

**DESTROYING CANADA THISTLES.**—"Is there any mode of eradicating Canada thistles from land, short of digging them out, roots and all? Is there a chemical agent that will destroy them? A man is travelling about here, selling a white powder, which dries them up when applied to the cut surface when mowed—he claims it will kill them *permanently*—please tell me what it is, and if there is any virtue in it?" S. H. W. Easton, Pa.

Canada thistles are easily killed on heavy soils, by plowing them under completely, once a month for the season, which smothers them, and the roots die. Unless the leaves, which are the lungs of a plant, can develop themselves above the surface, the plants cannot breathe, and will die in one season. The success of the operation depends of course, on keeping down every thistle plant below the surface. On light or gravelly soils, they cannot be so completely smothered, and in addition to the ploughing, Boughton's "subsoil cultivator" or thistle-digger, described some months ago in this journal, and which is in fact a two-horse paring-plow, will prove an efficient auxiliary. Mineral poisons usually prove destructive to vegetables; but it would puzzle a very shrewd man to know a "white powder" some hundreds of miles distant, without ever seeing it. If it kills all the thistles above ground for one entire season, they must of course be "permanently" killed, for the reasons already stated; but such an agent could be of little value in any way, because the labor of applying to every individual in a thistle-patch of only one acre, containing probably a million stalks, would be no trifling task, compared to plowing in four or five times."

## MRS. GRUNDY'S GATHERINGS.

### DESCRIPTION OF FIRST PLATE.

#### CARRIAGE COSTUME.

No. 1.—Dress of violet colored silk; the skirt long and full has three flounces a *disposition*. *Basquine* body very open in the front and crossed by narrow bands a *disposition*; from under each band falls a row of lace which is set on with a little fulness; the edge of body and *basquine* is finished to correspond with the flounces; the front is of the *marquise* form. The sleeves are wide, and open in the front of the arm to the shoulder; the opening crossed to correspond with the front: some ladies prefer black lace which may be used, but has not a *distingue* an appearance. Bonnet of white tulle, the crown covered with pale green

glace silk; small flowers are scattered over the bonnet, and shaded green and white feathers placed low at each side: in the interior are flowers and white feathers.

No. 2. The mantilla on this figure is of white glace silk, cut in a full-sized talma, and embroidered in a vine and upright pattern of leaves and forget-me-nots, worked in straw. A deep white fringe surrounds the bottom, headed with a fold of silk, dotted with delicate straw buttons. The dress of pink silk has two very deep flounces, the upper one pinked at the edge. The bonnet is tulle and white silk, mingled in alternate puffs, trimmed with moss roses and apple green ribbon.

### DESCRIPTION OF SECOND PLATE.

No. 1.—Is a mantilla of Chantilly lace but though it is cut talma shape behind, the front forms a rich pelerine that falls in drapery when the arms are in repose. The edge is worked in shallow gather points traversed with a chain of polka spots; above this is a border of the most delicate leaves mingled closely, from which portion, flowers drop gracefully into the points; a rising pattern of intricate wild vine, interspersed with passion flowers, covers the entire garment which is completed by a small rounding collar starred with passion flowers.

It is always necessary that an over garment of lace should fall amply and in light folds about the dress, otherwise a meagre effect is produced that destroys all the richness that may lie in the material. The garments we have described are faultless in this particular, and truth to say, in every other point.

No. 2.—Is a chemisette of fine lace, edged about the neck and down the front with two rows of fine Valenciennes insertion, finished with a rich edging of Valenciennes lace. This beautiful front is finished with four or five delicate tucks in the lace which forms the body.

No. 3.—Is an infant's cloak, of fine white merino. The form is a graceful Talma, with a deep cape and small round collar. It is surrounded by a vine of the most perfect silk embroidery—the pattern roses in clusters, with their leaves wreathed in with French lilacs, which gives the design great richness and piquancy. The cape is almost covered with upright clusters of the same flowers, that, graduating as the cape decreases, gives that stylish grace to the garment which an artistic hand can alone impart. The lining is of glossy white silk.

No. 4.—Is a chemisette of fine muslin, enriched with French needlework. The collar is medium size, and has a close border completely covered with work and finished with Maltese lace. The front is formed with two puffs, a row of needlework, and edged with lace like that on the collar, inside the puffs are three rows of tucks.