

suspension, and bows on the corners, lining with bright-colored paper or glazed muslin. If preferred, white card may be used and cut out in fret-work, and embossed, as described for other articles.

The texts are then prepared and placed within the case, the proper one for the day, showing within the opening cut out from the front.

A GLASS CARD-BASKET.

Procure six pieces of ground glass, four inches wide at bottom and six at top, and a piece for the bottom, cut hexagonal, each side four inches wide. Glue narrow ribbon firmly around each edge, and fasten them together. Ornament each panel with a tasteful Decalcomanie or embossed picture, and place a large one upon the bottom. Fasten bows of ribbon on each seam, at the top, and glue six ornamental gilded feet on the bottom.

Colored glass forms beautiful baskets, using the colored glass upon the outside with lining of ground glass or gold paper; fastening engravings between the face towards the colored glass. The effect of the engraving through the colored glass, especially amber-colored, is extremely fine.

CASE FOR VISITING-CARDS.

Two pieces of perforated card-board are cut of a size to suit the visiting cards the case is to hold, and decorated in a manner the illustration clearly indicates

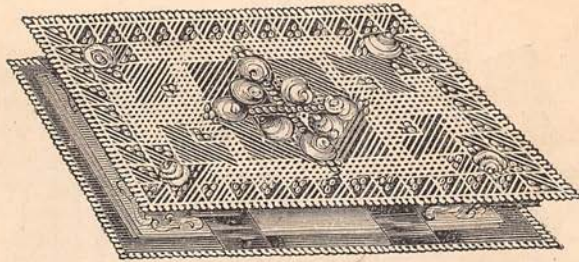


Fig. 8.

with silk stitches and small Venetian shells. The silk lining and straps are of a color to correspond with the outer decoration.

FANCY USE FOR COCOANUTS.

A lover of fancy things can manage to get a great deal more out of a coconut than its milk and its crisp meat. A lady friend who has made several beautiful ornaments out of rough material, says, "When I bring one home it is hailed by the children as a token of coming cakes and other 'goodies.' They behold

in that nut the ultimate cause of enjoyment. The surprise is always new. They will handle it as tenderly as old Isaac Walton told us to handle the frog, 'as if we loved it.' They will weigh it in their hands, and judge whether it be heavier or lighter than the one they had two weeks ago. They will look at the peculiar ridges, lines and configuration of the shell and its general shape, with a view to its prospective usefulness.

They will smell it, and say, 'I can smell the West Indies.' No doubt, under its influence, those palm trees, monkeys and negroes, who figure in their illustrated geography, enlarge in their inner consciousness into life and motion, and enables them to imagine more clearly the monkey-like face, which the three spots at the base always seem to form, and wonderful again, how this monkey looks different from the one on the last nut. The milk inside with its peculiar

'swishy-swashy' noise when shaken, never ceases to be a matter of mystery to them, and when I explain that the meat is formed from the milk, like cheese from cow-milk, and the whole nut is from sap, and the sap is—well, mostly water absorbed from the roots, they must be satisfied, as greater philosophers must be, who, after all, can only analyze matter and trace its motion. Next, then, the milk must be extracted, which shall add to the flavor of the cakes, in the doing of which, the two eyes of the 'monkey' must be operated upon with a gimlet; this gives me another opportunity of illustrating to them a well-known principle in hydraulics, namely, that the pressure of the atmosphere prevents the liquid from flowing out if only one hole be open. And now the nut is handed to the eldest boy, who examines it with many an important side-glance before sawing

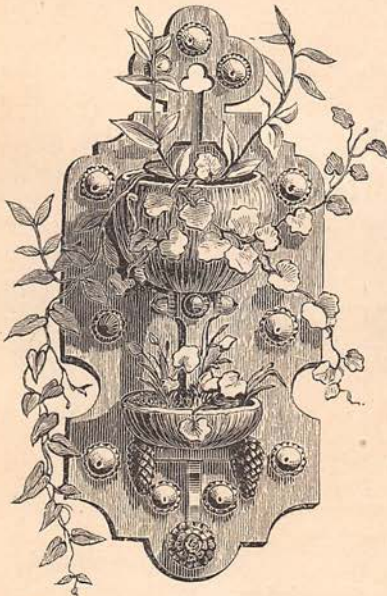


Fig. 9. Coconut Flower-Pot Bracket.

it open; remembering the old (?) proverb, 'The harder the nut, the finer the saw,' he divides it with his little hand-saw into two unequal parts; after digging out the meat carefully, the empty shell is ready to be mounted, and used as a flower pot or basket or bracket. No wood harmonizes so beautifully with the unpolished coconut as black walnut, nor does anything look half so appropriate for the additional embellishment of the articles made, as acorns, burs, small cones, etc.

Brackets, Figs. 9 and 10, are of half-inch board, eighteen inches long; size of board, of course, to be varied according to size of nut.

By making a straight line through the board, and using a compass, our eldest boy succeeded in copying them correctly from a rough sketch by papa. He also cut it out, using a hand-saw, chisel, rasp and two gouges. Of course they might

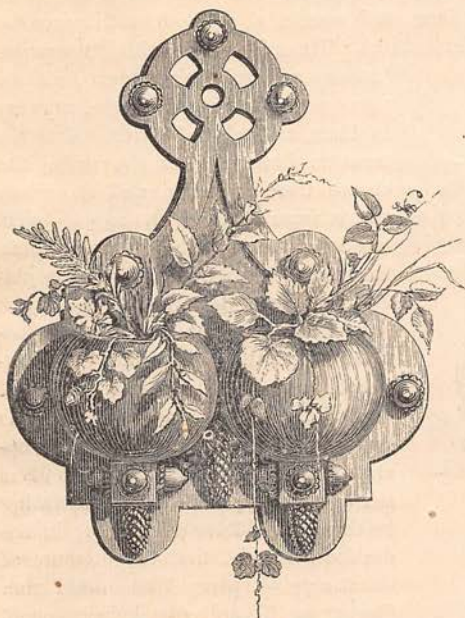


Fig. 10. Coconut-Bracket.

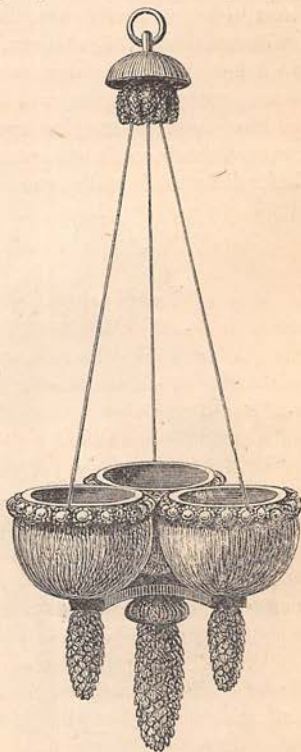


Fig. 11. Hanging-Basket.

be cut out in a tenth of the time, with a jig or fret saw: yet there are a host of moral virtues developed by overcoming difficulties with insufficient means; and for this reason, I encourage him to persevere in doing good work with poor tools.

The hanging-basket is another thing I get out of the coconut. The most important part is the fastening of the shells to the supports and backs. Figs. 9 and 10 must have two holes and joined with wire to the back, and one hole at bottom joined with screw to support. The three nuts for the basket must also all be joined together with wire, and screwed to the base. For fastening the cones,

acorns, etc., I use chasers' cement, and find it more durable than any thing else of the kind. Those living away from our large cities can easily make it for themselves, and here is the receipt: Take rosin or pitch, half a pound; let it melt gradually in an iron pot. Do not let the flame of the fire come near it. Put in gently, a little at a time, yellow ochre, Spanish brown, or finely-pulverized brick-dust, until, if stirred with a stick, it is of the consistency of thick molasses. Now add a piece of wax, size of a large hazel-nut, and piece of tallow the size of a pea; let them melt, stirring continually; take off the stove, and stir till nearly cool; then take out and shape it into bars or sticks, on a stone or flat plate of iron; use like that sealing-wax, and freely. A coat of varnish over the whole, when finished, will improve it. The most appropriate plants to place in the shells, are maurandia-vine, German ivy, linaria, musk-plant, lysimachium, Coliseum ivy being both light and graceful."

LAMP-SHADES.

Another elegant ornament for the parlor, made with fret-work card-board, is a lamp-shade. For this five pieces of card are cut, with the sides sloped in from the bottom, being about one-third narrower at the top; from the center of each panel cut out an ornamental oval, and around the edge form scallops or points, and round off the corners at the top, forming each panel into an arch. Around this cut out circular holes with the punch, and with the pointed knife form small designs upon the lower corners. Behind these openings place glass cards or illuminated pictures of any kind, or better still, introduce some of those exquisitely beautiful designs which come in Diaphanie. The latter may be procured in various sizes, and if large ones are preferred, the card-board should be cut out, so that merely a frame-work around the picture. The panels may be put together with strips of muslin glued or pasted on the edges, and covered with gilt paper or by tying ribbons through holes in the top, bottom and center.

Still another lovely shade is made by marking out upon white card, various designs of flowers, crosses, anchors, etc., with leaves and other accompaniments, and then cutting into the broad lights, with a sharp knife. Five panels thus cut, with an edge pinked out and a border of small-pointed leaves, slashed in the same way, will, when lined with several thicknesses of rose-colored tissue-paper, and placed over a lamp, appear like the most lovely carved-work. Where groups of figures, such as are sold in photographs, are used, the effect is made still more artistic, as the appearance will be similar to finely-sculptured figures or groups.

Still another lovely shade is made by drawing the design lightly upon the white panels, and pricking around all the outlines with Nos. 6 and 9 needles, using the large one for the deep lights. This shade requires no lining, and must be fastened together with bright ribbons. Besides these modes of forming panels for lamp-shades, they may be painted according to any of the methods