

shadows before them, or it may be a phantasm of which we shall hear little more. The value of each system must be ascertained from the volume of experience upon existing facts, and neither upon those of history nor the possibilities of the future. Taking this broad view of the matter, we see nothing to change our present conviction that rope driving is the most economical method of driving, when the results are regarded in every aspect, and not in a single detail. Still we are quite open to conviction, and as soon as we can discover that gearing has been so much improved that its best example can be demonstrated to be superior to the best one of rope-driving, and the sum of its advantages proved to be greater, we shall be pleased at once to advocate its adoption in preference. We have not the slightest interest to bias our judgment in the matter. It is an important one, and if any of our readers who have had special experience in connection with either would like to place its results before the readers of *The Textile Mercury* our columns will be open to their communications.—Ed. T.M.]

## Foreign Correspondence.

### TEXTILE MATTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE MARKING OF IMPORTS—THE TORREY BANKRUPTCY BILL—CLAFLINS AGAINST THE MEASURE.

WASHINGTON, DEC. 27TH.

The question of stamping imported goods with the name of the country of origin has been exciting a good deal of attention here, but no definite understanding seems to have been arrived at as to the precise nature of the requirements exacted by the law. Shall each of the needles in a consignment be marked, or only the packets in which they are put up? And how about imports of such articles as cotton or linen threads? Is every reel to bear an indication of the country of origin, or the outer coverings only? The following letter, forwarded from the Treasury in reply to an enquiry from Messrs. Hy. M. Peyser and Co., would seem to indicate that the Government do not intend to take such a narrow view of the meaning of the section as was at first feared:—

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 19th, 1890.

MESSRS. H. M. PEYSER & Co., 138, Grand-street, New York.

GENTLEMEN,—In reply to your letter of the 15th instant, you are informed that, in the opinion of the Department, the provisions of Sec. 6 of the Act of October 1st, 1890, will be sufficiently complied with in the case of the importation of kid gloves on and after the 1st of March, 1891, if the bands surrounding a number of pairs of such gloves, or the cartons together with the outside packages are marked, stamped, banded, or labelled with the name of the country of origin, and not the individual gloves.—Respectfully yours,

O. L. SPAULDING, Assistant Secretary.

The question as to the validity of the tariff which has been raised by Messrs. Marshall, Field, and Co., forms the subject of an "opinion" by Judge Somerville. The appellants in their protest assailed as unconstitutional the Act of Congress entitled, "An Act to reduce the revenue and equalise duties on imports, and for other purposes," approved October 1st, 1890, commonly known as the McKinley Tariff Act. It is insisted that this Act is void and of no effect, and for this reason, that the duties assessed on certain imported merchandise under its provisions were illegally assessed—that the Tariff Act of March 3rd, 1883, still remains in full force, and that the rates of duty imposed by it continue unrepealed. The first ground upon which this contention is based is, that an important and material part of the measure as enacted by Congress was omitted, or clerically expunged in the engrossed law as signed by the President. This refers of course to the now famous tobacco section. It is not necessary for me to detail the exhaustive arguments of the judge, but it may be stated that, after citing several cases in which the clerical omission of a section of a law was construed as not affecting its validity, his Honour says:—

The question is: Shall the whole law fail, as unconstitutional and void, because of a clerical omission of the one section relating to the one article of tobacco?

The enquiry is not entirely free from doubt. There are forcible reasons to be urged on both sides of the contention, but, as we have said, under a well-settled canon of construction, to be in doubt is to sustain the law. We are not sufficiently clear in the conviction that the clerical omission of this section from the approved bill under the rules of construction which are to guide us should vitiate the entire law. The more conservative view is to hold that it renders invalid the omitted section only, and we accordingly so decide.

The matter is not yet finally disposed of, but it is unlikely that the importers will win in the plucky fight they are maintaining against the hide-bound followers of the Protectionist fetish. I see that some manufacturers and shippers on your side have been foolish enough to openly express opinions to the effect that the Bill will not stand. Their remarks have been duly noted here, and will probably form a portion of the next Republican Campaign Handbook. If they knew anything at all about American politics those who give vent to such utterances would be aware that in doing so they are furnishing the Protectionist party with what is looked upon here as one of the finest arguments obtainable in support of the present policy of the Washington Government.

The Torrey Bankruptcy Bill continues to be widely discussed here. By section 47 "a majority in number and amount of the creditors of a bankrupt may agree to a composition amounting to 50 per cent. or more of his indebtedness and the rest of the creditors are bound by it." The present system, with its various and conflicting State laws, is simply unbearable, and the business community feels that something ought to be done, and that promptly, towards the passing of a uniform National law. That such a great commercial nation as this should have borne the evils of the present system so long will surprise Englishmen, but Americans are a long-suffering people, and with all their talk of liberty, suffer more from downright misgovernment and political oppression than any other Anglo-Saxon community in the world. Look upon every county in England as though it were a State; abolish Mr. Chamberlain's Bankruptcy Act, substituting for it a mass of divergent laws in the various countries; then ask the British community to go ahead with business! We have something—very much—to learn yet from the old country, and it will not be in our generation, nor in the next, that we shall be able to attain the same perfect level as that reached in what is, after all, the best regulated community that frail humanity can as yet boast of. One of the crying evils of our present bankruptcy laws is that creditors can obtain legal preference. It is felt here, as it would be felt in any other sensible community, that when a man fails his property should be divided ratably among all his creditors. A stop should be put to the practice of paying to one man a greater percentage of his claim than is paid to others. The Claflins avail themselves largely of the present law with its recognition of legalised preference, and their support for the Torrey Bill is therefore wanting. The absence of that support is a strong argument in favour of the prompt passing of the measure.

The s.s. *British Queen* cleared on the 19th inst. for Bremen with 12,250 bales of cotton, the largest cargo ever taken out of New Orleans. It is valued at over £120,000.

I understand that consignments of printed cotton challis have been forwarded of late to England from this country. This may or may not be owing to the perfection attained or rather progress achieved in the production of these goods here. It is more than probable, however, that they were a small lot intended for some special purpose. The trade, at any rate, is not likely to assume noticeable dimensions.

Shuttles and loom-wheels of compressed paper are now being largely manufactured in Massachusetts.

## Designing.

### NEW DESIGNS.

#### WOOLLENS AND WORSTEDS.

Approaching the more effective but more intricate means of obtaining the diagonal effect

mentioned in our last, the type of effect shewn in *Design 4* first claims attention. Here we have what is perhaps best described as a reversible warp sateen, there being two warps, one coloured forming the face, and the other solid forming the backing, this latter being brought to the surface in diagonal form, thus breaking the colour in a diagonal direction. The following will prove a suitable colouring and sett:—

<i>Warp.</i>		<i>Weft.</i>	
1 thread 2/40's twist,		All black or dark shade.	
1 thread 2/4c's black worsted		72 picks per inch.	
(for back).	24's reed 6's.		

Or a more delicate effect would be produced by warping the face warp 1 thread black, 1 thread dark brown, or silk twists replacing the brown would prove effective. Other weaves of the corkscrew type favour the construction of the type of effects under consideration, but of these more in the future. For the present we turn to effects produced by the use of the double plain makes, the construction of which although really very simple, yet in our opinion may be made to yield some exceedingly mellow effects with boil face or velvet finish.

*Design 5* is a diagonal effect, checked; being constructed throughout of double plain. The following sett and colouring will prove effective:—

<i>Warp.</i>		<i>Weft.</i>	
1 thread 28 sk. dark brown,		1 thread 28 sk. dark brown,	
1 thread 28 sk. brown mixture.		1 thread 28 sk. brown mixture.	
	14's reed 4's.		56 picks per inch.

The dark brown warp and weft form plain cloth, as do also the brown mixture warp and wefts, the two cloths changing places to form the figure. For woollen dress goods some good effects might be produced on this principle, but very fine yarns would have to be used, say 40 sk., since the double plain gives a comparatively heavy cloth under almost any circumstances.

Of course, double plain effects are useful, not only in woollens, but also in worsteds, but there is little play for finish in the latter case, whereas in the former the variety of finish applicable, renders a large variety of effect obtainable.

*Design 6* consists of 24 picks of a diagonal effect on 80 threads. If the warp and weft be 1 white and 1 black three effects are obtained, viz., solid black, solid white, and grey. The method of changing in this case from one effect to the other is comparatively unimportant, since hairline effects in this case are not desirable. Of course, in this instance, there are three effects to deal with in the place of two in *Design 6*.

### LINEN AND COTTON SPRING DRESS DESIGN.

One remarkable point observable in connection with fashion is the frequent demand for patterns the most inartistic and displeasing. This obtains to a greater extent in woollen and worsted dress materials than in cotton, linen, or silk. Perhaps it is due to a lack of taste in colour and form; but more frequently the cause may be found in the innate love of novelty, and though it may be well known that the pattern is ugly yet there is the abiding satisfaction that it is fashionable. This fault cannot be found with the demand for good union cloths of linen and cotton for early spring wear; the patterns will be neat, effective, and becoming, suiting all classes and complexions, young or old.

The design herewith may be made with linen warp and cotton weft, or perhaps more conveniently with cotton warp, 80's two-fold, and linen weft 100's lea; reed 45, two in a dent, or 90 ends per inch and 90 picks per inch of weft; 8 shafts, 8 to the round, 56 end draft. This will make a very handsome figure in brown warp and cream colour linen weft. The following fashionable shades for spring may also be used for warp and weft with good success: shades for warp, all the browns, blues, myrtles, deep mauves, heliotrope—that is the shade inclining to purple—powder blue, etc; wefts of linen in amber, maize, grey, very light tints of pink, and flesh colour, in fact anything that will brighten up the sombre background.

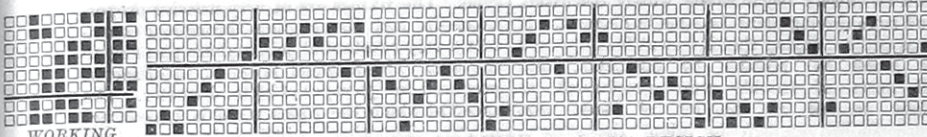
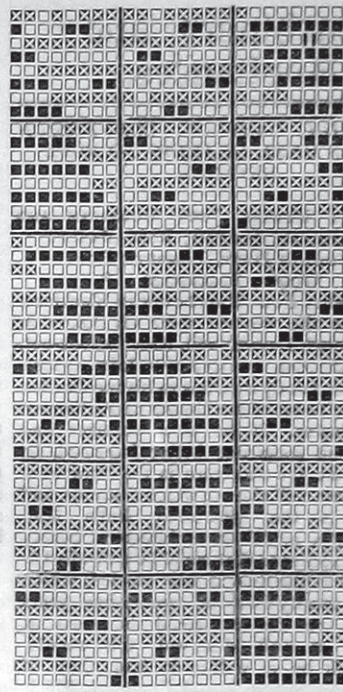
This make of cloth is also being enquired for in the plain weave, with slate, lilac, peach, lead, dark buff, and light cinnamon brown for warp shadings; weft all grey, or white linen, and a mottled weft composed of one thread, silk spoils, and linen, wound loosely together with no twist whatever, the two ends to be, when doubled, equal to 40's; the same reed, picks, etc., as the make for design above referred to. This union cloth will be the most durable and effective fabric that has been introduced for spring wear and as a dress material for many years past.

SPRING DRESS PATTERN.

This is in a 40 reed, two in a dent, or 80 ends per inch of two-fold 60's warp, 30's organzine silk; and weft 30's single tram silk, 80 picks per inch; a cassimere or 6-end twill, as taste may require; indeed, it would be well to make ranges

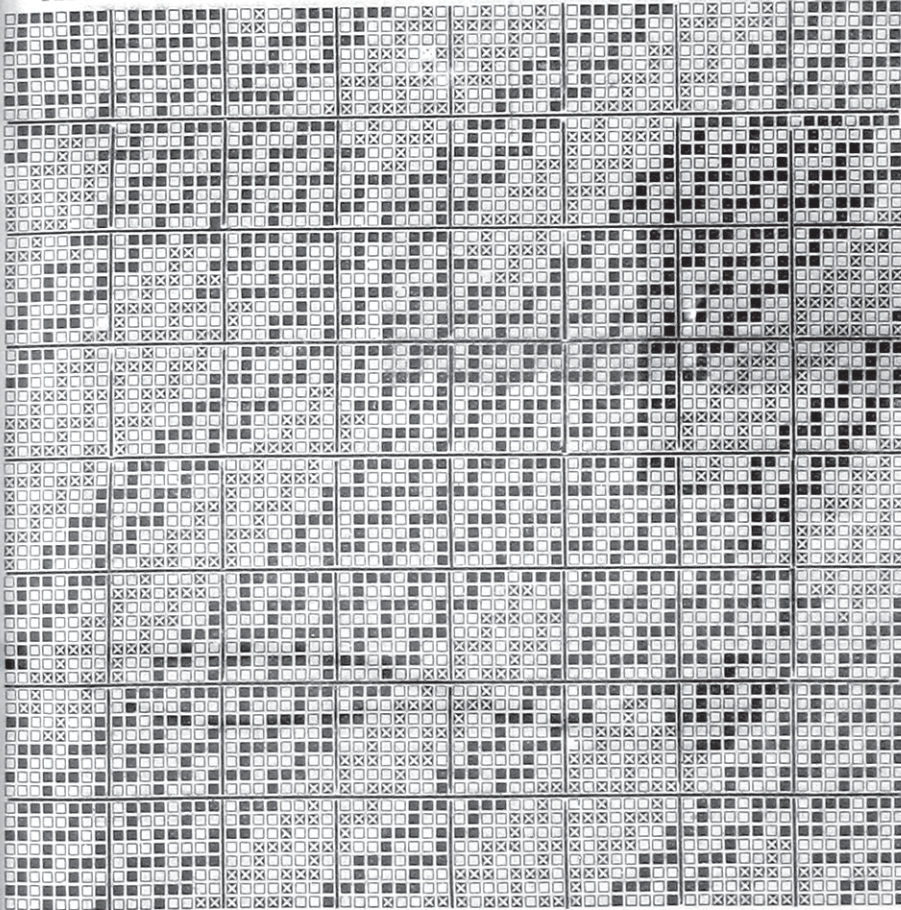
of patterns in both "weaves" and place them for orders as speedily as possible. The following warp patterns will be found all that is desired: 12 ends mid buff, 6 single ends doubled so as to make 3 of crimson silk, 12 buff, 4 dark brown, dark blue, or black, 12 buff, 4 dark shades, as just mentioned, 12 buff, 4 dark shades, 12 buff, 4 dark shades, 12 buff, 4 dark shades; total ends, 94 in full pattern, and repeat. Weft the same, but light cream tram silk to oppose the crimson in the warp.

A second pattern with reed, counts, etc., same as the preceding. Warp, 16 light cream, 4 powder blue, 4 cream, 4 powder blue, 4 cream, 4 powder blue, 16 cream, 6 of light green organzine silk, double so as to make 3 ends only in thickness; total, 66 ends. The weft pattern the same as warp, only opposing check in silk tram, a very deep rose. These patterns will be found the most elegant of any produced for this spring season.

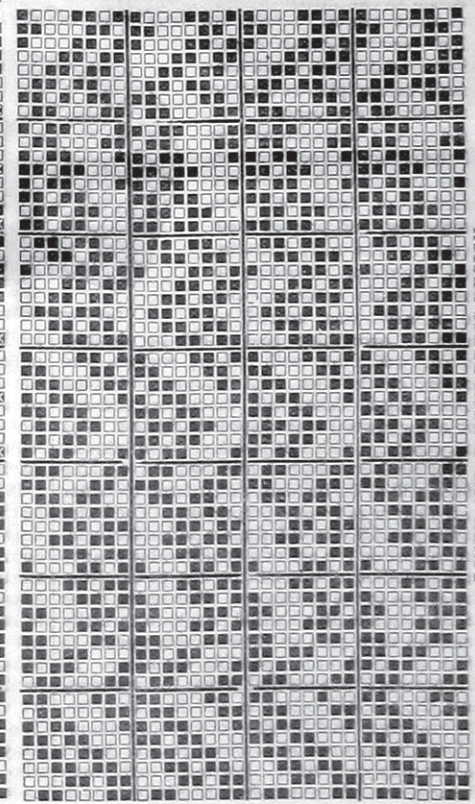


WORKING PLAN

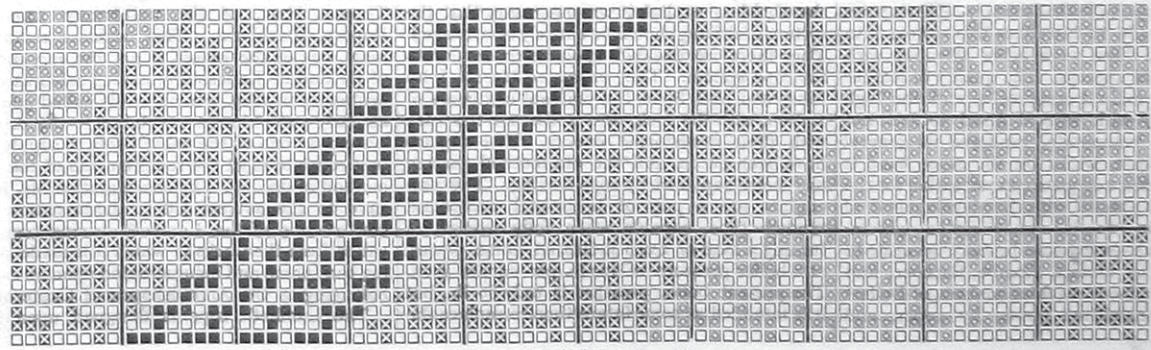
DRAFT OF LINEN, &c. DRESS DESIGN.



DESIGN 6.



LINEN AND COTTON DRESS DESIGN.



DESIGN 6.