

# HOUSEHOLD DECORATION.

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CONDUCTED BY LIDA AND M. J. CLARKSON.

## SOME PRETTY NOVELTIES.

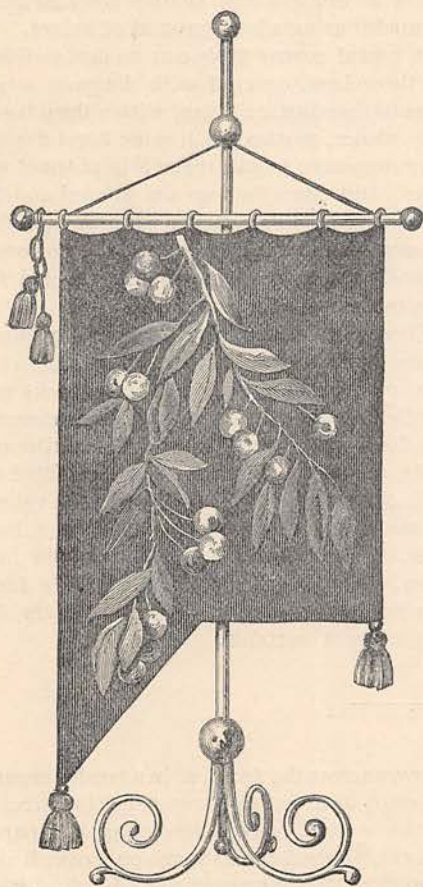
IN this department this month, we desire to present something which will serve as acceptable Christmas gifts, and have made selection of several articles, which, we believe, will meet this need exactly.

The pretty banner which is novel as to shape, and is handsomely mounted on a neat

find it very acceptable in shading the light, often so annoying to the sick.

The material is a dark olive plush or velvet, backed with pale blue silk or satin, and decorated with a conventional design of cherries in either painting or embroidery. Lustra painting, though not so popular as it once was, yet holds its own, and is a pretty style of ornamentation for such a subject. The cherries may be painted with carmine and fire, with high lights of deep gold; the leaves with green brightened with gold. As before remarked, this is a suitable design for embroidery. The cherries may be padded, and worked with cherry silk in satin stitch; the leaves either in plain or in Kensington stitch. Some of our readers may not understand how the padding of flowers or fruit is done. It is simply covering the design with working cotton or crewel, in order to raise the work above the surface of the fabric. Very rich and natural effects are had in this way. In order to accomplish this, you have only to follow the outline with an ordinary stitch just as you would run a seam, then take stitches back and forth across, until the whole surface of that part of the design you wish raised is covered. A second and third thickness may be given, taking the stitch diagonally each time. If fruit is represented, it may require piling up well in the center; at all events, take care to preserve the form and character of design as far as possible.

A great deal of tinsel is used now, and when of good quality, so as not to tarnish, and employed judiciously for a little touch of brightness, the effect is very pretty. A charming sofa cushion which we have lately seen, was decorated in the following manner:—The ground was a rich ruby plush, on which were appliquéd leaves of satin, tinted with water colors in hues to represent Autumn's bright and varied colorings. As, for instance, an olive leaf was partly suffused



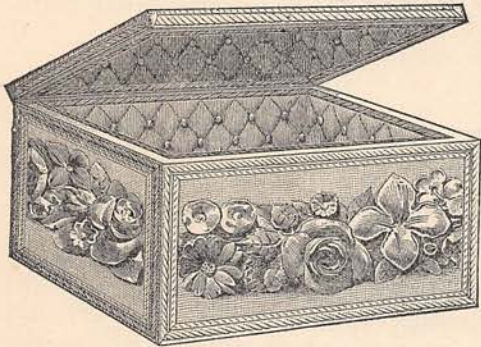
LAMP SCREEN OR BANNER.

brass frame, is a very charming as well as useful gift to an invalid especially, who will

with red or gold; a red leaf the reverse, pale yellow with crimson and copper bronzes. These leaves were then veined and worked in Kensington stitch, with arrasene in harmonizing shades; the stitch being taken well into the leaf, and blending with the satin, gave almost the effect and appearance of solid work. From the leaves were tendrils of Japanese gold thread, couched down with yellow silk. The cushion was finished with a very generous bow of broad satin ribbon, the effect being quite luxurious and oriental in its richness.

This union of brush and needle-work is growing more popular every day for household decoration, and is easily done. While it has the richness of solid embroidery, it is far less expensive, and much more easily executed.

Our second illustration shows a handsome box, useful for various purposes, and a very charming accessory to the toilet table. It is simply a wooden box, a strong, well made one should be selected for the purpose. This is lined with satin, and decorated outside



BOX DECORATED WITH LINCRUSTA WALTON.

with panels of Lincrusta Walton in high relief. A small mirror glued in the inside of lid is a pretty addition. This is so easily made and so handsome and durable an article as to commend it to all who are fond of making fancy articles with their own hands. A more dainty gift for a bride cannot be imagined, than this box decorated in the following manner. Line with pale pink, or blue satin, either plain or quilted. Quilted with a small pearl, or ivory button caught in each diamond point is a pretty conceit. The Lincrusta is then painted to imitate carved ivory,

by using white enamel paint, or the best white paint, to which enough enamel varnish is added to give a high gloss. The edges of box may be gilded if desired, and small gilt headed tacks used instead of the buttons, but pure white is more chaste and appropriate for a bridal gift. For a warm, rich effect in decoration of box, line with ruby satin, and decorate to imitate repoussé metal. This is done by using the bronze paints which may be had at any artist supply store. These little boxes, or chests, are much in favor now in imitation of the coffers so much used by the ancients. They are useful as jewel, or glove boxes, or neat for the library table to hold correspondence cards, choice letter paper, pens, etc. The Lincrusta should be glued to the box with a good paste made of one-third glue to two-thirds flour. This must be applied hot, exactly as you would apply paper. In cold weather warm the Lincrusta to make it soft and pliable. If our readers will report their success with any branch of work described in these pages, we shall feel gratified and encouraged, and shall esteem it a personal favor.

We would also suggest that those who have original ideas as to household decoration, or fancy work, will give them for the benefit of our household readers, thereby adding to the interest of the Magazine, and sharing their good things with others.

We have been from time to time the recipients of such favors, and beg to thank those kind friends who have contributed their share for the general good.

To Mrs. F—, of Kansas, who sent us a while ago a beautiful buffalo horn, polished by her own hands—and any one who knows the labor of polishing a horn will understand what a task this was—we would suggest a pretty way of mounting the horns, as seen recently in the city where they sell at high prices.

The horn is inserted mouth up, that is in a graceful curved position, in a bed of lava, sometimes called vesuvium, a material much used now for decorative purposes. This is then mounted upon a square or oval block, and the whole pedestal either gilded or bronzed, as also the edge around the mouth of horn which had been left rough or unpolished. A ribbon and bow finishes the article to our satisfaction, and a prettier, or

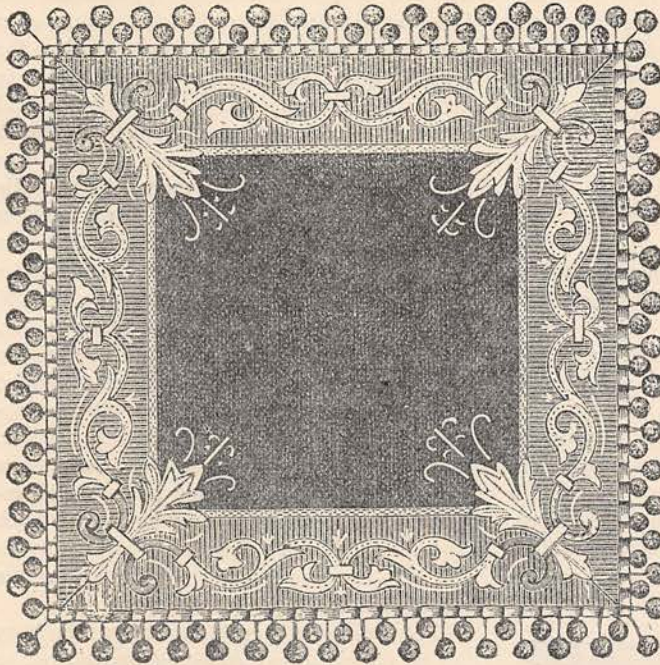
more useful article for the table or *chiffonier*, would be quite difficult to find. We again

express our gratitude to Mrs. F——, and trust that some of our readers will avail themselves of the hint suggested by her gift. The ordinary cow's horn well polished and mounted will make a pretty ornament in lieu of the buffalo horn, which grows more scarce each year on account of the wholesale slaughter of these herds of the prairie.

We give Mrs. F——'s letter in our correspondence column, believing it will be as interesting to our household as it was to us.

We append here description of a very handsome table cover as illustrated.

The center is terra-cotta plush, the border a pale turquoise satin, with scrolls and Arabesques of gold, in appliqué. Round the border is a ball chenille fringe which forms a pretty finish.



SMALL TABLE COVER.

## CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY.

### Etiquette in Giving Christmas Gifts.

ONE might readily suppose that, as regards "Christmas gifts," there could be little or no etiquette to observe. Naturally, between friends and relations, parents and children, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, nephews and nieces, grand-parents and grand-children, and cousins of every degree, etiquette is not called into action, although in every case there is just the right way of doing things, the right moment to give, and the right thing to give, and, we might add, the right thing to say. There is no difficulty in pleasing children, it is only a question as to what the purse will stand, and it generally stands a good deal at this season of the year.

In the purchase of toys and books for children, there is little fear of going wrong; the difficulty arises when making presents to

those who are not children. Good presents run into money, and ordinary presents are sometimes characterized as "trumpery" by the ungrateful young recipients, who are not always touched by the kind thought which prompted the gift, as from a moral point of view they should be; and they too often value the gift for its actual worth. Sentiment is nowhere with these far-seeing young people; therefore, to find something that will answer their expectations within the limits of mediocre generosity is by no means an easy task, and demands time, judgment, and patience, which three are not always at command; and lucky those who do not hear of the reception accorded to their gifts.

The idea of giving a present at Christmas is a very broad one, and conveys many meanings — civility, politeness, recognition, re-