

Wedding Flowers.

For recent weddings some beautiful floral designs have been made, some of which are novel. At one, the bouquet of the bride was composed of Lily of the Valley, several hundred sprays being used in this one bunch. The bridesmaids' bouquets were of Crimson King Carnations, fringed with "Maid of Guernsey" chrysanthemums; each bunch contained one hundred and fifty carnations, and the edging of the wild white petals of the chrysanthemums was exquisitely lovely. At a charming wedding, the bride and bridegroom stood under a wishbone of flowers in heroic size which was swung from one end of the drawing-room from a stem fringed with autumn leaves. The top of the wishbone was studded with brilliant carnations of *La Purité* variety. The ends were also of this flower. The limbs of the wishbone were woven with white carnations. Smilax garlanded the banisters. The plant decoration was small but choice. The bride carried a bunch of *Mermet* roses and the bridesmaids' bouquets were of crimson King Carnations and *Perle des Jardin* rosebuds. For another wedding, a lattice screen was made to cover the long mirror before which the marriage took place. This screen was composed of coils of smilax plaided, and the effect of this light lattice was very beautiful. Over the top was suspended a large basket of roses and spring flowers. There was a straw vase filled with pink rosebuds and mignonette, with a cluster of Jacqueminots at the center. The novelty in ornamental growing plants for the house is the hanging shell of *Lycopodium*, which is extremely pretty. Some of the shells are ordinary conch shells; others are made of glazed plaster, and colored with foam tints. The moss is arranged to droop, and it has a light and refreshing effect. Brackets filled with *Lycopodium* add grace and cheerfulness to any apartment. The only care required is sprinkling as often as the moss dries. Growing ferns are the fashionable ornament for the table. Recent adornments for an evening reception consisted of a floral piece representing a musical score, the bars woven in flowers on a white background, the whole supported by a floral harp. Over the mirror was a network of delicate smilax, which crossed the glass in deep festoons, on which rested tiny humming-birds and butterflies. Against the wall, on one side, was a lyre, on the other a harp. Around and on the mantle were arranged handsome plants, amid which stood a piano made of flowers. Over the folding doors leading to the library was suspended, from cordons of smilax, a flower violin and flute.

Birch-bark canoes, lined with tin and planted with ferns, or filled with cut-flowers and trailing vines, suspended from the chandelier, have a very pretty effect, in conjunction with other decorations, for evening entertainments.

"A so-called new 'gem' (violane) has been lately introduced into the London market from Paris. Many collectors of *pierres de fantaisie* have purchased these 'precious stones' at high prices, supposing them a new and transparent variety of the mineral violan. Such is not the case. They are simply imitations of the amethyst, made of glass, with an admixture of potash and borax; and a specimen which cost the owner fifty pounds, was not worth more than two shillings.

The Industrial Exposition at Boston, and the Women's Department of it.

BOSTON has been for many years the chosen scene of mechanic fairs, as they are called—industrial expositions of importance and value to all interested in such matters. Within a few years, however, there has been a split in that old and time-honored institution the Mechanics' Charitable Association, owing to dissatisfaction among its members. The result has been two associations instead of one, and two rival fairs, held in Boston during September, October, and part of November, during the current year. To a patriotic American, the Exposition of American Industries seems naturally more interesting than its rival the Foreign Exhibition. Moreover, the former has a feature making it specially attractive to women, viz: a Women's Department, where the works and inventions of our sex are displayed by themselves. Of course, an absolute division of women's from men's work can only be approximately made; the works of art made by women artists, for instance, are naturally exhibited in the picture gallery with those made by men. On the other hand, two of the patchwork quilts were made by a laboring man, in his leisure moments, and a most extraordinary motley overcoat, made of small pieces of old-fashioned vest velvet, and exhibited in the Women's Department, was also the work of a man.

The women's exhibit covers an acre of space, over which we were shown with great courtesy by the lady in charge during the absence of Mrs. Wolcott, business manager of the department. One of the most interesting things shown us—interesting to the mind's eye, that is—was a machine invented by a Mrs. Holmes, for piercing and channeling the soles of boots for hand-sewing. This machine weighs a ton, and the lady inventor has made \$150,000 by the sale of her rights in it! *Per contra*, we saw another inventress (to coin a word) who was displaying an

ironing-table, which could be raised and lowered at pleasure, and folded up flat when not in use. The invention was a good one, but the patentee seemed painfully anxious to recommend its virtues, she being, no doubt, in that stage of waiting which appears to be the inevitable fate of all inventors. A patent lifter, consisting of a round, flat shovel, for removing pans from the oven, was shown us by the same ingenious woman, and was greatly appreciated by the present writer, who has often burnt her fingers for want of this very lifter. We were surprised and delighted to find that the lost art of hardening copper to the likeness of steel had been re-discovered by one of our own sex—D. Getchell. Of what practical value the recovered art will be we do not know, but it is very gratifying to think that a woman should have discovered such a process. A trunk with canvas adjustable partitions is another excellent result of female ingenuity—very useful for carrying ball dresses. But as it is our invariable habit to pack a trunk as full as it can possibly be, we deferred purchasing such a trunk to some future occasion.

The Scientific Department is another very gratifying proof of what women can do. It includes exhibits of botanical specimens, minerals, chemistry, etc. Some man—so the story runs—was shown a collection of ferns, and was quite surprised to find that they "were all correctly named" by a woman! Probably if he had seen this entire Scientific Department—all the work of women—he would have departed into a permanent and dangerous state of astonishment. A collection of antique marbles made by a lady, from the pyramids (we were told) and other places, was interesting and unique.

Some of the work of the Cincinnati Pottery Club was very handsome, notably two large vases which had the appearance of being made partly of hammered brass, the remaining surface being rough and decorated with a landscape, etc. We were shown interesting specimens of work done in *clayoid*, which is a new and delightful material recently invented by Annie L. Gorham, of Boston. It is used for decorating pottery, wood, satin, plush, etc., in high relief, and becomes hard simply by exposure to the air without any firing. It produces a good imitation of Limoges and other wares. The exhibit from the Woman's Institute of Technical Design, New York City, showing designs for prints, oil-cloths, etc., was interesting. We saw carpets, too, of soft and pleasant colors, designed by women. Pretty little doll's furniture was shown, made in ivory fret-work, and a number of articles in hammered brass. That a woman should invent a life preserver seemed to us quite in accordance with the reputation of the sex for mercy; but that *any* woman should indulge in a hideous sort of work supposed to imitate stained glass, and called Diaphanic, passes our comprehension. We saw an oil range, invented by a Mrs. McCarthy; patent book covers, for quickly and strongly covering school and other books—the invention of some quick-witted sister; and a combination bureau and washstand—very convenient for bachelor apartments—invented by Helen Mar. A double piano stool, too, was shown us, the second stool shut up within the first, and coming out lean as the knee of Pharaoh. An exhibit of the Willimantic spool-cotton manufacture—the whole process, including the attendance on the engine, being performed by women—was a thing well worth seeing. Of needle and fancy work there was naturally a very large display, though even more was sent in than was shown. The work sent by the Connecticut Reformed School for girls gives most hopeful promise for the future of these unfortunates, since "Satan finds work" principally "for idle hands," and one cannot but think that young women who learn to make such dainty and pretty things will surely be helped thereby to lead pure and womanly lives. Lace collars, knitting, fringed and embroidered towels, and laundry work were among the things displayed by this school. Crazy patchwork was not denied to the visitors' admiring gaze, nor Kensington and other aesthetic work. Some old-fashioned tapestry, hand-embroidered, showed how like our grandmothers' fancy work was to that of the present day—only they had occasionally very crude views about color.

We noted a handsome screen, with carved frame and allegorical picture in the center, made with tapestry dyes in colors, on a white background. The whole screen, carving and all, was of feminine manufacture, the dyes being something new, as we understood. Of books written by women there was quite a display, and the Shakers had sent some of their ever neat but rather stereotyped work. A duster made of looped twine was condemned by our kind conductress as being too heavy in the handle, although she added that it did remove dust particularly well. This, of course, was invented by a woman.

We were made very hungry by the sight of some wax-work exhibited by Mrs. A. D. Forrest, and which counterfeited cakes and fruit in the most tempting manner. The same lady displayed wax milliners' figures, flowers, etc. An allegorical afghan, worked on burlap, and giving all the principal events in the history of America since Columbus sailed the ocean blue, called out a smile from many people: but we saw at once that it would have a delightful fascination for children, or even for adults, when in that state of convalescence which calls for mild unstimulating amusement.

One of the last things we were shown in the Women's Department was playfully called the Chamber of Horrors. It was a little withdrawing room, in which was placed—not Bluebeard's wives, but hair-flowers in frames and other fancy work too dreadful for the modern imagination to contemplate.