

A pretty fern-case rests on a round mirror embedded in a frame of polished hardwood, the fern pot, lined somewhat above it, having a casing of six sides composed of rounded green glass supports at angles, connected by tiers of prisms with open spaces. The reflection of the leaves from these and the extending borders of the mirror base produces pleasing effects.

AN entirely new kind of bank-note, printed in colours—instead of the black and white of the Bank of England notes—is being prepared for issue by the Bank of Scotland. The chief novelty of the note is in its colours, which will, of course, make reproduction by photography impossible, and, it is believed, will prevent forgery. The paper on which the bank-note is printed is made by the same firm that produces the Bank of England note.

Is not this similar to the much coloured notes of the Bank of B.N.A., that have been in circulation in Canada for some time?

Periodicals.

THE CHRISTMAS BOOK BUYER (Charles Scribner's Son's) is exceptionally good, containing as it does fine illustrations, including a portrait of Rudder Grange Stockton, and notices of holiday books by Julian Hawthorne, Lathrop, Boyesen, Brander Matthews, Schuyler and others. A number worth having.

WE are in receipt of *The English Illustrated Magazine*, Macmillan & Co., for December, double number; a periodical that has made its way into general favour not only on account of its good reading matter, but particularly its handsome illustrations. This number is perhaps the best yet produced, and whether it is our prejudiced love for anything from "home" or not, the pictures, both from their artistic excellence and good printing, please us better than those of other monthlies. As a rival to *The Century* and *Harper's* it at least holds its own.

The Christmas numbers of the *Boys' Own Paper* and *Girls' Own Paper*, (Snow-Drops) are well up to the mark of these well-known youths' monthlies.

"CANADA'S CHRISTMAS," issued by the Grip Publishing Company, is, on the whole, a very good production. The only fault to be found with it is that it has been thought necessary to introduce for the nine hundred and ninety-ninth time the faces of our leading politicians.

The pictures are of artistic merit, both in design and colour, and the reading matter above the average.

GRIP ALMANAC for 1886 will, no doubt, command a ready sale. It is quite equal to those of former years.

THE Christmas number of "Frank Leslie's Illustrated," is very good value, 15 cents. Sixteen pages of admirable illustrations in a handsome cover makes it a very attractive paper. It is a good num-

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