

SCREENS FOR FIREPLACES.

WE have lately noticed two very simple and effective ways of making these screens; and as the covering and the ornamenting of these can be accomplished entirely by amateur hands, we give a description of them. For the first screen, have made by a common carpenter a deal framework composed of three leaves joined together with hinges, each leaf three feet in height and a foot and a quarter wide. The deal frame should be of inch thick wood, with a support of the same thickness across its centre, and should be elevated upon short, square feet. The frame would not cost more than ten shillings to make, if so much. Buy some diagonal cloth, cut it into long strips not more than five inches in width, and neatly stitch these strips round the framework, covering each piece of woodwork entirely, but leaving its shape visible. Cut three strips of white crash or fine linen about twelve inches wide and three-quarters of a yard long, and work upon them with crewels either a handsome outline or filled-in design, either worked in shades of one colour or in many colours. Sew a ball fringe matching the diagonal cloth to the bottom of each strip, and double ends of ribbon to each corner. Tie the top of each strip with a smart bow to the top rail of each leaf of the screen, and the bottom to the bottom rail, and the work is complete. The advantage of this screen is that the embroidered part can be changed and varied as often as the owner likes to work a fresh subject, as nothing has to be done but untie the bows of ribbon. Indian and Persian embroidery, Lustra painting combined with needlework, and many new kinds of work, can be displayed and changed without difficulty.

The second screen is lower and longer than the first, and is entirely covered with material. Its peculiarity consists of the different natures of the material used to cover the lower and upper halves, and it also can be made up at home without much trouble. Procure a three-fold frame of deal made like the first screen, but two and a half feet in height, and with each leaf of the same breadth. Put on the hinges, and cover the screen entirely with a lining of brown holland, which pull very tight, and nail on well. Sew across the whole screen, so that no join is visible, and a little below the exact centre, a coloured material, either of soft blue or green diagonal cloth, stamped plush, or velvet. Secure this firmly to the sides and bottom of the three leaves with ornamental nails, and cover the bottom part on both sides. Take some cream-coloured or pale blue satin sheeting, or some fine white lining, fit it so that it shall cover the top part of the screen without a join, and meet the lower material, and upon this material trace a design, such as birds and reeds, water-lilies and flags, fishes swimming, etc., on a stiff Greek wreath caught up at set intervals with ribbon; so arrange this pattern that it covers without a break the whole width of the material, work the design in *filoselles* of various shades, sew the material on to the screen above the lower material, finish off where the two meet with a small ball edging made of colours matching the *filoselles*, and ornament the outer sides of the leaves with small ornamental nails, so as to hide the stitches that secure the various coverings.

B. C. SAWARD.

OUR JOURNEY TO PERSIA.



Rev. Dr. Bruce, missionary to the Armenians. Miss Read had the advantage of travelling with Dr. Bruce and his family, who were returning to Persia.

"We reached this on November 24th, after a safe and comfortable journey, and felt thankful to arrive at our destination in health and safety. We left Berlin on October 18th, and travelled night and day till October 23rd, when we got on board the steamer at Tzaritzin. We travelled *via* Koningsberg, Vilna, Minsk, Smolensk, Orel, Grivici (see atlas).

Along our route, we heard reports that the Volga was already frozen, and that the steamers had ceased to run. This made Dr. Bruce very anxious, as the route by Odessa would be much more tedious and expensive. However, after repeated telegrams, he obtained satisfactory information that the steamers were still running. It was intensely cold in Russia, but the trains are kept very warm, having double windows and double doors, and stoves kept well supplied with wood. From Tzaritzin we went by steamer to Astrachan, where we had a few hours, in which we saw the Greek Cathedral, and the town. Thence we went on to a "flat," some hours' journey to the steamer on the Caspian, and reached Enzeli on October 29th, having had a magnificent view of the snow-capped Elbruz range of mountains. I was much interested in watching the motley crowd on the deck—Greek priests, Jews, Mohammedans, Tartars, Armenians, Cossacks—and the boats which came alongside, wherever the steamer stopped, with fruit and flowers. We got into a boat which came to the steamer, and rowed ashore to Enzeli, where we got into a larger boat, and rowed about twelve miles across a large lagoon, then we landed, and rode on to Resht. Here we remained for two days, until sufficient mules and horses had been procured for our large party of eleven. Dr. Bruce's trusted servant, Carapet, who has been with him for twelve years, undertook the charge of the money, and attended to the buying of provisions, &c., for the journey.

Mrs. Bruce travelled in a kajavah, half-swung, half-balanced on a mule, and Miss Bruce and I took it in turns to sit in the opposite kajavah, and to ride a pony. Kajavahs are the most uncomfortable things imaginable. Miss Bruce and I both thought we should be sea-sick for the first hour or two we were in it; but when we got accustomed to the motion, and to some plans for stowing our legs away, we got on much better; I even went to sleep for a while, one or two hot days.

Our road, for the first few days after leaving Resht, lay over the Elbruz mountains, and the scenery was indeed magnificent; hills clothed with trees of the most gorgeous autumn tints, and snow-capped mountains towering beyond. But when, on November 5th, we crossed the Kazan pass, 7,000 feet high, we came into a totally different country; an extensive plain, perfectly brown, and barren-looking. We stayed two days at Kasbin, and there our party divided, four

going to Teheran, and the remaining seven going by Kum, Kashan, Soo, to Julfa.

During this part of our journey we crossed several extensive plains, hills, and a range of mountains, by a pass 8,500 feet high. It was sometimes very hot for a few hours in the plains, but the nights were often chilly, and in the Karood mountains there was ice upon the ground. Some days we rode for twenty miles without seeing half-a-dozen people, and not a single village, through a perfectly barren country. In other places we saw many villages, and much cultivation. The principal produce seems to be cotton, oil, wheat, and fruit, melons, pomegranates, grapes, quinces. Many of the towns are half in ruins, presenting a most desolate appearance.

We had often to sleep in wretched rooms in the posthouses, or in the caravansaries. In some places we slept in small rooms, with dusty floors, dirty walls, black roofs, and holes in the walls for windows; but it was wonderful how comfortable they looked when the servants had laid down a carpet, and we had made our beds; and, as Dr. Bruce said, we could not look at the black roofs while we were looking at our dinner, or while we were asleep. The cloth for dinner (I cannot call table-cloth) was usually laid in the centre of the room, and we sat on the floor round it; we ladies had a decided advantage over the gentlemen, as our legs were shorter; they were constantly mourning over the unwieldy length of theirs.

Our journey from Enzeli took twenty-four days, and we were fortunate in having only one day's rain, and that day we spent at a comfortable hotel at Kasbin. The only accident of any consequence that happened was, that the day we reached Julfa, at a village about sixteen miles off, the pony carrying our bedding fell into the water, and the things were very wet; but it was most fortunate that this happened at the end of our journey. It was most curious, when passing through wild barren deserts, to see the long straight line of telegraph poles and wires which connect London and Calcutta in an unbroken line; they seemed a link with the civilized world.

Many of the orphan boys, school teachers, and members of the congregation came out to welcome Dr. and Mrs. Bruce back to Julfa. We all felt thankful to be at our journey's end in safety, after our forty-three days' travelling. I enjoyed the journey very much, there was so much novelty to me, who had never before been outside the British isles, and our party was very pleasant. Mrs. Bruce has been most kind and thoughtful, in telling me beforehand what things would be useful in the journey, and that made a great difference in my comfort. She very kindly taught me my letters on the journey, so that I am ready to begin to read as soon as I get a teacher. Dr. Bruce has not fixed on one yet, but he promises to do so next week, and I hope to begin hard work then. Unfortunately I missed the last step of the train a few days ago, and sprained my ankle slightly, and have had to keep it up, and stay quiet; but that will not interfere with my studying the language; on the contrary, it may keep me to it more diligently.

I was greatly interested in attending service last Sunday, with the Armenians. There is an English service in the afternoon, and a Sunday-school afterwards, attended by Armenian men, women, and children. I hope at once to begin studying the language, so as to assist in the good work. I am very happy, and very glad to be in Persia."

