EUROPE.

The British March to Democracy—Cost of the Throne an Impelling Cause.

Marriage, Divorce, Murder and Radicalism in Politics.

The Countess of Breadalbane's funeral took place. The tenantry were all invited. The Scotch pipers played "The Flowers of the Forest" as the procession wound its way round the carriage drive. The Earl was not present.

An action for breach of promise of marriage was tried before Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, in Dublin, in which the lady, Miss Jane Hunt, claimed £1,000 damages against the defendant, Mr. J. T. O'Connell, a solicitor of Cork. The case excited considerable interest and the court was crowded. The jury found for the plaintiff £250 damages.

The petition against the return of Mr. Bernal Osborne to Parliament for Waterford was presented to the Court of Common Pleas, Dublin. The petitioners are Thomas Cosden, implement manufacturer, and Michael O'Shea, grocer and poor law guardian, in the city of Waterford. The grounds are "bribery, treating and undue influence by respondent's agents;" and the petitioners pray that the election may be declared void. Security for its prosecution had been given by recognizance in the usual manner and to the statutable amount.

ENGLAND.

The National March to Democracy—Sketches and Scenes in Parliament—The Money Aspect—How the Throne is Supported—Budget Votes and Where the Cash Goes.

LONDON, March 14, 1870.

RADICAL RETRENCHMENT.

Following out those doctrines of economy which Mr. Bright preached in season and out of season for so many years, Mr. Gladstone's government has been striving hard to gain popularity by reducing the public burdens as much as possible. Reductions have been effected in nearly all the departments, and changes have been organized that are expected to be instrumental in saving large sums of money. Army, navy and civil service are all in process of being very greatly reduced, and ministerial officials are striving in new-born zeal with each other to devise fresh methods of retrenchment. So largely leavened is the present administration with men of radical views—men like Mr. Foster and Mr. Stansfeld, who do not conceal their admiration of American institutions—that this movement in favor of economy is at present stronger than it has ever before been in English political history. Indeed, it may be safely regarded as one of the signs of the times—one of the indications of our gradual gravitation towards a still more republican government, and freer and more liberal laws. For years the working classes of this country have groaned under the insufferable weight of the taxation imposed upon them to pay for the blunders and mismanagement of corrupt governments. Their protest and cry have ascended from the times of Chartism downwards, and it is only now, when an advanced liberal ministry is in power, that efforts are being made to make their burdens less intolerable.

HOW THIS IS BEING EFFECTED.

But while much is being done in the shape of reducing and repealing taxation, very much is being left undone. Unfortunately for our radical government, they have begun at the wrong end. The discharge of soldiers, sailors, clerks and dockyard laborers has undoubtedly had the effect of reducing the public expenditure but it also has had the far more ominous effect of throwing thousands of the laboring classes out of employment. East London and our naval and arsenal towns are in consequence teeming with misery and destitution, famine fever prevails, and the cry of the suffering artisans is, "Help us to get out of this over-peopled and hard-hearted land. Take us to America. Grant us assistance to go to the United States, where we may get work and bread—We and our sons and our children's children."

DAUGHTERS OF THE HORSELEECH.

This distress will, if some remedy be not soon provided, have the effect of alienating from Mr. Gladstone a considerable portion of his radical supporters. Mr. Bright's philosophy of retrenchment is, they think, all very well, but it should be carried out impartially. Where reductions were to be made it would have been wiser, they argue, to have commenced making them at the head, rather than the foot, of the national establishment. Hundreds of offices there are that are mere sinecures, hundreds that are overpaid, hundreds that are useless, which might more advantageously have been reformed than the wretched situations held by shipwrights and caulkers. But then these high offices are held by relatives of the aristocracy, and, liberal as Mr. Gladstone is, he has not yet been able to free himself from the influence of the territorial magnates who sit in his Cabinet. Like the daughters of the horseleech the demand of these aristocrats is continually a demand for place and reward. Their constant cry is "Give, give," not "Take, take," and the consequence is that our laboring classes are pining for America and the generous nurture of the vast Western wilds, while those who neither toil nor spin are rich and increased in goods, and fare sumptuously every day.

Lord Charles Russell, for instance, a brother of Earl Russell, receives some thousands of pounds a year simply for laying the mace upon the table when the Speaker takes the chair, sitting a few consecutive hours in a well-stuffed arm-chair, and allowing himself to be called Sergeant-at-Arms. The head doorkeeper of the House, moreover, is paid a £1,000 per annum for dressing in black clothes and white tie and looking after seven other doorkeepers worse than the first. Salaries such as these (and I might multiply instances *ad infinitum*) have been left untouched, while the government pay has been wholly and suddenly taken from the smiths and wheelwrights, who are now clamoring for the means of getting to the States.

DEMOCRATIC REACTION.

This movement is consequently beginning to set in in among the lower classes. Deprived of work, denied any assistance to enable them to emigrate, the toilers and spinners who are walking about hungry and wretched and naked are beginning to rail against those whom they put into office. They are every whit as democratic in feeling as they were when with the Irish Church cry, they shouldered Mr. Bright and Mr. Gladstone into Downing street from hundreds of triumphant hustings. But hunger is a keen driver, and with famine in the gates artisans are not prone to draw subtle distinctions or to cleave to political creeds merely for the sake of an idea. They are suffering; they want bread; it has been taken from them by the reductions in the national establishments, and, impatient of the definitions of political philosophy, they believe that cruel injustice has been done them. Radical retrenchment, therefore, which many of them applauded and tossed their caps at when preached from the platform, they now decry, finding it to be very pinching and disagreeable in its actual operation. Government have, undoubtedly, shown their democratic tendencies by seeking to reduce the departments and lessen the grievous weight of the national debt; but they should have done something towards purging the War Office and Foreign Office of its highly paid, well connected favorites, before turning the dockyard laborers adrift.

The tories, you may be sure, are taking care to make even the wrath of the populace to serve them. They are denouncing the stinginess of the administration and supporting State emigration, and as they have the reputation among the lower orders of at least being "gentlemen," they are at present in high favor with a large section of the laboring classes. Astute conservatives, however, know very well that this by no means indicates any return to conservative principles on the part of the household suffragers. Following the rule of politicians in all countries, the radicals here are at present merely making use of the tories. Falling at any time to gain what they wanted from the whigs they have invariably turned to the tories. What the one refuses the other was pretty sure to give; and thus it will come to pass that if ever Mr. Disraeli returns to power he can only keep it by doing as he did in 1867—preaching conservatism and acting radicalism. The democrats, made angry by hunger, may put him again into office; but they will insist upon his doing their work.

HER MAJESTY'S SUPPLY.

The supply, as it is technically called, or the grants of money for the public services, has occupied some of our attention this week. The subject was introduced by Mr. Childers the First Lord of the Admiralty, who laid the marine estimates for the year upon the table and explained in detail the reductions which he proposes to effect in that department. Granting "supply" is one of the most curious and complicated of English Parliamentary procedures. Successive stages of ceremonies have to be observed before a single farthing can be taken from the revenue for the maintenance of the public departments. Few things connected with our constitutional government more clearly demonstrate the power of the people and the weakness of the aristocracy than the manner in which the national finances are controlled. Ever since the Commons became a power in the State they claimed the exclusive right to levy the revenue and manage the expenditure. The House of Lords cannot interfere with them in this respect. What taxes the commons choose to impose, or burdens they choose to remit, or general financial changes they choose to make, must all be accepted by their lordships. True, they may grumble—as they did when the paper duties were taken off—but they must submit. They can neither introduce any money bills themselves, nor alter in any way those that are sent up by the Commons. Their lordships are entirely excluded from having part or lot in the public taxation, except in the indirect way of giving their assent to what the lower house may resolve.

HOW IT IS GRANTED.

Her Gracious Majesty at the commencement of every session embodies a short paragraph in her speech from the throne in which she expresses the hope that her "faithful Commons" will grant a liberal supply out of the revenue towards the maintenance of the public services. This message is the first step in the process, and is equivalent to saying, "Messieurs, will you give me the wherewithal to maintain my army, navy and civil establishments?" As soon as the royal request is made known, the clerk, who is arrayed in the full dignity of wig and bombazine, puts the question to the House whether they will grant the necessary supply. Being loyal and dutiful, the Commons of course declare that they will, and this completes the first stage of the business. The next question to be decided is how much supply is wanted. This is answered first of all by the Ministers who are at the head of the different establishments. Mr. Cardwell, the Secretary at War; Mr. Childers, the First Lord of the Admiralty, and Mr. Stansfeld, the Secretary to the Treasury, each prepare statements of the amount they think will be required for their several departments. These statements are called the estimates, and they are explained in detail when they are submitted to the House, which has the power of reducing them to any extent it deems advisable.

VOTES.

Each item in the estimates is granted separately, and every such item is called a "vote." Thus £50,000 for iron-clads, £20,000 for new rifles, £40,000 for the administration of justice, are instances of how the various sums are set down. These votes are taken in what is called Committee of Supply. The speaker leaves the chair and goes home to his turtle and venison, and a deputy chairman, or chairman of committees, takes his place in another chair. The sums demanded are then put to the House one by one, and there are often great squabbling and contention. Financial reformers and economists dispute almost every item; some crying out that they should be reduced, others that they should be abolished altogether, and all doing their utmost to get say a thousand pounds struck off fifty thousand. When the votes have run the gauntlet of this prolonged fire of criticism—and they are all adjusted, as it were, by the House—they are "reported"—that is to say, the Speaker takes the chair, and the deputy chairman reports to him that the Committee of Supply has agreed to grant a certain specified sum for the civil and military establishments. The House, in effect, says "good," and thus ends the second stage of the procedure

WHERE TO GET THE MONEY.

This really becomes the next problem. "We are willing to give your Majesty so many millions of money," say the Commons, "but we have neither the ways nor the means. We must leave it to the government to discover these, such a problem not lying within our province." Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer being at the head of the national finances, the Ministry practically say to him, "The Commons having promised us so much money out of the public revenue we leave you to find it for us." Thus appealed to, the Chancellor of the Exchequer sets to work and reckons up his gains for the year. He calculates how much money he has derived from customs and taxation, and strikes the grand total derived from the revenue. If the estimates exceed the revenue he imposes additional taxes; if, on the other hand, they fall short of it he remits those taxes which he thinks press too inferably upon the community.

THE BUDGET.

Having thus made his calculations and having resolved what he will impose and what he will remit, he submits his propositions to the House in a speech which is known as the Budget. This oration is made in what is called Committee of Ways and Means, which, under another name, is precisely the same as Committee of Supply. When the financial proposals contained in the budget are approved of they are embodied in money bills. These bills merely enact in the shape of law the resolutions adopted by the Commons, and they are read a first, second and third times, like ordinary bills. Their passage through the lower House completes the third stage of the process of granting supply.

THE ROYAL ASSENT.

This action constitutes the fourth and last stage, and it is purely formal. The lower House sends up the money bills to the upper House and asks their lordships to agree to them and pass them on to the Queen to receive her sanction. Neither Lords nor Queen, however, are allowed to alter the measures in any shape or form, or to interfere with what the representatives of the people have done.

STOPPING SUPPLY.

This is one of the most powerful constitutional rights possessed by the people, and the one which most closely allies them to democratic institutions and governments. Having the entire control of the finances in their own hands, they can at any time overawe the Lords and the Queen. Should her Gracious Majesty or the Peers spiritual and temporal prove refractory in any way, all that the Commons have got to do is to stop the supplies, and say, "We shall not give you one penny till you yield to our demand." Such a procedure, it is true, is only had recourse to in extreme cases; but it has been the means of wresting many useful reforms from the nobility.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES FOR THIS YEAR,

which, as I have said, were introduced by Mr. Childers, contain no feature of interest to America. They fix the total number of seamen and coast guardsmen at 61,000, and there is in all a reduction of £751,000 as compared with last year. Unlike Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Childers is not a genius at handling figures, and his statement was consequently tame, dry and uninteresting. He is quite a second rate man, with no originality, who owes his promotion to his careful, plodding spirit, and his general faithfulness to the cause of advanced liberalism.

EMIGRATION.

We have had a sharp skirmish upon the subject of emigration, in the course of which, as was natural, much was said and hinted at with respect to the United States. As I have already said, great distress prevails among our laboring population. During the whole of this severe winter, they have been crying piteously for bread, and, among other remedies, have been clamoring for the means of emigration. Many of the more hot-headed of the radicals in the House have warmly espoused their cause, and have, by public meeting and otherwise, been goading the government to adopt some remedial measures. True to their traditions, the rank and file of the tories have been doing their best to fan the excitement and keep alive the agitation, hoping at some future date to make political capital out of the matter by professing to be the working man's friends. This, indeed, was the attitude in which many of them placed themselves when the question was debated the other night. Fearful of a surprise, the government had "whipped up" strongly for the occasion, and the liberal benches were crowded. Those on the conservative side were also well filled, but all the leaders were absent, including Mr. Disraeli, who is much too astute a politician to risk himself in a fight where he is not pretty sure of victory. He has an immense faculty of "biding his time," and that was the policy he acted upon on the present occasion. The question was opened by Mr. Torrens, the member for the University town of Cambridge, who moved a direct resolution declaring that it was the bounden duty of government to provide poor families with the means of emigrating to British colonies. His speech was strong, but the weak point in it, as was proved by the subsequent discussion, was the proviso respecting the English dependencies. This was brought out very strongly indeed by Mr. Gladstone himself, after the five hours' battle had ceased. Earnest as he usually is, the Premier was never more so than in the remarks by which he closed the debate. Nay, he was even enthusiastic and dogmatic, and spoke vehemently and at times passionately. He set his face directly against the whole scheme; declared that he would never be a party to encouraging any system of State emigration; that the colonies would not accept our emigrants, and that it was a rotten system of political economy for government to undertake to do for individuals what they ought to do for themselves. One point which he specially dwelt upon was the injustice that would be committed by insisting upon these poor people going to the English colonies instead of where they themselves liked. In high and swelling tones he asserted (what, in fact, every previous speaker had granted) that by far the largest proportion of English emigrants went to the United States, that they much preferred it to the colonies, that the mother country had no right to say to her starving thousands, "You must go where I want you to go, not where you would like to go yourself, and where you think you will best be able to prosper;" that the colonies, moreover, ought not to have these people thrust upon them against their will, and that if those who were sent abroad were treated thus they would learn rather to hate than to love England, and might become enemies instead of friends.

The liberals were quite tumultuous in their cheering of these sentiments, and when at length a division was called the emigration proposal was rejected by a large majority. This leaves the matter just where it is, and as regards the perishing artisans, the question still remains to the government, "What will they do with them?" They demand bread; will the Ministry give them a stone?

The Marriage Relations and the Divorce Court.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* of the 19th of March reports the previous day's proceedings in the Divorce Court, London, thus:—

PRITCHARD VS. PRITCHARD AND BEAN.

Dr. Spinks applied to the Court on behalf of the petitioner in this case, for an order for immediate payment of the damages of 500 pounds awarded by the jury a fortnight back. The learned counsel stated that there was reason to believe that the correspondent Bean, who had carried on the business of a coal agent at Hampstead, intended immediately to leave the country, and he read an affidavit, showing that the co-respondent was now withdrawing his goods from the jurisdiction of the court, and had already despatched several boxes from his premises, which were supposed to contain plate and valuables. He submitted, therefore, that this was a case of urgency, requiring immediate payment.

Lord Penzance said that under the circumstances he should grant an order for payment within three days. This was conformable to the usual practice of the courts of common law in such cases, and he saw no reason why this should not be followed. Order accordingly.

MACDONNELL VS. MACDONNELL AND GIROUD.

This was a petition for dissolution of marriage on the ground of the respondent's adultery with the co-respondent, neither of whom entered any appearance. The petitioner is a clergyman of the Church of England, formerly curate of All Saints', St. John's-wood, and afterwards of St. Peter's, Walworth. The parties were married at Dublin in 1854 and lived together till 1862. Mrs. Macdonnell was fond of pleasure and gave frequent cause of complaint by staying out late at night and taking excursions into the country without her husband's leave, and in December of the above year she left his house. The petitioner's income from his profession did not exceed £100, and out of this he made her an allowance of thirty pounds, which he afterwards withdrew upon discovering that she had one of his daughters in the same house with herself and the co-respondent, Giroud, who had formerly boarded with the petitioner. Satisfactory evidence of the identity having been given, the Court pronounced a decree *nisi*, with costs. Mr. Callaghan appeared for the petitioner.

DALGETY VS. DALGETY.

The petitioner, Mrs. Hannah Dalgety, prayed dissolution of marriage, which took place in October, 1861, at St. James' church, Bermondsey. Her husband, who was a compositor, emigrated to Natal, where he again went through the ceremony of marriage, being thus of course a bigamist. Evidence of the bigamous marriage in 1865 was produced from the registry in Natal, and affidavits of identity read.

Lord Penzance said the evidence quite established the fact of the bigamous marriage and adultery. Decree *nisi* with costs.

The Wicklow Peerage Claim Case.

[From the London News, March 18.]

The hearing of the claim to the Wicklow peerage again occupied the attention of the House of Lords yesterday. It will be remembered that the proceedings were adjourned in order that Mrs. Howard might produce evidence to rebut the story told by Mary Best, who alleged that while she was an inmate of Liverpool Workhouse Mrs. Howard adopted her infant son. The woman Best was yesterday re-examined, and stated that after her own child had been taken from her she took another from a pauper in the workhouse in order to console herself for her loss. This infant she took with her when she left the house, put it out to nurse, and paid a weekly sum for its maintenance until its death a few months afterwards. In contradiction of this story, however, evidence was adduced to show that no child was missing from the workhouse when Best took her departure, that the infant put out to nurse was the same of which she had been delivered, and that when the child died she put on mourning and appeared distressed. Lord Cholmsford observed, in the course of the hearing, that throughout his experience he had never known a case which had broken out in so many fresh places.

[From the London News, March 19.]

Yesterday the Committee of Privileges of the House of Lords again sat to consider the claim to the Wicklow peerage. Sir Roundell Palmer, in summing up the evidence, commented at some length on the story which had been told by the woman Best, and submitted that Mrs. Howard had altogether failed to make out the case on behalf of the child who had been put forward as her son, and that the original claimant was entitled to their lordships' decision. The Solicitor General, on the part of Mrs. Howard, admitted that by her refusal to allow herself to be cross-examined respecting the truth of Mary Best's story she had placed herself at a considerable disadvantage. At the same time, if the child who claimed to be the Earl of Wicklow was really Mrs. Howard's son, he was sure their lordships would not permit the boy's rights to be affected by the misconduct of his mother. The further hearing stands adjourned to Thursday next.

IRELAND.

Dreadful Murder on St. Patrick's Day.

The Cork *Examiner* and other papers of the 19th of March announce the perpetration of some horrid murders.

Police Protecting the Priests at Mass.

[From the Dublin Evening Mail, March 19.]

A Limerick correspondent informs us that on St. Patrick's Day a large body of police, under a sub-inspector, were stationed at the Roman Catholic Cathedral to protect the priests while saying Mass. The cause of quarrel was a show of want of interest on the part of the clergy in certain Fenian martyrs. This occurrence exhibits the popular state of feeling which the Coercion bill is framed to meet. That measure is not intended nor suited to cope with ribbonism.

The General Situation and Political Aspect.

A telegram from Tralee, Kerry, of the 19th of March, says:—

Yesterday a bailiff of Mr. Sandes, named Nolan, was fired at near Listowel, by two men with revolvers. He providentially escaped. Nolan was after distraining some tenants on the property over which Mr. Sandes is agent some time previously. The constabulary are searching for the assassins under inspectors.

Mrs. O'Donovan Rossa lectured at Tipperary and received an enthusiastic ovation. The hotel where she was staying and some other houses in the town were searched by the police for firearms, but without success.

Commenting on the Irish Coercion bill of Mr. Gladstone the Dublin *Irishman* says:—The Irish members, by their inaction and passive consent, have betrayed their country.

The *Flag of Ireland* says:—The English government does not govern in accordance with the popular will, or there would be no necessity for coercion. It will not suppress loyalty to the native land.

OLD WORLD ITEMS.

The Italian government is abolishing all public official sinecures.

Famine prices for grain still prevail in the districts of Jodhpore and Marwar, India.

February 23 the mountains back of Yokohama, Japan, were covered with snow.

The heat in Natal was so great in January that oxen dropped dead at their work.

Very fair specimens of Havana and Shiraz tobacco have been grown in Dharwar, India.

Gold is again found in paying quantities in the Leydenburg district, in the Transvaal republic.

The Natal, Africa, papers report the crops of potatoes and Kafir corn in the vicinity of Greytown failing.

The Diocese of Madras, India, contains 69,923 Christians, with 105 clergymen, of whom 79 are natives.

At Shanghae a proposition on the part of official personages to institute lotteries was not received with favor.

The Japan *Times* states that Mr. H. N. Lay has positively concluded the contract for a railroad from Jeddo to Kioto.

Colonel G. Moir, C. B., of the Royal Horse artillery, died at Umballa, India, and Captain Walts Russell, of the Sixtieth Rifles, was killed by a fall from his horse at a hurdle race at Benares.

The total import duties of the Cape of Good Hope colony for the year 1869 were £69,702, or £9,227 more than in 1868. The value of exports was £368,262 for last year and but £271,949 in 1868.

At Milan, a society of amateurs and artists have been formed for the purpose of establishing a permanent exhibition of works of art in that city. Two handsome and spacious picture galleries have been opened with 200 paintings.

The Chinese steamer Confucius has been totally wrecked in the Yang-tsze river. She was built in America several years ago and was the first tugboat on the Yang-tsze, where she plied for years. Converted into a vessel of war, she rendered long and faithful service to the Chinese government.

A plan for establishing a Russian university in Siberia that was under consideration two years ago and then abandoned has been again revived, in connection with the reforms and alterations about to be introduced in the administration and geographical division of that part of the Russian dominions.

The Bremen Emigration Commissioners report that in the last thirty-eight years 1,140,282 German emigrants sailed from their port in 6,665 vessels. In 1860 only ten steamers sailed thence for New York, with 3,638, but in 1869 there departed 104 steamers, with 47,456 emigrants for the United States.

The Prussian navy consists of thirty vessels, carrying 320 guns, viz.:—Five iron-clads, nine corvettes, two despatch boats and twenty-two gunboats. Ere 1874 eleven iron-clads, eleven corvettes and ten small vessels are to be constructed—thus filling the programme laid down by the Reichstag in 1867.

The missionaries at Yang-Chow, China, report a cessation of unfriendliness on the part of the populace; but at Formosa the Chinese officials are annoying foreigners engaged in the camphor trade, having offered $200 for the head of one English camphor merchant and placing another in irons after robbing him.

Great excitement prevails among foreign residents at Nagasaki in consequence of the arrest and deportation—whither it is not known—of more than a thousand native Christians. The official placards contain such phrases as this:—"The perverse religion of Jesus, the teacher from heaven, is a calamity which menaces the empire," &c.

Florence journals state that the agents of the Egyptian government are quietly recruiting in that city for the Viceroy's army. They find many Italian subordinate officers, who have lately been relieved from service, willing to accept their terms, viz., an advance of 500 francs and their subsistence and travelling expenses as far as Cairo.

A singular fancy has come upon the Kafirs near Cape Town. When the Great Eastern arrived at Table bay thousands of them left their employers without notice, in some cases abandoning large arrears of wages. They imagined that the "big ship" had come out to carry them away to forced labor in England and could not be dissuaded of this infatuation.

The Emperor of Russia recently presented the Don Cossacks with the newly consecrated banners of St. George, adorned with the Alexander ribbon and an inscription commemorating the 300 years' existence of the Cossack army of the Don. Its fullest muster was during the Crimean war, when eighty regiments of 800 men each, forming an aggregate of 64,000, were called out.

The city of Algiers—which may now be considered European—has been very gay this winter. It numbers 70,000 inhabitants, including representatives of all nations. Horse racing and boar hunting were the favorite out of door sports. Grand Turks, Muftis, Algerine Jews, French officers and ladies, English ladies and gentlemen, fair Mauresques, Arabs and Kabyles were the delighted spectators.

SPRING FASHIONS.

A Gala Day Among the Gewgaws of the Fair Sex.

How the Female Form Divine Should be Adorned—Chitchat for the Chignons—The Intricacies of the Toilet.

Few of the sterner sex in their perambulations on Broadway have any idea of the prodigious amount of labor, art, expense and variety of material that go to construct one of those gorgeous female edifices that meets their astonished eyes at every step. A costume and hat alone have cost a dozen modistes many sleepless nights; the mineral kingdom has been ransacked and the brains of jewellers tortured to supply their glittering *bijouterie;* handkerchief extracts and bouquets and enamels of myriad varieties are wafted from their tiny mouchoirs and gleam from their peach-blossomed cheeks, and beneath all is a labyrinth of garments of every description. The stores were crowded yesterday with the votaries of fashion and the modistes were radiant with smiles and conscious triumph. Many novelties were displayed before admiring eyes, and poor Benedicks will soon learn that the eventful time has come to open their purse strings anew.

Mlle. Power, formerly of Stewart's, revealed a perfect boudoir of bonnets at her new establishment on Broadway, comprising exotics in headgear culled from Paris and New York. She was the radiant presiding genius at the opening yesterday. One of these hats was a sort of hermaphrodite—half bonnet, half round hat—a perfect little gem, with black ostrich feathers clustering over the brow of the wearer, and a fall of lace sweeping round the chignon and caught up beneath with a neat silk bow. Another was a blue crêpe de chine Pompadour bonnet, with a handsome feather bouquet at the side and folds of the material forming the curtain. A chapeau Marquise, in which all the characteristics of last season seem to be reversed, also attracted attention. The ends and bow that were formerly worn in front are now crossed over the chignon. The material was royal purple crêpe de chine, and the shape was flat and close to the forehead and rising gradually to the curtain behind. A bouquet at the side completed this very stylish affair. The chapeau Touraine is of white chip, with diadem of lace and flowers. The crown is very narrow, and a lace and gros grain bow sets off this *petite* and delicate little work of art to the best advantage. The Fadette is a rich shade of brown crêpe de chine, with ostrich feather to correspond and a pale lemon colored flower at the side. Another lovely hat was something of the Marie Stuart shape—flat and close on the forehead—with a curved diadem of a peculiar and very striking effect.

Lord & Taylor exhibited a large variety of dress materials. Some very pretty specimens of plain and changeable silks, poults de sole, in every shade, from white to black, of the most delicate gradations; American black silks, of a remarkably strong texture, and creditable to native manufacture; organdies, in which myriad flowered patterns were combined; striped and checked silks, for the dog days, and grenadines, for the fall, were shown in profusion. A sack, slightly gored in front, with a panier of black Brussels lace and Capuchin tab and a crochet flower down the back, was much admired. A jaunty little jacket, with lace heading and velvet points, suitable for a girl not yet out of her teens, and a double breasted gored sack, richly trimmed with satin bows and strawberry drops of satin and thread lace, were also on exhibition. Another sack was of a singular, semi-Egyptian shape, vandyked all over and with ends meeting below the panier in a silk bow. We saw also a black silk dress, deep flounce with ruchings, small jacket and very much *bouffe* overskirt and a gray silk suit with under and overdress of different shades and trimmed with flowers to correspond. It appears that the union of two or three shades of the same color in a suit is much sought after now. A black barege grenadine suit was trimmed with satin flowers and fringe. French serge walking suits, imported, and waterproof travelling costumes, with overdresses and wraps in one, are novelties. We were shown some handsome Marseilles suits, bridal trousseaux and infants' wardrobes in every variety.

Miss C. M. Olney, Fourteenth street, had some handsome styles in round hats. One was a French chip, with a very high crown and rolling rim of black velvet, edged with black Chantilly lace. A scarf of rose crepe de chine of two shades was wound around the crown and tied at the back, with bow and ornament, falling in long end, which were finished with black fringe and caught in the middle by a jet ornament. Two ostrich feathers, of same shade as the scarf, completely hid the crown, and a black aigrette shot across them from a jet ornament. It was one of the most elegant hats we have seen. There were also Leghorns of all kinds, in bonnets and round hats, suitable for all ages, and trimmed in every possible manner. One was a gypsy bonnet, with scarlet and flower trimmings and a fall of Chantilly lace, and was a real gem. A black Chantilly lace bonnet had a jet diadem arranged in a novel and very artistic manner, with jet pendants glittering above a row of beads which surrounded the forehead. Over the diadem the lace spread itself in leaf form, through which peeped a handsome bouquet of buff and pink roses, with a long trailing vine at back. A veil of unusual fullness and length fell in deep points on each side, and was caught up behind. The price of this artistic combination of lace, flowers and jet was seventy-five dollars. One peculiarity in it was in the ribbon being carried under the chin, with bow at side and without ends.

Madame Brodie exhibited a tunic mantle fringed all round, and with panier of folds of silk and bow, forming overdress. Another mantilla had a large box plait in the back, with shell trimming of satin. There were also some handsome specimens of Oriental cloaks. A French black cashmere burnous had the peculiarity of being slashed in the back and belted in the waist to form a hood. A suit with wide box plaits in the skirt, a balloon shaped overdress, a panier of large bows and four banded satin pipings over the shoulders, and another with polonaise overdress, flowing sleeves, satin shell work, rows of box plaiting, with a heading of satin down the centre of the back, were very stylish and attractive.

M. T. Higgins had a little white chip round hat—the Cecile—which was trimmed with black thread lace and white corded ribbon, ornamented with jet and straw flowers. The Estelle is a black chip trimmed with scarlet velvet folds and thread lace. A trail of black jet flowers falls gracefully over the shoulder. The Leonora is a white chip with a high crown, trimmed with light blue velvet and white lace. A jet band crosses in front. In bonnets there was a cottage shaped, white chip, trimmed with thread lace and scarlet velvet. A large flower to match the velvet, with berries in profusion and long trailing grasses, complete this stylish bonnet. A black thread lace hat had tea roses, with shaded leaves on the crown and a heavy fall of black lace at the back. Another was a blue crêpe de chine, trimmed with light blue velvet and buff roses. It was exceedingly handsome and striking.

A white chip hat, at Terry's, had a crown tapering and small at the top, with a brim rolled high at the sides. The brim is bound with black corded silk and thread lace edging. A bow of black gros grain ribbon is set at the side, with streamers falling over the back. Two pink ostrich tips, supporting a humming bird of brilliant colors, are set at the side. Another hat of French chip is very small, with a narrow brim, wider in front than behind, with points of the same material forming a coronet in front, and trimmed with black thread lace. A veil and streamers fall behind. Buff and black roses, mixed with oak leaves, cover the crown and side of the hat, and a rich black jet ornament is set in front. Another, which bids fair to be the popular hat of the season, is a high crown, with a wide brim trimmed with thread lace and field flowers, with long ribbon streamers.

In gloves the shades mostly worn this season are the various shades of the silver gray, golden brown, green, blue, pink and violet. In every case the color is uniform with the costume, and the handsome Marquise style, either in one or two fastenings, seems to be the favorite. The Harris seamless glove has no seam on the side, and gives a better fit and a neater appearance to the hand. The Great American Sanitary Company have come out this spring with an endless variety of handkerchief extracts and bouquets, among which the French, German and Italian languages have been ransacked for names. These articles of the toilet, as well as enamels, seem nowadays indispensable adjuncts to fashion, and the toilet table of a belle represents in them a small fortune. The same may be said of *bijouterie*, which has become in its manufacture one of the fine arts.

Here are some fresh novelties from Mme. Demorest, an elegant walking costume of black gros grain, the skirt ornamented with a flounce at least twenty inches deep, finished with an inch wide binding of black velvet, and headed by a band of velvet surmounted by three standing ruffles, with narrow velvet bindings. This flounce is looped at the sides and in the back by large velvet bows, disclosing a series of ruffles the same width as those which compose the headings, arranged *en tablier*. The overdress is a tight fitting basque, with long rounded tabs in front, and is slashed and looped at the sides and in the back, showing ruffles underneath to correspond with the arrangement of the trimmings on the skirt. Broad revers of velvet on the waist and velvet on the cuffs.

An exceedingly *recherché* evening toilet for a young lady is a dress of white tulle, the skirt ornamented with five graduated flounces, having a very narrow gold braid sewed in with the inch wide hem, each headed by a puff, finished on both sides with gold braid, a little wider than that on the edges. Panier of white satin, trimmed with mixed white and gold fringe, and looped by garlands, proceeding from the bunch of large marguerites with golden centres, which takes the place of the time-honored sash. The waist is of white satin, open in the front to the waist and filled in with puffs of tulle, separated with gold braid, leaving a square shaped opening, which is finished with a garland of marguerites. This corsage is only three-quarters high in the back, and has a revers from the belt all round the neck, outlined by fringe. The sleeves are formed of a succession of puffs, alternately of satin and tulle, separated by gold braid and finished at the elbow with a flounce of tulle to match those on the skirt.

A pretty dress for a little girl was made of hair-striped summer silk, shading on a light, ashy gray, the skirt trimmed with seven narrow pinked ruffles of blue. A Marie Antoinette ficnu, trimmed with three corresponding ruffles, was finished at the back with a large butterfly bow, with broad, oval sash ends. The stylish little hat to be worn with this charming costume is of white chip, trimmed with garlands of forget-me-nots and bands of white velvet.

The most *distingué* costumes are those made in different shades of the same color. A most elegant one is made of gros grain in three shades—ecru, almond color and brown; another in violet and mauve, and still another in light gray and ardoise, or slate color.

Lace will be used to a great extent and utilized in all sorts of ways. Black and white will be used together on black silks, but must be artistically arranged to produce a pleasing effect.

A rich and elegant trimming for corded silk is folds of crêpe de chine crossed with velvet bands.

Fringes are also fashionable, the most handsome being the crêpe fringe. Moss galoons and passementerie, with a very little jet intermixed, are again revived.

Decidedly the most stylish mantle for this season is the "Metternich," in its varieties, and pre-eminent among them stands the "shawl Metternich." These are made of black cashmere, trimmed with wide guipure lace, or a rich fringe with a gimp heading, and are an elegant addition to any street toilet.

Walking suit of black and white speckled lemo. Skirt bordered with a scalloped flounce, bound with black taffetas and set on in double box plaits, the spaces between the plaits measuring ten inches. This flounce has an undulated heading of box plaited ruching, bound with black taffetas and set on with a piping of the same. Overskirt open in front, with two deep points in the back, and looped very high on the sides with full rosettes. The overskirt, waist and sleeves are trimmed with ruching to correspond with the skirt.

A. T. Stewart & Co. make of course a very varied and elegant display of dress goods, suits, hats, bonnets and all other articles for spring wear. The most noticeable features in the display are a number of imported French suits of the newest Parisian styles. These are made of the very richest materials and finished in a most elaborate and elegant manner. As they are all novelties, large numbers of ladies are daily inspecting them, and the leaders of fashion have been buying them freely. Some very pretty suits are also exhibited in striped silks of all colors, trimmed with ruffles and flounces, overskirts finished with fringe and satin of colors to match. In Irish poplins Stewart shows a very great variety. One suit, with a Metternich over-jacket, trimmed with satin of the same shade, the skirt having a deep ruffle, is very handsome. Another has a short French loose sacque, with Marie Antoinette sleeve. A pretty suit in velours has the underskirt finished with ruffles, the overskirt trimmed with satin, finished with revers; tight basque, with sailor collar, and revers on the skirt. These velours suits are in all colors.

The variety of hats and bonnets at this establishment is very large, more particularly among French goods. The Tyrolese hat in white straw, trimmed with black velvet and bunches of wild flowers, is very much admired. The Estelle, a white chip hat of new shape, is trimmed with blue crêpe de chine and finished with pink moss buds on a crêpe veil falling low over the back. A number of very handsome bridal bonnets were shown, quite unique in their style. Among other pretty shapes are the Alnwick, the Newport, the Lucerne, the Fernanda and a dozen others.

James McCreery & Co., at their fine new store, make a very splendid exhibition of spring goods. Their stock is very extensive and selected with great taste. In stripe silks this firm show a number of very elegant styles, in all colors and made up in very pretty and bewitching suits. An assortment of epinglines in all colors of good quality also claims attention for its excellence. Stylish check silks, very becoming Japanese, pretty chines, chine poplins, and serge glace are also made a feature at this establishment. McCreery & Co.'s stock of heavy silks in all colors is also very fine, exhibiting great variety; in fact the entire stock is replete with novelties in style and fabric.

Madame Natalie Tillman exhibits at her rooms a charming collection of the latest and most approved novelties. Here it is easy to see how much more fashionable flowers will be this season than they were last, and Mme. Tillman exhibits some marvellously natural wreaths, sprigs and bouquets of artificial flowers. The incroyable hat is of very pretty shape, and trimmed with black lace, with flowers falling over the back and at the sides. A number of very elegant trimmings are made up of the elegant crêpe de chine. A high crowned hat called the Girondin, handsomely mounted with black and white feathers and handsome flowers, is very elegant. The inconstant, a jaunty little round hat with veil front and back, is also very pretty. Tyrolean and the Fidelonce, also new shapes, are very pretty.

In dress goods Madame Tillman exhibits a good selection of linon Japonais, stripe silks, plain and fancy gauze, épinglines, poplin, &c.

Madame Buhlmeyer exhibits a wonderfully varied selection of spring novelties, both in hats and bonnets, dress goods, laces and embroidery, some of the latter of which are quite curiosities. A white chip bonnet, called Henri III., with a green feather and trimmed with green velvet and natural flowers, is very handsome. La bergère hat of white chip with small crown, trimmed with black satin, heavy ribbon, black lace and elegant roses, is very pretty. The inguelmer, trimmed very stylishly with lilac velvet and crêpe de chine, is also quite handsome. The Marie Antoinette, Marie Louise, Lombarde, Eugene, Tyrolean, Girondin, Sultan and Trianiteur are all new imported shapes and styles.

Among the curiosities exhibited by Mme. Buhlmeyer are some very valuable chemises gaze de Flandre, which are cut in with a belt, finished behind with a handsome bow, and have flowing sleeves. Another beautiful and unique article shown was a robe of gaze du Chambert, the embroidery upon which is of the richest and most elegant description. The basque of the robe, which is of the Henri IV. pattern, is very stylish. Mme. Buhlmeyer also exhibited some white cashmere jackets, embroidered with heavy gold, and called "Tartars blancs." Point appliqué jackets, with or without sleeves; point appliqué flounces, laces of every description and dress goods of all styles are also comprised in this lady's stock.

Mme