LATEST IN FRENCH FASHIONS

Exquisite Tea Gowns, Breakfast Gowns and Novelties in Trimming.

A MELANGE OF VELVET, FUR AND LACE

Some Splendid Effects Which Can Be Produced from Inexpensive Materials with the Addition of a Little Good Taste.

PARIS, Dec. 22.-(Special.)-The tea gowns worn by French women are a melange of velvet, silk mousseline, fur and lace; they are a vehicle for colors richer than other dress shows, and they are a fascinating conjunction of the prevailing style of other gowns, with the charms of the neglige. This species of afternoon dress came across the women do not, like English, go in for long lines and dignity, nor at present for the skirt in a long-tailed queue; calla lily effects are not to their taste. They break up the lines and set frou frou effects beside solemn ones, and where the idea was stateliness they produce the piquant, or as one might say, something typified by the fringed gentian.

The French gown falls loose in front and back and clings to the figure at the sides;



the skirt is a little long, but cannot be said to train as it makes a round outline on the floor; the shoulders are as wide as those of other gowns, and the sleeves, unlike the English "picture sleeves," copied from Italian canvas, are the matchless gigot, whose virtues I have aforetimes celebrated here.

ADMIRABLE MODELS.

Several models divide the favor. One is an outer robe open down the front and open down the back over an inner robe, so that it has the effect of being in two pieces, the open space down front and back, some six or more inches wide. It is fitted close at the sides, and the front and back edges are loose, as they would be without darts, letting the full related inner robe fall freely out. loose, as they would be without darts, letting the full plaited inner robe fall freely out. Behind the inner robe forms a watteau and in front hangs loose or else is crossed by a belt over which it falls with an effect of the state of the Sometimes the outside robe is of a blouse. Sometimes the outside robe is high-necked and sometimes it is low with a wide collar turned over round the shoulders. The collar in this case is in two sections, like the robe, as it does not cross the back. The material is rich and heavy for the outer material is rich and heavy for the outer than the robe of the collar or gross grain, and for the portion, as velvet or gros grain, and for the inside something more delicate.

To illustrate this idea can be napply cited a gown made for the trousseau of the new princess M—, whose wedding presents, new princess france, have been the new princess M—, whose wedding presents, valued at countless francs, have been the talk of Paris this week. It is of heliotrope velvet, bordered all around with sable, open over an inner robe of heliotrope silk, decorated a jour over yellow. The high neckband is velvet with fur on the edge and the front is belted to form a bouffant blouse. Another is of pompadour silk in large bounders, where red dominates on a ground bouquets, where red dominates on a ground of gray, decollete over a high inner robe of accordeon plaited mousseline de sole, gray over rose. The wide shoulder collar is covwith cream guipure over rose, and all

ered with cream guipure over rose, and all the edges are bordered with fur.

This model is varied by closing the back and making a watteau plait in the velvet. The effect is particularly good when the plait falls from under the wide collar of a decollete. I have seen a very beautiful one of deep violet velvet over an inner robe of gray silk, on which were appliques of cream lace. In each corner of the velvet skirt at the foot and in each corner of the collar was also a lace applique.

was also a lace applique.

Another style of gown dispenses with the inner robe and closes up to the throat in one plece. It has the same fullness at back and front, which may be in box or and a state of the collars. which may be in box on side plaits or gathers, and the same clinging at the sides, which may be by plain fitting or by appliquing a full outside down onto a close lining with passementerie. Such a gown of Nile with passementerie. Such a gown of Nile green velvet has a half corselet under the



arms, reaching from the fullness of the front round to that of the back, in Oriental colors and mock emeralds. Another one of white has a similar corselet in green and

gold.

Still another design has the front and back in two pieces and decollete over a high under robe, that is seen down the sides. The front appear on the front of the small fur muff. In very elegant muffs the eyes of the animal very elegant muffs the eyes of the animal very elegant muffs the eyes of the animal very elegant. picces are bordered and may be embroidered all round. A superb gown made by Rouff Is of deep yellow velvet embroidered with seed

These effects can be produced with inexpensive materials just as well as with the rich ones quoted. Velveteen, cloth, crepon, flannel, will make beautiful gowns with the

NEW TRIMMINGS.

he new ornamentation, called a jour, so ular, needs a word of description. It us to have no equivalent name in English. seems to have no equivalent name in English. It is an all-over pattern stamped out to leave the material pierced with holes. The fabric thus cut is laid over another color, which is seen through the holes, and the result is an effective color contrast. When the material is heavy, as velvet or cioth, these patterns may have the edge left raw, but in the case of a soft material, like foulard, the edges are button-holed.

There are to be had in the shops some silks and cloths thus ready cut, particularly black, but a jour ornament has become so much the habion that means have been devised to

enable the amateur to do it at home. Little stamping machines have been invented, furnishing a great variety of patterns; they cost very little and are as easily handled as

pinking machine.

Another new idea is to cut patterns out of Another new idea is to cut patterns out of lace and applique them on the gown to fill all sorts of spaces. Thus the velvet tea gown cited above, which has a triangular lace figure filling each corner of the front. This ruthless cutting up of lace might easily be made expensive, but cheap laces can be used with almost as much effect executive. with almost as much effect as costly ones. Coarse guipures are available for this purpose and imitations of various point laces. Such amateur made trimmings have more beauty than the ready made ones supplied by the manufacturers.
To illustrate the use of these trimmings is

a house gown made with a blouse of dahlia silk and a skirt of dahlia velvet. The blouse has the front and sleeves stamped out a jour over cream, and the edges button-holed. The skirt has each side laid over in a deep plait towards the front and the front breadth so framed in has a triangular applique of cream lace in each of the lower corners. Another skirt for a house dress has two bands of trim ming down the middle of the front breadth that turn at the bottom each way and pass species of afternoon dress came across the round the skirt. This leaves two corners channel, but has been modified. French at the foot that are filled with lace appliques. BREAKFAST NEGLIGE.

Morning gowns are made of an eiderdown woven wool with outer surface of silk ap-parently quiited. I do not know the name of this adorable material, but believe it is available everywhere and inexpensive. With the collar and revers, and even the length of the loose double-breasted front, faced with long-haired white Persian lamb, the effect is ravishing. Or it may be faced with a contrasting color of silk. A yellow one with narrow edges of sable would be a success. They are made of flannel also, the from louble-breasted and loose, the back loose and flowing, and the sides close, as in the tea gown. They are button-holed with a pat-tern of large palm or oak leaves, laid diagonally, one after another, round the edge, the leaf half off and half on, making a large scallop. Instead of this embroidery they may be faced with flannel of another color. They are also made with a species of wing dra-pery that is plaited over the shoulder and

falls long down the back. This is effective

when lined with a contrasting color.

Another style of gown suitable for wear all day in the house is made after the Bernhardt manner. It is all in one piece, the front hanging loose and gathered from a yoke, and the back, a bodice to which the godeted skirt back is gathered on. Make this in seal brown velveteen, and round the waist put a gilt link beit with enamelled or mock jeweled bosses that fall loose and low in front, lace the close part of the sleeve up to the elbow on the inside seam and let the sleeve be long on the hand, and make a high collar that turns over all the way round, only let the points come under the hair behind, the collar being turned round to open at the back, and pull the closed front, which flares a little, up high against the chin like a hood. Or make the in electric blue. It will be charming either way.

The Noblest Coin of All. Few people are perhaps aware that the small ssue of the Isabella coin recently minted by order of the congress of the United States, at the request of the board of lady managers, is intended to commemorate the fact that a board of women was, for the first time, in the Columbian exposition, and also to

called by the government to take official part honor the great Queen Isabella, whose por-trait it bears.

It is likewise intended that the profit realized from the sale of this coin shall be funded and the interest employed to effect permanent service to humanity, thus leaving a perpetual benefit resulting from the action of the first board of women authorized by the overnment.
The price of the coin is \$1, and orders can

be addressed to the Merchants Loan and Trust company, Chicago, which acts as agents of the board in the sale. In many schools and state fairs the Isa-bella coin is being used for prizes, or tokens of commendation. These coins are also used for Christmas gifts, as charms for watch chains, for lace and scarf pins, and linked together to form belts, etc. More than half the issue has already been ab-sorbed without any advertising whatever, and as the coin becomes scarcer its value is in-creased. Collectors from every country are sending for it, as no collection is complete without one of this unusual issue recently

struck by the United States treasury, which intended that it should be the most beautiful

coin ever issued by the United States govern

Fashion Notes. "Brownie" toques are shown for children

and are immensely popular. Even small women in sealskin wraps with calloon sleeves will look "impressive."

For general wear for children of both sexes outtoned shoes are most desirable. Green velvet waists, with skirts of violet loth, are among novel French caprices in winter gowns. A novelty in woolen fabrics is woven in

open squares in imitation of the perforated cloths and velvets. High felt shoes lined with lamb's wool and dged with fur are worn for driving in very

old weather. Zibeline, a soft woolen fabric, made from goats' hair, is an especially desirable material for tailor costumes and coats.

A moderate French heel is preferred for evening and house shoes, but the broader English heel for walking boots. The clothes of a Japanese lady, even of the highest rank, are home-made, and handed

down from generation to generation. Pelerine collarettes of chiffon or mousselin de soie, with long floating ends, are tasteful adjuncts for house frocks or dinner gowns. Watches just at present are considered delightful wedding presents. They are seen simulating all manner of flowers suspended

rom a pin by a short chain. Large roses of satin antique are used to outline the round necks of decollete corsages. Women with comely necks and shoulders are puick to grasp the artistic possibilities of this

An effective way to trim a gored skirt is to cover each seam to the depth of about half a yard with Vandykes in cut jet, the points going upward from the bottom of the skirt. Lustrous corded silks are now in great use, dark green, golden brown, and the rich fruit shades prevail for dressy day costumes, and for evening tollets Persian mauve, bluet-blue, English pink, and cerise are the favorites,

One of the favorite colors this season is warm purple shade with an admixture of faint pink, exactly the tint which a few years since was called puce, and proved such a be-coming background to those who rejoiced in olden locks and a clear complexion. When a paper tears off or wears off o

our Japanese screen, the frame is still the coundation of another quite different. Paint with some enamel paint of any tint you refer, and make it elegant with brocade, or nore simple with pretty cretonne.

A novelty just imported is the evening coat, which may be worn both outside in and inside out. It is made of rich brocade and lined and hemmed with fur. A dazzling garment of this description is made of heliotrope and gold brocade, trimmed with Hudson bay sable.

Sealskin and velvet is another combina tion. Half of each is used in the muff, with flowers, either a single rose or a handsome

of deep yellow velvet embroidered with seed many of the most stylish frocks are made in pearls over pale yellow plaited mousseline de this way. Slender women affect this style because their figures obtain better propor-tions and the stouter women disguise their embonpoint. The blouse is confined to the front of the corsage and is effected by adjusting the drapery loosely.

Feminine Notes. A daughter of Hall Caine, the novelist, is an actress of considerable merit.

our ng in "The Masqueraders." Mrs. William Waldorf Astor has secured diamond comb, said to have been presented Mme. de Mentespan by Louis Quatorze. The Princess of Wales is 50 years old, and retains her beauty in spite of many illnesses and the troubles she has been compelled to

Only a few months ago accounts reached England of the shooting of a large tiger by the maharani of Patiala, who will be better known under her maiden name of Florrie

SERENADE MIGNONNE.



hole in women's gowns. She has nvented the Thornycroft and put upon the market about thirty use-vessel was name

Lady Carlisle is training a staff of women to take charge of her Castle Howard estates in Yorkshire. She is tired of men as stew-ards and caretakers, it is said. The experiment will be watched with interest.

distance in nine days. The road was over mountains, swamps, cordured tracks, creeks, sandy plains and other rough roads. Another case of typhoid, contracted from eating raw oysters, is reported, this one from London, where, it is said, one of our countrywomen, Mrs. Naylor-Leland, formerly

Miss Jennie Chamberlain, is ill from the disease, and the infection is traced to the bivalves. Mary Fairing, a colored woman of Ala bama, urgently requested to be sent to the Dark Continent, saying that all her life it had been her ambition to carry the gospel to her people. When informed that the Presbyterian board lacked the money required to pay her passage (\$400), she sold her little home in Talladega and went at her own

Lady Florence Dixie, the English writer and woman with convictions, has certainly the courage of them. In a set of "Confes-sions" which she filled out for a London paper she frankly replies to the question, "What is your favorite story?"—"My own, because it alone reflects my ideas." More authors may feel that way, but not many

calmly announce it. A woman who is noted among her friends for the delicious coffee invariably served at her table, ascribes its excellence to the sim-ple act of heating the dry coffee. The ground berry is put in a hot coffee pot, and set on the range to heat through before the water is added. In this way, the says, the oil of the coffee is generated, and the very best flavor is obtained, "if." she adds, "your coffee is choice to begin with."

Mrs. M. L. Harrison of San Francisco is

Mrs. M. L. Harrison of San Francisco is the manager of the women's department of the Pacific States Life Insurance company. Mrs. Harrison has two large rooms fitted up in the Japanese style, and receives her agents there. She is a capable business woman, and full of tact. She has a great desk bristling with documents and pamphlets, and it is said that she can inspire her women agents with enthusiasm as easily as she can write

A Baby Launches a War Ship. At Chiswick, England, the Ardent, torpedo boat destroyer, was launched recently from the yard of Messrs. Thornycroft & Co. The Ardent is a sister ship to the

atented an effectual fastener for the placquet sea in June last, and, like her, is fitted with paratus started the vessel on the ways, whence she glided into the river with all A lady bicyclist of Sydney, Mrs. E. A. her engines and machinery on board. Addeck, in company with her husband, has just taken a 600-mile spin, covering the three 6-pounder quick-firing guns, contract speed is twenty-seven knots. her engines and machinery on board. The is armed with one 12-pounder and

WHERE WAS MRS. ALDRICH?

Thomas Bailey Aldrich.

The night, the place, the hour—they all Were full of subtle blandishment.

O shape of blended fire and snow!
Each clime to her some spell had lent—The north her cold, the south her glow.
Her languors all the Orient.
Her scarf was of the cloudy fleece
The moon draws round its loveliness,
That so its beauty may increase
The more in being seen the less.
And as she moved, and seemed to float—So floats a swani—in sweet unrest,
A string of sequins at her throat
Went clink and clink against her breast.
And what did some sly fairy do
But set a mole, a golden dot,
Close to her lip—to plerce men through!
How could I look and love her not? Thomas Bailey Aldrich

CONNUBIALITIES.

Uncle John White of Rhea, Calloway county, Ky., who is more than 100 years of age, is looking for his seventh wife. Old Income-Young man, if my daughter married you she would starve to Cheeky-Surely you would not le

Engravers have noticed that when a young woman whom everybody has set down for an old maid finally gets married she is more fussy than anybody else about her wedding cards.

"So you want to marry my son?" said the tern mamma to the emancipated woman. "Can you support him in the man-which he has been accustomed?" "Then take him and be happy." ner in which "Honestly, now, did you ever know of any one dying of a broken heart?" "I think I did knowl of one case. Still, I must admit that it didn't happen tatil after she had lost the breach of promise suit

"Algernon, in parliamentary usage, what does the presiding officer say when a matter is to be put to a vate?" asked artful Amy 'Are you ready for the question," said the ansuspecting Algernon. "Y-yes, Algernon, I unsuspecting Algernon; think I am quite ready."

A Brooklyn iaundryman, Hop Gee, has just taken unto himself a German girl for a spouse. A newspaper man who looked into

the Thornycroft water tube boilers. The vessel was named by Mrs. C. J. Cornish, eldest daughter of Mr. J. I. Thornycroft. and launched by Miss Esther Phyllis Cornish, aged 6 months. A touch of the baby's lips first 'just to bling more customers and 'jolly' Hop Gee.' It is natural to suppose that Hop Gee is doing all the Charley Hing just now.

Among the passengers on the ill-fated race train which was wrecked while returning to Brooklyn on Suburban day, 1893, was William Brooklyn on Suburban day, 1893, was William Haring, 40 years old, formerly a conductor of the Pennsylvania railroad. He was feeling very happy on the way back from the Sheepshead Bay race track, for he had backed the Suburban winner, Lowlander, and had won a small fortune. When the wreck occurred Haring was caught under a derailed car and was so badly crushed that it was necessary to amputate both legs. His sweetheart, Mrs. Annie E. Parsells of Brooklyn, nursed him at the Seney hospital for fourteen weeks. The couple were to have been married a few days after the accident took place, but the wedding was, of course, called off. Mr. Haring said nothing further on the subject of ing said nothing further on the subject of matrimony at the time. He had artificial limbs made, however, and for the past few months he has been enabled to make excel-lent use of them. He devoted considerable time in prosecuting the Long Island railroad, and recently the company settled the case out of court for \$30,000. Last week Mr. Haring called on his faithful sweetheart and popped the question. He was accepted, and the marriage took place last Wednesday evenSONG OF THE TREE. Tom Masson in Life. a tree, a Christmas tree

a tree, a

Christmas tree
how merry do
I feel, to think of what
I used to be, it makes
me fairly peal with laughter to
reflect that I have grown,
since I have come from Nature's
haunts beneath the sky, to bear
up Johnny's drum; carry candy on
my back, and pop corn balls galore,
and many another fine knick-knack frot
Santa Claus's store. With candles I
am lighted up; with presents loaded do
and so to me fill up the cup and toas
me through the town. This is my day of
the days, I tremble with delight, and eve
branch within me sways, for I am doi
right. 'Tis true my load is heavier than
when, a gay young twig. I fluttered with i
brother fir and thought myself quite
big, But no one knows what happiness
my sister and my brothers, can be
obtained unsought unless you've done
some good to others. And so although a heavy load I'm
bearing up today, I feel
so good that I'll be
blowed! I'd like to float
away to some land
where there is no
past and
where the

past and where the children never will leave me. Then let Christmas

last for-

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of a Lovely Confection from Paris.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22 .- (Special.)-Along with other Christmas hymns certainly the carol of clothes may be sung!

For if Christmas comes but once a year, so also do many of those hearty holiday expandings that distinguish it; and in a frock—to put the matter in a nuishell—not made for the occasion, no girl's heart can be expected to breathe peace and good will toward man demanded by the blessed Yule time.

Wherefore, then, it behooves you, if only in the cause of charity, to look well to your

in the cause of charity, to look well to your Christmas gown.

See to it, too, that its materals are not so fine as to make it, in any possible after dinner frolicking, lie a dead weight on your mind; and if you wish to reflect one of the daintiest whims of fashion trim your bodice with yellow lac.

A PARIS CONFECTION.

Be you blonde, one of the tall, pale, lily sort, here is a dress that will suit you for both dinner and dance. It is shown in the design whose skirt gores are outlined with narrow ruching, which is made of yellow

narrow ruching, which is made of yellow valenciennes lace, the other materials being Nile green satin under mousseline de sole of the same shade. Substitute for the perishable drapery—a Parisian fancy, of course—white Swiss, the very sheerest to be had, and for the rich satin and real lace figured Nile green chine silk, and imitation valenciennes colored with coffee to a pale yellow, and see

the result.

Begin by making an entire gown of the chine silk. Hang over the stiffly flared skirt with organ pipe back a second one of the Swiss in twelve umbrella gores, each one of which is outlined with a tiny lace ruching.

At each side of the front gars there is a At each side of the front gore there is a second outlining of the lace fashioned into purs to form an infant robe effect. In the same way as the skirt a round baby bodice is first made of the chine sik, up to

putting the sleeves in and the deep cape Collar on.

Over this gather the Swiss full at the back, letting it drop at the wast in front in a slightly blouse effect.

The cape collar has a foundation of stiff bobbinet, which is covered with close up and down rows of the narrow lace ruching to form to form a ruffled surface.

From the arm hole inside the sleeves come two long loops of the lace insertion sewed together in four-inch strips; these loop around the arm at the bottom of the sleeve and continue back to the armhole, dragging the sleeves up short at the inside, and leaving it in a long put at the awar like ing it in a long puff at the outer line. Finally, this adorable rig can be finished with a belt, that could almost make the Christmas bells themselves ring out with joy.

ANOTHER LOVELY FROCK. At each side of an inch wide band of white satin sew two the same width of Nile white satin sew two the same width of Nile green Persian embroidery; have this, if possible, worked in white lotos flowers and finish it at the side front with a loose bow of white satin ribbon. All this done, your Christmas gown, made after an exquisite Douceb model, will cost but \$25. And if, as it waltzes under the mistleoe's shade, it is not caught and proposed to on the spot, it will be because heaven has predestined it

to wither on the maiden bough. The next gown, a Felix creation of pompa-dour brocade and chiffon, would well become the dark beauty of a brunette. The skirt, with its front arranged in side pleats that flare out at the foot, is of a tea maye shade resettered with marging roses. The linker scattered with magenta roses. The lining scattered with magenta roses.
is gros grain silk in a rich orange. It is slightly trained, and the fullness at the top brok is held in place by hip shirrings that back is held in place by hip shirrings that form a triangle. The bodice is in chiffons that shade all the way from palest pink to deepest magenta. The shoulder knot is of velvet flowers toned in the same way, and over the huge bow of deep magenta chiffon that forms the outside of the sleeve is a scarf of the pale pink that holds it down at the center from shoulder to cuff edge.

RINGING CHANGES. If the combinations here given are not liked, other colors and materials could be substituted. For example, delightful and be-coming effects can be made with yellow and If economy is to be considered, make the

skirt of yellow chine silk flowered with knots of violets; have also a corsage fringe or shoulder knots of these-real violets in the last instance—and make the bodice of yellow mousseline de soie.

An enchanting Christmas gown for a chataine maid has a skirt of orchid pink velvet and a baby bodice of chiffon.

The bertha of tabs shown in the design is of yellow Venetian lace edging sewed square over bobbinet. The coffee-dyed val-enciennes might easily substitute this rich lace; and when expense is of further con-sideration, the skirt could be of liberty velveteen. Though, of course, when this is used, it would need to be heavily lined and interlined to give it the properly stately air a velvet skirt requires.

NINA FITCH.



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