

rooms previously sacred to reporters alone. There may be nothing startling in the circumstance that the lobbyists have been given for partial use for writing a room adjacent to the Vote Office. But these privileges, all of which have tended not merely to secure greater comfort but increased efficiency, have been materially enhanced, even within the present session, by the grant of a separate room, adjoining the Central Hall, in order that those upon the Lobby list can the better perform their duties.

The reader may ask, "What do all these lobbyists do, and how do they do it?" A complete answer would be to tell too much, for your true lobbyist never mentions the sources of his information, and he is careful to appear even to his comrades as if he does not possess any in particular. It is this habit of nonchalant caution which causes even journalists who have won their experience elsewhere to occasionally hazard the opinion that there is no news to be obtained in the Lobby; and that is certainly true concerning those who merely look in for a few minutes, and expect to have intelligence drop unsolicited into their ears as they pass the portal. Partly, also, this idea spreads because the ordinary member of Parliament seldom hears anything in the Lobby that the whole political world is

not acquainted with. But the skilled lobbyist is one accustomed to the study of men, to the reading of signs, and to the understanding of affairs. He cannot penetrate all the secrets of State—such as assume to do so may at once be set down as impotent boasters; but if he cannot discover twenty-four hours before any other persons outside the Cabinet what line that select body means to take, if he cannot prophesy beforehand what *coup* the Opposition intends to attempt, he is not to be regarded as even approaching the ideal of his calling. In the ever-increasing competition of the daily press, to be twenty-four hours ahead is to do well, for the public memory is so short that, if a journalist happens to be a fortnight in advance with any forthcoming "good thing," those who adopt his information thirteen days later are almost certain to get the credit for it. The delicacy and the difficulty of the task are obvious, and when it is well discharged, the public benefit while the lobbyist is increasingly trusted. The whole system is a phase of our Parliamentary life which is little comprehended by the world of newspaper readers, for whose better information it is devised; but it is one of which every participant in its ardent joys and keen disappointments has reason to be proud.

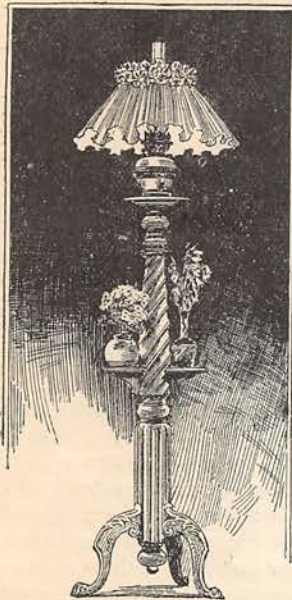
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## NEW LAMPS FOR OLD.

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THIS title must be taken in a figurative sense, meaning that out of what is "old" or disused, and often thrown away, new and charming articles may often be made: all that is required being time, taste, patience, and the expenditure of a little money, some times only very little.

Lately, while on a visit to a friend, I noticed in the drawing-room one of the handsomest standard lamps I had ever seen, and in our first illustration you can see what it looked like. On inquiry, I found that the centre pole was in reality an old bed-post, made of

mahogany and carefully polished. A local carpenter had made the feet out of some more wood and fixed the projecting brackets, which were intended to hold

flowers or any ornament. The lamp, which is movable is, as you will notice, placed on the top.

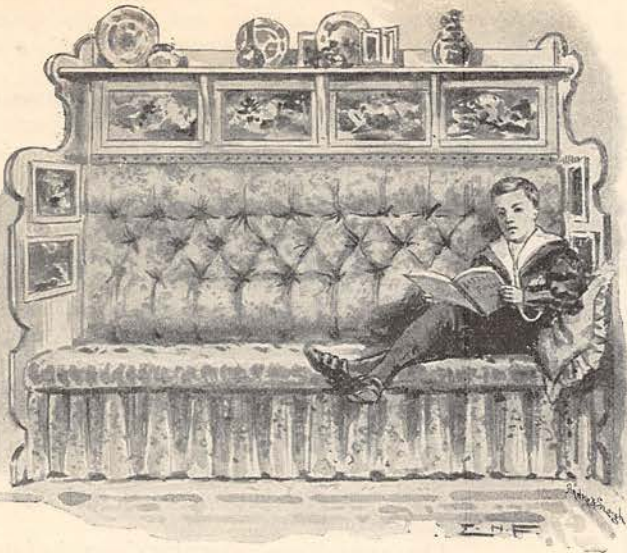
Four-post bedsteads are becoming things of the past, and so many people sell those they possess and have the more hygienic iron in their place, that in second-hand shops you may often pick up the posts more or less well-carved, from which such a capital lamp-stand may be made. The feet, by the way, ought to be weighted, and care taken not to have the whole thing top-heavy.

Another use for bed-posts is to place them at each side of a fireplace. For a bedroom, and particularly if the overmantel is of the same wood, the effect is very novel and pretty; and in summer, curtains can hang on a slight rod or string placed under the mantel-board.

The uses of empty packing-cases and old boxes generally are so numerous that one could not hope in the limits of one article to exhaust a list of what may be made from them. The hints here given are merely suggestive, and may be worked out with various modifications, as well as possibly giving the ideas for other ways in which to use what would under ordinary circumstances be thrown away.

A cosy corner is one of the present pretty fashions which bids fair to last. Drawing-rooms and all rooms are very much more comfortable than they used to be, and corners can be fitted up and made very pretty, as well as forming a comfortable seat for a *tête-à-tête*.





OUR COSY CORNER.

The one given in illustration 2 was actually made by a carpenter, the seat, when divested of the upholstered cushion, being made to open, and the box of which it was the lid forming a convenient receptacle for work, papers, and various things which are often needed, and yet which look untidy when lying about a room. This can, however, be made quite as well with any empty box or case which fits the corner, providing that the hinges are so placed that the lid can be opened easily. If you do not want it as a receptacle, you can turn a packing-case upside down, and that answers for a seat capitally, and looks every bit as well as the arrangement before you.

The illustration will show you how to arrange your corner, or at least give you some hints—for an inventive mind scorns anything but hints—and from them originate new and various methods and arrangements.

The back should be upholstered, the front draped; and this, like the cushion, is perfectly easy to do if you have the materials and know the use of a hammer and nails. It is well, by the way, in all this work to use a hammer, and not a substitute for one. It is said, and very truly, that a woman instinctively uses anything that comes handy when she wants to drive in a nail—a poker, back of a brush, a bottle, the heel of a boot: anything, in fact, rather than fetch or send for a real hammer, that most useful of household articles. The top, as you will see in the picture, has a kind of frieze, which is in reality—for this is a drawing of a real corner—several little paintings of sea and land, with a gilt beading running above, below, and in between each. There is room at the sides, too, for some more, which will be added in time. One little shelf above the pictures serves to hold flowers, china, etc. The shelf may be enamelled in white with a gold beading, like the rest.

Out of empty fruit boxes very useful things can be

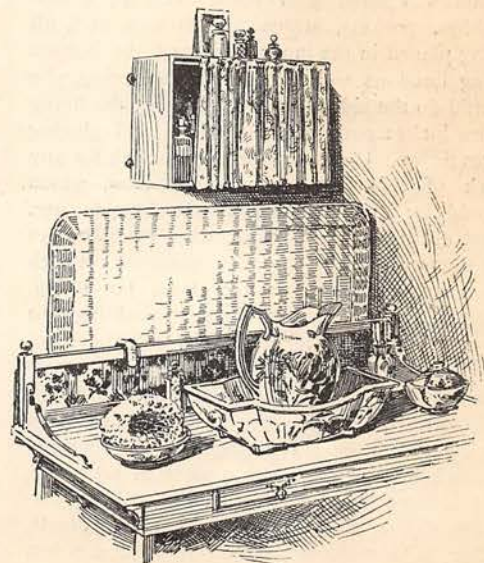
made. If you stain or enamel them, you must plane or get them planed, so as to have an even surface, but if you are going to cover them with stuff or paper, and line them as well, you need not take this trouble.

In many bedrooms medicine and bottles of all kinds accumulate, and look anything but ornamental on the wash-stand; now, a very convenient little receptacle for these can be made out of a fruit box with a small curtain in front of it, the whole being nailed above the wash-stand. You can buy “eyes” at any ironmonger’s, and these fastened at the back of the box will serve to nail it up by. The same kind of thing, only made from a larger box, is very nice to put boots and shoes in, the curtain serving to keep the dust from them. The latter can be nailed down at the top, and just lifted when the box is wanted in which to place or withdraw what it

is intended to hold; but you should make it to open in the middle. Another method is to have a small iron rod running the length of the box, and the curtain on rings put upon it. This can be easily drawn backwards and forwards.

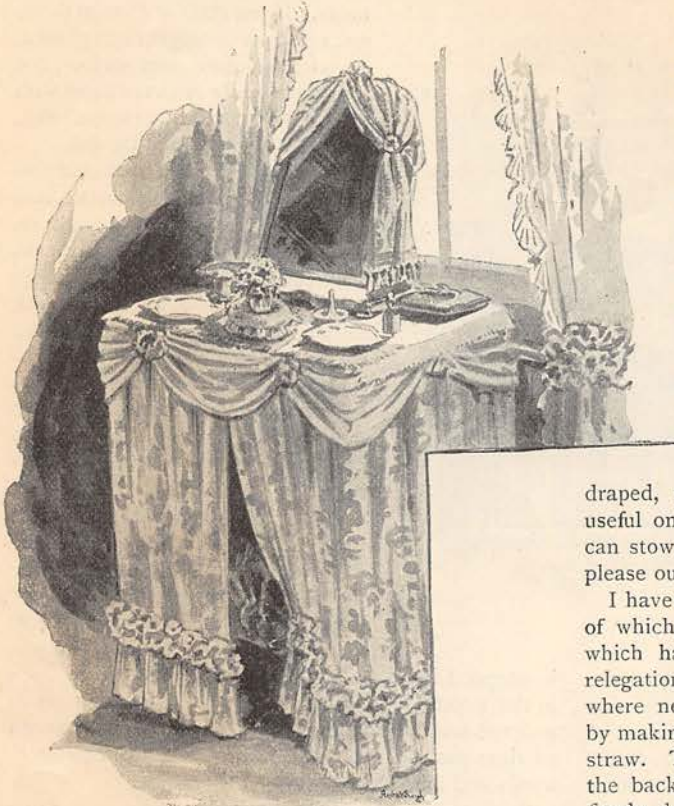
Book-cases can easily be made upon the same principle by fastening two or more fruit boxes together, one above the other, with the opening facing you. With larger boxes an *étagère* can be made which, when decorated with fancy nails and draped, looks very pretty indeed.

A charming work-table I once saw was made from a square box set upon four thick broom-sticks, which



MEDICINE CHEST.





THE DRESSING-TABLE.

were secured into the bottom by being forced into holes made with a red-hot poker, and then glued in. The legs were painted black, and the sides of the box were covered with art green serge on which a pattern of cowslips was embroidered in crewel-wool. The inside was lined with some material, a pin-cushion, pockets, straps for scissors, etc., all being placed in the inner sides, and the bottom being lined as well. To make the lining, you should do the sides first of all, leaving the lining a few inches over at the bottom, and glueing them down. Gum is not strong enough for any work of this kind; carpenter's glue, which should be melted down, is the best to use. Next cut a square of card rather smaller than the inner bottom of the box, and cover it with whatever material you are using for lining, having placed a very thin layer of wadding or a piece of flannel between the card and the stuff. Turn the edges of the latter over, and secure them by long threads taken across and longitudinally. Then glue this in, and by so doing the ends from the side lining will not be seen. The whole is covered with a piece of art serge, embroidered like the outer band.

For making a waste-paper basket—receptacle, rather, to be more accurate—you proceed in just the same way, and very pretty things can be made from old barrels.

If you want to turn a small old barrel into a work-box you can ornament it outside with work or plush, and bring the lining up a little way, gathering it in with a running string.

A footstool can be made from an old box turned up and covered with embroidered serge, the top being well padded, and some gilt nails being driven round it.

It is wonderful how much you can do with old boxes, and of course they can be used for flower-boxes and, I must not forget, dressing-tables.

A large packing-case turned on one side, with the open top facing you, can be made very secure, as well as the right height, by fastening it upon small blocks of wood all cut the same size. This, when draped, makes a pretty table, and an exceedingly useful one too; for when the drapery is raised you can stow away band-boxes, boots, and anything you please out of the dust.

I have myself made charming chairs, the foundations of which were worn-out cane or rush-bottomed chairs which had done their work, and were only fit for relegation to the lumber-room. I mended the seats where necessary, and padded them. This was done by making a canvas bag, and filling it with flock or straw. This was nailed down, and then a bag to fit the back was also filled with the same and nailed firmly down. The next thing was to cut down the chairs: and this was easy enough; and to make them more restful, the back legs were cut about two inches



WORK-BOX AND BASKET.



shorter than the front. This makes a low chair—most comfortable, as you will find if you try it. After this was done, the chair was entirely covered with a pretty chintz or cretonne, a frill going round from the seat.

The common little folding chairs, which you can buy so cheaply at any mart or furniture shop, can be turned into things of beauty by the expenditure of a very little trouble. Cover the seat, which is generally a piece of carpet of more or less frightful pattern, with a piece of Roman satin or what is called satin galore, on which you embroider some flowers or any design you choose. These materials are not expensive, and are so wide that half a yard goes a good way; and as for the pattern, if you cannot draw one yourself, iron off a good transfer design. The latter you get for a few pence, and a few skeins of filoselle or crewel will supply your materials for a very pretty little article of furniture. You can also get deck chairs for something under three shillings. Enamel or paint the

woodwork and embroider a strip of art serge or any material you like the same size as the canvas, and sew it upon it. This with a pretty cushion makes a pretty drawing-room chair of what is, if not old, very cheap indeed. These are particularly convenient in a bedroom, where an easy-chair is often a boon, and often the mistress of the house has not a large purse from which to draw money for the purchasing of chairs at a grand upholsterer's.

There is a great charm in making things one's self, and a still greater pleasure in using up what many people throw away. All that tends to making a house pretty, and to the observance of the law of order, is worth thinking about, and instead of bemoaning your lot if you have but little money, and thinking that consequently you cannot have what is pretty and orderly, use your wits and your hands, make and contrive, and you will see what a fascinating occupation it is to have by your own endeavours new lamps for old, or new lamps instead of none at all.

## RUHA.

### A TALE OF ADVENTURE IN THE MAORI WAR.

By L. FROST RATTRAY, Author of "Such a Suitable Match."

#### Part the Second.

#### CHAPTER THE FOURTH.

#### THE TERRIBLE HAUHAUS.



ON the Monday afternoon following James Pitt's dismal prophecies concerning the too probable arrival of hostile Maoris, he and Gerald

Trender rode to Norton's Clearing. James professed a stoical indifference, if not an actual

antipathy, to the society of ladies; but despite this profession, he contrived to make himself very agreeable to Miss Matherley. Gerald found himself rather put in the background. The elder settler had more valuable information to give Mr. Matherley on crops and cultivation, more sympathy with Mrs. Matherley's poultry troubles, though she was unable to attend personally to the fowl-yard, and a delightful fund of stories for the young people.

Naturally enough, the talk soon drifted to the native question. Nellie was the only one who seemed really alarmed. Her father had been too busy ever since his arrival to think of anything but his homestead, and was, moreover, too lately from a land where British

authority was implicitly believed in to imagine that a few savages could possibly offer much resistance to a number of Englishmen.

Mrs. Matherley entirely trusted to her husband's judgment, and the sons, of course, scoffed at the idea of Maoris venturing to interfere with them. To tell the truth, they rather liked the notion of an easily repulsed attack, which would mean some excitement and no danger, though they professed to be quite certain there was no possible chance of such a thing happening.

But James Pitt had a good deal of news to give them which was rather disquieting. Several years had passed since the first outbreak of the war, and the New Zealand militia, with some British regiments, were endeavouring to reduce the natives to a state of compliance with English rule. The Hauhaus were now in the Waikato, stirring up the Maoris to rebellion. Nellie at once demanded who these Hauhaus were.

"I am no historian," laughed James, "and indeed, at present, history has not narrated the circumstances which have produced the wonderful Hauhaus prophecies; but I will certainly tell you all I have heard about them. A native named Te Ua imagined he was visited by spirits, who imparted to him a new religion. At first Te Ua and his converts were rather peacefully inclined, I believe, but some evil spirit got amongst them, and taught them to be cruel and fanatical, their enmity being chiefly towards the Pakehas."

"If it's a religious war," said Mr. Matherley, who had been an interested listener, "then I fear it will be