ON VARIATIONS ON FASHION AND DRESS.

A great number of evening dresses are now in course of preparation. One of those already completed is composed of blue satin, trimmed nearly to the height of the knees with a bouillonne of blue gauze, interspersed with small roses without leaves. Above the bouillonne are two deep flounces of Brussels lace, the upper one as high as the waist. The two flounces, which form a kind of tunic, are gathered up at each side by a long spray of roses. The corsage is pointed in front of the waist, and the sleeves are trimmed with flowers and lace corresponding with these on the skirt.

A dress of light-blue *moire antique* has been made with three flounces of Honiton lace, lined with flounces of blue crape. The skirt is ornamented on each side by sprays of convolvulus made of blue crape, and mounted in combination with moss and small silver flowers.

Flowers similar to those which ornament the dress are to be worn in hair.

An Opera cloak, destined for the same lady who has ordered the dress just described, consists of scarlet *gris-de-Tours* trimmed with gold ribbon.

Several new dresses of embroidered organdy and tulle have just made their appearance. These dresses are suited to the out door fetes of summer, and to *petites soirées*, or if trimmed with flowers and ribbon, they are adapted for ball costume. Some dresses of organdy are beautifully embroidered in coloured silk. One of these dresses has two jupes, each edged with a wreath of heart ease. The upper jupe the corsage, and sleeves, are sprigged over with heartsease in de-

tached flowers. Other dresses of the same kind are figured with wheatears embroidered in yellow silk. One, having a double jupe, is sprigged with roses. At the edge of the jupes is embroidered a wreath, consisting of detached roses, united by cordons of foliage. Lastly and no less pretty, is a tulle dress, ornamented with bouquets of fleurs-de-lys; the flower embroidered in white silk, and the foliage in green of different tints.

Many bonnets produced within the last week are composed of French chip, velvet, and blonde, combined in various ways. Others are composed of straw and velvet, the color of the velvet being lilac, green, or blue. They are mostly trimmed with white leathers shaded in the colour of the velvet. The inside trimming is composed of velvet flowers, with feather foliage and blonde intermingled. Several bonnets which have appeared within these last few days are formed of bouillonnés of blond or tulle, the bouillonnés being separated by bands of fancy straw. This fancy straw may be described as a kind of guipure or straw embroidery, and forms a beautifully light and rich ornament for bonnets. We have seen a bonnet of the description just alluded to trimmed with a single yellow rose, placed on one side, the under trimming consisting of loops of narrow saffron-colour ribbon, rose-buds and bouillonnés of blonde.

Dress of green *glacé* silk: the skirt opens in front on a breadth of white silk and is trimmed with three narrow *ruches* on each side, the opening crossed by bands of silk forming diamonds. The body opens to the waist, and is trimmed to correspond with the skirt. Sleeves of the pagoda form, slit up on the top of the arm, the edges finished by narrow *ruches*; large bouillon on sleeves with deep lace ruffle. Bonnet of *paille d'Italie* trimmed with dark rose colour; cap of blond trimmed with dark roses and tufts of narrow ribbon.

Velvet *Caraco* bodies are assuming a decided predominance for out of doors costume: we are not surprised at this, considering the opportunity it gives for displaying the grace and beauty of the form.

It is a most singular coincidence at the present time that the *spirit* of Fashion seems to be selecting all the beauties of costume which prevailed about the commencement of the last war: the tight and slashed sleeves, the close fitting bodies the hair turned back from the forehead, the small cap with lappets, and in materials, thick rich *Moire antiques* and *Brocades*. We should not be surprised at still greater development of this style, or of seeing Ladies dressed in the style of sixty years ago.

Skirts of dresses for the promenade, when worn with velvet *caraco* bodies, will be extremely full and without flounces; Irish poplin and *Moire Antique* will be the favorite materials for this style of costume. Jacket bodies are still in favour for morning dresses. Of the various styles of sleeves; those of the pagoda form are mostly worn open more or less on the front of the arm.

Mantles will be worn made in satin, *taffetas*, and other thin silks; lace continues in favour for trimming satins; the thinner silks have frills of the same, the edges stamped.