

## EDITOR'S TABLE.

### EDITORIAL CHIT-CHAT.

**TO MAKE PICTURES OF BIRDS WITH THEIR NATURAL FEATHERS.**—A fair correspondent writes to us, that one of her friends has brought home from England, some beautiful pictures of birds made with their natural feathers; and asks us if we can inform her how they are done. As her letter came too late to insert the description of this lady-like kind of work in the part of the number usually devoted to such purposes, we give it here. You must first take a thin board or panel of deal or wainscot, well seasoned that it may not shrink; then smoothly paste on it white paper, and let it dry, and if the wood casts its color through, paste on it another paper till perfectly white; and let it stand till quite dry. Then get any bird you would represent, and draw its figure as exactly as possible on the papered panel (middle-sized birds are the best for the purpose;) then paint what tree or ground-work you intend to set your bird upon, also its bill and legs, leaving the rest of the body to be covered with its own feathers. You must next prepare that part to be feathered by laying on thick gum-arabic, dissolved in water; lay it on with a large hair pencil, and let it dry; then lay a second coat of the gum-arabic, and let it dry, and a third, and oftener, if you find that when dry it does not form a good body on the paper, at the very least, to the thickness of a shilling: let it dry quite hard.

When your piece is thus prepared, take the feathers off the bird as you use them, beginning at the tail and points of the wings, and working upward to the head, observing to cover that part of your draught with the feathers taken from the same part of the bird, letting them fall over one another in the natural order. You must prepare your feathers by cutting off the downy parts that are about their stems, and the large feathers must have the insides of their shafts shaved off with a sharp knife, to make them lie flat; the quills of the wings must have their inner webs clipped off, so that in laying them the gum may hold them by their shafts. When you begin to lay them, take a pair of steel pliers to hold the feathers in, and have some gum-water, not too thin, and a large pencil ready to moisten the ground-work by little and little, as you work it; then lay your feathers on the moistened parts, which must not be waterish, but *only clammy*, to hold the feathers. You must have prepared a great many sugar-loaf-shaped leaden weights, which you may form by casting the lead into sand, in which shapes or moulds for it have been made by means of a pointed stick prodded all over the surface, having small holes to receive the melted lead. These weights will be necessary to set on the feathers when you have merely laid them on, in order to press them into the gum till they are fixed; but you must be cautious lest the gum comes through the feathers, for it would not only smear them, but would stick to the bottoms of the little weights; and in taking them off you would bring the feathers also, which would quite disarrange your work; be cautious, therefore, not to have your coat of gum too moist or wet. When you have wholly covered your bird with its feathers, you must, with a little thick gum, stick on a piece of paper, cut round, of the size of an eye, which you must color the same as the eye of the bird, if you cannot procure a glass one of the kind; and when the whole is dry, you must dress the feathers all round the outline, (such as may have chanced to start,) and rectify all defects in every other part; then lay on it a sheet of clean paper, and a heavy weight, such as a book, to press it; after which it may be preserved in a glass frame, such as are used for pieces of shell-work, &c.

**TO TEACH GIRLS TO WALK GRACEFULLY.**—Oriental women, as well as other tropical ones, are celebrated for their erect and graceful carriage. This is the result of their carrying burdens on their heads, from early childhood, by which means they secure a free and springy, yet dignified gait. Why could not this fact give a hint to American mothers and teachers? By accustoming young girls, among other calisthenic exercises, to walk, while balancing burdens upon their heads, their carriage might be greatly improved. Nor would this be all. For the character of the exercise would develop the lungs, strengthen the muscles of the chest, and even increase the height of the instep. The burden need not be heavy. Indeed, one which was too heavy might injure the brain. A certain amount of bulk, however, would be required. It is the practice of carrying the body erect which is proposed to be gained by this exercise; and a light burden, if of proper bulk, is quite sufficient for this purpose. In no other way can the prevalent defect, in the physical beauty of American women, be so readily corrected. In no other way can the beauty of the sex be increased so effectually. A half hour of such exercise, at a free, bold pace, would do more than an hour with the dumb-bells. In fact, dumb-bells are too severe for a great many girls, who might practice this exercise with great benefit.

**"OH! WALK, WALK."**—This beautiful old Scottish ballad, which we give in this number, is undoubtedly ancient. The heroine was Lady Barbara Erskine, daughter of John, ninth Earl of Mar, and wife of James, second Marquis of Douglas. She was married A. D. 1670; but was divorced by her husband, after being first driven from his house, in consequence of some malignant scandals, which a former and disappointed lover, Lowrie of Blackwood, was base enough to put into circulation. Her father received her home, and she never again saw her husband. Her only son died, Earl of Angus, at the battle of Steinkirk. The exact date of the air is not known. It is admirably suited to the words, which are very pathetic; those of the last stanzas particularly.

**OUR MARCH ENGRAVINGS.**—The Philadelphia Press, one of our highest critical authorities, says that "The Old Homestead," the steel plate in our March number, was equal to the best engravings, in the best annuals, in the best days of those publications. We really think, that, in the whole seventeen years of our editorial life, we have never had such a succession of splendid engravings as we have had this year. The one, this month, quite maintains, also, the character of the series. It is taken from one of the most admired water-colors in the late exhibition of English art, in this city.

**GET ALL THAT'S PROMISED.**—The Granite State Register, noticing the March number, says: "One worthy feature in this publication is, that subscribers get all the publisher promises at the commencement of the volume; its excellence is maintained throughout the year. This is saying much, and is higher praise than we can accord to similar magazines of light literature."

**THE PRINCESS ROYAL'S MARRIAGE.**—The marriage of Queen Victoria's eldest daughter has created quite a stir in England. As many of our fair readers may be curious to know what things royal weddings are, our "Fashion Editor" has prepared, from English journals, a description of the dresses, jewelry, &c. We print the article a few pages on.