



Raveled Edges and Dropped Stitches.

SOMETIMES they occur in fancy work, to its irremediable injury, but by a little forethought their worst effects may be overcome. When working upon any material, the dimensions of which allow only for the design and a margin for making up, practical precautions against the curtailing of its size by raveling should be taken. If the material is inclined to fray, the edge should be overcast all around, and if the texture be especially loose, the further prevention of applying a thin size to the under side, just inside the line of overcasting, may be adopted. The white of egg forms a delicate and efficient size, suited to the most dainty textures. Diluted white glue is permissible for heavier fabrics having a loose weave; while for silks and satins equal parts of powdered alum and isinglass dissolved in hot water form a good size, the latter ingredients being often employed when a semi-repellant surface for painting on is desired. In working on canvas a few stitches often have to be taken out, and if scissors are employed the mesh of the canvas does not always escape laceration. The best method of mending the rent is by underlaying it with a bit of moistened court-plaster, pressed securely into position. The work may then be held to the light and the court-plaster

pierced with a finely-pointed needle to correspond with the meshes of the canvas. Extreme care is of course necessary until after the weak place has been worked over, but if this process of mending be carefully executed, what might otherwise prove a defacement may be rendered unnoticeable, or if noticeable, noticeably good.

If, perchance, two widths of canvas must be joined in order to extend the dimensions of a piece of tapestry work, do not, on any account, attempt to make the joining by means of an ordinary seam, but underlay the corresponding edges of both pieces of canvas with a piece of the same variety and work through the meshes of the underlying portions, as well as through the sections upon which the design is being developed. If the edges of the joined sections are merely brought together over the underlying piece, there will be no ridge in the work, and the joining will be as secure as if a seam were made. A caution frequently expressed may be repeated here. If practicable, use the same make of cotton, worsted, silk, or whatever the working material may be, throughout; as different makes, while apparently similar, may display noticeable points of difference when worked.

