

when thus separated, is not diverted from their song; and a spirit of rivalry induces them to do their utmost not to be surpassed.

If you particularly wish your birds to sing by candle-light, darken their cages in the day time, so as to prevent their over luxuriance in song. Also, keep them scantily supplied with food. When the candles are lighted, when the fire is seen to blaze upon the hearth, and when the cups and saucers are heard to rattle on the table—then you will be treated to something worth listening to. The whole household, too, will feel happy.

If you feel inclined to humor him in his little visits to you on the table, provide him regularly every morning with a square china bath, half filled with water; first placing it within a deep

basin, to prevent damage to your furniture by his splashing. An invite of this nature is irresistible, and he will soon be seen immersed to his very throat. On his return from the bath, his appearance will be found ludicrously comic. His sly look of self-satisfaction and assumption of importance, whilst nearly drenched, and in a state of utter helplessness withal—are “as good as a play.” Touch him—if you dare! With extended wings and unrestrained fury, he will resent the indignity by pecking fiercely at you with his open beak; and he will often give you, in addition, striking proofs of his anger. These “airs of state” are very frequently practiced. We merely throw out a hint for our readers to improve upon, for you may teach these majestic birds anything.

## BEDSTEADS FOR COTTAGES.

BY H. J. VERNON.

WHEN rooms are small, it is desirable to have them as little encumbered with furniture as possible, and if there be a recess, as there almost always is, it may be fitted up as a bedstead, without at all encroaching on the space of the apartment. The plan is frequently adopted in Paris; sometimes you see in one corner of a room, a large looking-glass, six or seven feet high, and three feet wide, enclosed in a polished wood or gilt frame, and seeming to be a part of the wall, as shown at figure 1. This looks ex-

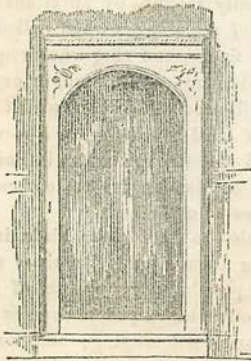


Figure 1.

tremely handsome and ornamental, but in many cases it is nothing more than a door which conceals a turn-up bedstead. At night the door is opened, the bedstead let down, and thus in a short time the latter is ready for use. There is one advantage in this contrivance; the bedstead

can be made all in one length, with only a single joint near the head; it is therefore much firmer than where there are two or three joints, as must be the case when it is made to fold to fit into a low carcase. A recess nine inches deep, and three feet wide, will be quite large enough to contain a bedstead for a single person. The legs need not be more than four inches long, and a thin mattress and bed-clothes will fill up the other four, the whole, as shown in figure 2,

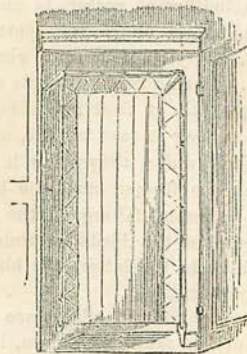


Figure 2.

being made to turn up at once. Whenever possible, it is best to have turn-up bedsteads made of iron as they are lighter, and less clumsy than wood, and will fit in a smaller space.

Should a sacking be used instead of hoop-iron for the bottom, it is strained by passing the cord round the sides, as may be seen in the cut.