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My DEAR NIECES.—It is an old saying that "one might as well be out of the world as out of the fashion," but at present it is a hard matter to be entirely out of fashion, as there is such an extensive variety worn, although each season, and we might almost say each month, announces some change, yet not quite as marked as a few months ago.

There are two new styles of wool street suits, viz.: combination of two fabrics, the underskirts of many being striped goods made across or lengthwise in pleats or plain, with plain wool for the overdress; others entirely of one material, which are usually of home-spun, serge, bonclé, or other rough-surfaced stuff. Mixed goods are also shown, one is wool of several colors, woven in small irregular bits like mosaic patterns. Plain velvet or plush skirts are revived, with cloth overdress. The plain skirt is about two and-a-quarter yards wide, simply hemmed or finished with a braid, and mounted on a foundation skirt, which is entirely covered. The fullness of the skirt is masked in the back. The velvet is shown quite high on the hips, at least on one side. Some draperies are very long in the front and back, and very short on the sides, being sometimes omitted altogether on the sides to show the rich fabrics from the waist to the foot. Other dresses have a short lambrequin festoon on one side, with an apron front and full back, or a soft pouf drapery representing the milk-maid over-skirt now in vogue.

The back draperies are generally bouffant, that is, the fullness puffed high and the lower part hanging rather plain and square. Sash effects made of the same material as the dress, if soft and not too heavy, are pretty, especially over the long straight back.

Fig. 1 shows a pretty costume, in which the skirt is of figured goods pleated or kilted, and the front is plain goods of finer kilts, with a panel or rever of plush between the two fabrics. The front drapery is festooned, and the back bouffant. A mantle of figured velvet trimmed with heavy lace. Round hat, trimmed high in front with velvet and plumage, and the rolled edge is finished with a puff of velvet.

Tailor-made suits of soft woollen will be very fashionable for autumn and winter wear. Flounces on these suits are abandoned. The skirts are made plain, sometimes finished at the foot by a narrow pleating. Bias folds around cloth dresses will form a stylish trimming.

There are three styles of wraps, viz.: Cloth jackets, for general wear; short mantles for dress occasions, and long cloaks, for comfort.

Some of the outside garments are made of rough finished cloths, and others of smooth, with rough cloths for borders, collars and cuffs.

Jackets are made shorter than last season in the back, and longer in front, sloping gradually to a point. The fronts of rough cloth jackets are made either single or double-

breasted, but in most cases the right side laps on the left and buttons diagonally. The standing collar, about two inches high, is preferred by many, and is made of cloth, velvet or heavy rep silk, finished around the edge with piping or cord of mohair braid, such as finishes the edges of the whole garment. The fronts of the collar are straight and made to meet, having a button-hole in each end through which two

is still used in diagonal rows, or in points on vest, collar and sleeves, and as a border on the lower edge.

Alaska, sable, Persian lamb skin, and light natural beaver, will be the popular furs for trimming cloth wraps for the coming winter. Mantles are quite short in the back, reaching just below the waist line, and curving out nicely over the dress. The fronts are long mantilla shape.

Some of the long cloaks are made closely fitting in the back and half loose fronts, with square sleeves. The back is cut off just below the waist line, and the fullness necessary for the skirt is added in large pleats or French gathers. The style as shown in Fig. 3 is very pretty; the plush panels give it a rich appearance. Jerseys are again imported for autumn wear, and are cut with as many seams as a tailor basque. They are quite short and pointed in front, still shorter on the hips, and have a narrow square postilion pleating behind. Cardinal plush vests are worn on navy-blue, brown and black Jerseys.

Cloth postilion basques made double-breasted and edged with braid in tailor fashion are used by many instead of jerseys, as an extra waist to wear with various skirts.

Bonnets for street wear and travelling are very small and narrow, with high trimming directly on top, and increasing in height towards the back. The sides are very close to the head, and the small crown is in horse shoe shape. The new fancy is to put trimming straight through the top and down the crown, such as rows of beads, rows of gilt cord, piping, folds of plush, etc. Combination bonnets are made by using a figured fabric through the middle of the front and crown, putting plain goods up each side, forming a high fold that rests upon the middle fabric. The front edge of the new bonnet is now very full, instead of resting flat on the hair; it is raised by a beaded coronet, or by a puff of velvet which is very high in the middle and close on the sides. Some box-pleated velvet fronts stand up very straight and high in the middle, and have narrower pleats on the sides.

Velvet, plush, embroidered cloth, and felt, are the materials for the new bonnets. Beaded velvet and heavily beaded laces are used down the centre of black bonnets, with the sides of plain black velvet. Felt bonnets are finished on the edges with long stitches of fine chenille cord in points or scallops. Many of the velvet and felt bonnets are trimmed

with ribbon alone. The plain ripped or satin ribbons with purled edges are chosen darker than the bonnet, and are arranged in a high narrow bow, of long loops on top of the front. The strings are then folded narrowly along the end of the crown, attached by an ornament on each side, and are tied under the chin. Ripped plush ribbons are arranged in the same way, but fewer loops are used on account of the thickness of the ribbon. Fur will be much used for bonnets, as also bird's heads and plumage.



FIG. 1.

linked buttons are passed, or else a small clasp of wood or metal. The sleeves are made amply loose, but no added fullness at the top. Small straight cuffs to match the collar, and slit pockets bound with braid on the sides. Very large flat buttons are again used, sometimes two sizes on the same jacket are seen—at the top and waist-line buttons two inches in diameter, while those between are but half the size. Vests and reverse fronts continue to be worn on smooth broad cloth jackets. Braid