

your own fault if you cannot introduce some brightness into even this dull landscape, for, let who will deny it, there is a bright side to every picture. Make the best of your quiet, uneventful life, lest some day the storm should really burst upon you, when, in un-availing regret, you will yearn with an ardent

longing for the calm, peaceful days you once despised. If it is difficult at first, do not be discouraged and give up; and, above all, do not let a few failures daunt you, but let "Forward" be your motto. "Not failure, but low aim is crime."

— *Selected.*

PREPARING FOR EASTER.

MARY CECILIA SPAULDING.

CHRISTMAS has come and gone; all the excitement of making and receiving presents has subsided, and "Now," say the children, "What shall we do for Easter? We must have something that we can do ourselves—it must be entirely new and original—what shall it be?" Jack says, "Why not get Mamma to help and have some more of the little Normandy ladies that she invented and helped us to make last year? They were 'just too sweet for anything,' and I know that all the people who did n't get one last Easter wished that they had, and all who did, I am sure would like a new one." But the rest of the flock say that we must have something "quite new, that no one ever heard of." Mamma promised to put on her "thinking-cap," and to see what new, strange and startling thing she could invent for Easter. But, in the meantime, she thinks that if she shows them carefully, Miss Effie with Ollie to help, might make a few of the Normandy ladies "their own selves" for those of their friends who felt so badly at not getting them last year.

First, select blown egg-shells with delicate blonde or clear brunette complexions. Then if Ollie will consent to be our special artist, I think he can do the part Mamma took last year. Whoever heard of a boy who did not delight to "make faces?" He must first draw with lead pencil, eyes, eyebrows, mouth, and lines to indicate the nose, though unfortunately the egg ladies cannot have noses indicating great strength of character, however, ladies may be very nice and sweet, and think it very unfeminine to have such "strength of character." Next take your

water colors; supposing your first choice to be a delicate blonde, and your egg quite white, paint the pupil of the eye black, the iris blue, leaving a tiny speck of white in each eye, as you will see when the light falls on a real eye. Then, with yellow ochre, paint some curly bangs across the forehead, the eyebrows with the same. Never mind



NORMANDY LADY.

the back hair. Touch the cheeks delicately with pink, and paint the rosebud mouth red. For variety the blue-eyed ladies may have red or auburn hair. Raw or burnt sienna can be used. Some eyes may be pale, others deeply, darkly, beautifully blue.

For the brunettes, choose dark eggs, but

not too dark. The Buff Cochin and some of the Brahma hens will furnish just the right sort. Draw the faces as before; paint the eyes in the same manner, the pupils black, but use brown for the iris. Either raw or burnt umber are good colors; do not put it on too thickly. The cheeks may be a little brighter and the lips more red than the delicate fair ladies. Now, Master Ollie may be excused when he has "made faces" enough. I think we will let him off with a dozen. In that number he can have a great variety of countenance. Some of the eyebrows may be curved, others straight. Having the features small, close together and low on the egg, with the mouth small, gives a shy look to the face. By experimenting one can present almost any style of countenance. The bangs can be long or short, straight or curly.

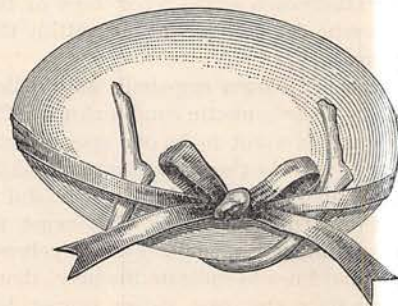
The next thing is to cut circular pieces from cardboard, old boxes will do. They should be about four inches in diameter. Have a pot of melted glue, drop some in the center of the cardboard, then stick on it some bits of tissue paper, wadded in a lump, about an inch and a half across. This is only to raise the egg a little higher—then using plenty of thick glue fasten the small end of the egg to this. Take a strip of tissue paper two or three inches wide and eighteen inches long, fold, and with a small pinking iron, scallop one edge of the strip. Sew the two ends together, and gather with a thread the plain side. Before drawing the string tight, slip it over the egg, then fasten. This forms the little lady's skirt. Now take a similar strip of light blue and proceed in the same manner, placing above the white to serve as dress. More rows can be added if desired, to make it look more fluffy. Now take an inch wide strip of white, seven inches long, notch finely with the scissors on one side, gather a space in the middle, and glue to the top of the head, shading the bangs by the ruffle, and coming down the cheeks plain. Leave the ends long enough to be concealed by the collar. Next take a piece of blue seven by ten inches, fold a box plait through the middle, leaving it nearly square. Place the middle of the plait above the middle of the forehead, just meeting the white of the cap, then "pucker" the rest of the end across the top of the head to form the fullness for the high Normandy cap. Place the

other end of the box plait at the back of the neck. Leave the paper straight at the sides of the face. Take an inch wide strip of blue, pink out one edge with the iron, gather full across the top, leave plain at sides just covering the white. Then take a strip of white to represent ribbon, concealing where the border joins the cap, having the ends stop just below the neck. Trim the front of the cap with little upright bows and ends, covering part of the front. Then make a bow with ends and glue fast at the middle of the top. A strip of blue eight inches long and an inch and a half wide pinked out on one side and across the ends, gathered and tied with a thread around the neck, forms the little collar, and covers the rough edges of the cap. Next take a slightly wider strip of paper than was used to trim the cap and tie around the neck with a fine bow, with fringed ends in front, under the chin. She will be so lovely, you can only think of the rhyme:—

"Tying her bonnet under the chin
She tied a young man's heart within."

This completes the little lady. She may be dressed in colors to suit the taste. Pale blue or lavender with white or light buff for blondes, scarlet with yellow trimmings for brunettes, leaving the little cap border white. Pink with white is becoming to either.

By the time the dozen of Normandy ladies are done, Mamma has worn her "thinking-cap" to good advantage (we knew she would, she always does), and then she required such a queer thing of us. She told us we must get all the "wish-bones" we could, especially

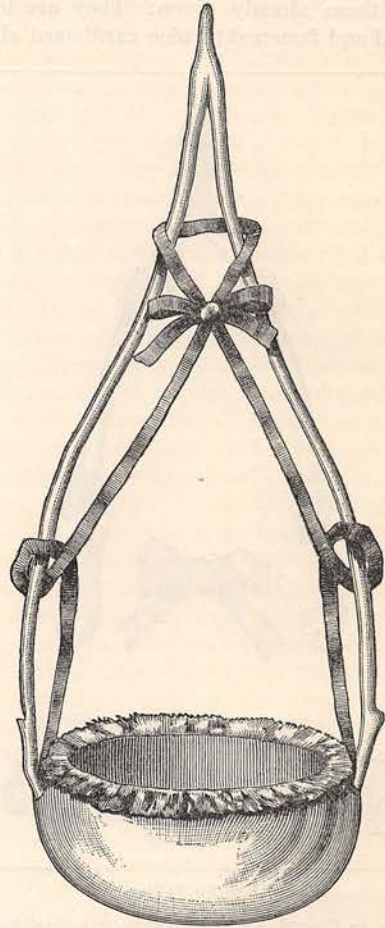


those of the duck and turkey. She would n't tell us what she wanted of them, indeed, she said she hardly knew herself, but believed

that we ought to be able to make something pretty with the "merry thought." Well, we collected all we could, Auntie and Grandma saved some for us, and we had a few ourselves. Papa wondered why the children developed so unusual an appetite for poultry. We had to scrape them clean and smooth with a knife, then cover with gold paint and let them dry. Then from the large basket of egg shells Lizzie had blown, we carefully selected all the pure white eggs that were pretty. Until you look for yourself, you never would believe what a vast difference there is in egg shells. Some of these were peculiar in shape. Several were of a pearly whiteness and had a rough grain on the surface resembling alligator skin. These we used with the duck wish-bones. Run a narrow blue ribbon through the egg, the holes must be small for this purpose, then tie around the ends of the wish-bone (*see illustration*). If tied tightly in just the right place, the one band will hold them firmly, and is much handsomer than to use more bands of ribbon. Where the egg itself is pretty enough, we liked it better without decoration, but if one fails to find enough such eggs, the word "Easter" may be put out in gold. The goose wish-bones can be used in a similar manner, with the shell of any large egg, the duck eggs are good for that purpose, on account of their lovely color, if you choose a ribbon that harmonizes with it.

The turkey wish-bones were the most trouble of all. We had one very large one; we gilded that as before, and found an egg that just fitted across it. Mamma took her sharp scissors, made a little hole in one side of the egg, then carefully kept cutting round and round till it was like a little boat, but not quite half cut away. Then she took a narrow blue ribbon and glued it on like a binding to the cut edge of the top. This is all very careful work, the cut egg shell is so frail, and no fingers but hers were quite skillful enough for it. When the binding is dry, place a little cotton wool with sachet powder in the bottom of the shell. Then tie a hard knot in the end of a very narrow blue ribbon and put it through one of the holes of the egg. Next place the points of the wish-bones against, almost in the holes of the egg, bring the ribbon up the sides of the bone (the picture will show just how), slip it through like

a knot, then to the top, you can see how to loop it, and down the other side in the same manner, then put it through the hole and tie in a hard knot on the inside. The ends of the bones must be so placed as to look as though they held the egg, but really the ribbon keeps it from slipping. Then a little bow tied with ends may be added to the loop at the top, but when the bone is small it looks

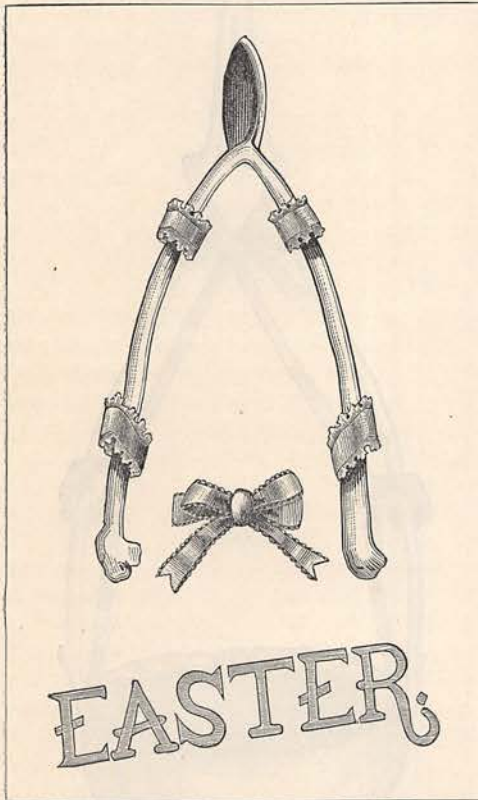


JEWEL CASE.

better without. Take a piece of satin to match the ribbon, about three and a half by four inches, trim it off to an oval shape, and with a pin slightly fray the edge and carefully spread inside the egg. Pinch the edge over flat and catch lightly to the binding. This finishes a lovely little jewel case, which may be hung up by the top of the wish-bone. A

smaller one is pretty and easier made, by not binding the top, and spreading in nice jewelers' cotton so that it covers the edge, then laying on it a tiny mat of satin one and a half by two inches, fringing it out a very little. The color can be used to suit the taste; we tried pale blue, old gold, cherry, scarlet and pink, all these were pretty.

The chicken bones are easiest of all, and can be entrusted to less experienced hands than these already given. They are to be gilded and fastened to nice cardboard either



EASTER CARD.

white or tinted, or rough water color paper, by cardinal blue, or some other pretty bright colored ribbon, the narrow feather-edged is the best. With pen knife cut small slits for the ribbon to pass through. Lay the bone on the paper. Lace a strap across near each end of the bone and one just below the top, leaving a bow with ends either one at the top, or leave top plain, and have bow on each side of the end. Then on the card have "Easter" or longer motto if desired, in gold

letters. These can be in variety, both as to color of ribbon and manner of arranging on card. In the illustration it is tied in still another way. It is hardly worth the while to go into more detail, as each one can use her taste in making these very attractive Easter cards.

Finally Mamma fairly outshone herself in a most brilliant idea, and we could all help to work it out too. She told little Tom he must let her have all his spools (he uses empty spools for soldiers and plays army much of his time). He thought it hard, but finally decided to sacrifice them. She found, however, that we could use only the larger ones. Then we had to select all the very darkest egg shells we could find. She drew, first with lead pencil, then with India ink, a very Chinese looking face on each egg. Some had moustaches (really the Chinese do not indulge in them, but *these* Chinese are laws unto themselves), and were very solemn; others, without, looked very coy and sweet. Their lips were painted red. With long darning needle and twine, each egg was fastened to a spool. Run the needle through the spool, then through the egg, coming out at the top of the Celestial's head, around a bit of broken match, and through the egg and spool again. Carry the ends of twine upward and tie around the spool. The head is now firmly attached, but is in danger of slipping about and of giving a very tipsy expression to our sober little Chinaman, which in these prohibition days would be thought quite scandalous. To prevent this, apply some thick glue between the spool and shell, then twist a strip of tissue paper around to help secure it. While it is drying, take a piece of white tissue paper, eight inches square, fold in quarter, then once again, then trim to a circle; leaving it folded, pink out the edge. Cut a hole in the middle and open one side, then put it around the gentleman's neck for his shirt, or whatever John Chinaman calls his nodescript under garment. Next manufacture a bright yellow coat of the same size and in the same manner, and glue it together down the back. An inch wide red sash, cut from tissue paper must be tied around his waist with bow in front. He then may be said to become "the glass of fashion and the mold of form." It is somewhat difficult to tie a good bow with paper, and draw it tight,

as tissue paper tears so easily, but you will find it stronger lengthwise than across the grain. Next, take three threads of coarse, glossy black knitting yarn, braid them together for a pig-tail; fasten one end to the top of the head, the other should flow to the bottom of the gown, fray out nearly an inch and tie with a bit of deep, bright blue, very narrow ribbon. Then take a two-inch square of the red paper, fold, and cut to a circle, and with the scissors notch it finely all around. Take a bit of glossy black paper about as large as a dime, notch this and glue to the middle of the red piece, and here you have the fez complete. Daub little specks of glue all around, half an inch from the edge of the cap, apply to the head, leaving little "puckers" to make it fit properly. Finally, take a strip of white paper one-half inch wide and tie around the neck with bow and ends in front, for the gentleman's necktie; cut to the proper length, then with scissors snip the ends to a fringe. Also notch the sash ends, and here you have him in full dress.

The little lady is clothed in precisely the same manner, only that she has a little white notched cap, a trifle smaller, under the red one. To finish them neatly, and to prevent the framework from being too apparent, take yellow blotting paper, cut a circular piece nearly as large as the bottom of the clothing spreads, and glue to the spool. Then if you want to give one to somebody who "doesn't believe" in anything that isn't "useful," just pretend that it is a blotter and penwiper combined. But I must say that I think any one would be very mean to really use it! We called them "Easter eggs" and that is enough use for us. We made two big solemn ones from the shells of large double eggs, and some cunning ones from the very little egg shells. These are prettier

not to vary the colors, but to make them all as I have described, in red and yellow. There is variety enough in the expression of their faces and in the various tints of the dark eggs, some very red, almost Indian like, and some yellow brown like a Malayan. We made enough for Tom to give one to each of the teachers of the Sunday School, and for



CHINAMAN.

some of his special friends besides. They made quite a sensation.

I'm sure I don't know what we shall do for next Easter, we had so many novelties for this, but I suppose Mamma will "think up" something by that time.

Background for Oil Paints.

WE wonder how many people know what an easily managed background for oil paints window holland makes. A narrow strip of blue, hung as a panel and slightly decorated, will fill up an ugly space on the wall; or if you have an unsightly door that cannot be dispensed with, you may cover it entirely or

in panels with holland that will contrast pleasingly with your wood-work. The scarlet trumpet flower, falling in a mass, with its dark foliage and brilliant flowers, would give a glorious bit of color to a room. The ever-stylish dogwood, creeping across the door, or, indeed, spreading over it, could be easily arranged.