

Elegance in mourning consists not in the quantity but the quality of the fabrics employed, and the simplest dress of a thoroughly good blacking is to its wearer an air of refinement foreign to cheap black elaborately trimmed.

SCREENS.—No small articles of furniture are more useful than screens in the way of giving a full or finished effect to a room. The innumerable Japanese screens are too well known to need much mention, everybody can afford the cheapest of them, and they are always pretty, and adapted to simple and small rooms. For home-made screens the stamping leather paper is very useful and easily applied. If, however, the amateur wishes to use his own design in ornamenting, a very rich effect may be produced by embossing the surface of the screen in low relief with white lead mixed with some quick drier. Of course, the design must be first drawn and traced on the screen, and then the white lead applied quite thick with a palette knife or similar instrument, and modeled on the back ground. Heavy relief is not required to be effective. After the lead is thoroughly dry the whole may be colored to represent stamped leather by glazing color rich brown over bronze, etc., etc., or receding the effect of old ivory, by painting the whole surface white, letting it dry, and glazing the surface with raw sienna, raw umber and burnt sienna, and then carefully rubbing the glaze off the main portions leaving it only in the intersices of the ornament. Another good effect is obtained by coloring the background and having the ornament gilded. A good ground for this sort of work is burlaps stretched and sized. Picture screens have been popular especially for the purpose of amusing children, and if the pictures chosen for them are arranged with taste, they may be readily ornamented. Walter Crane's colored pictures, which appeared some years ago, were especially adapted for this work.

KNITTED SILK-RAY CURTAINS.—The silk for this must be cut into strips an inch broad and all carefully joined and wound into balls ready for use, keeping every shade and color in a ball by itself. Enormous wooden knitting needles must be used, and on them the number of stitches required set up. This should be of the requisite breadth, but too many stitches must not be set up as the work becomes very clumsy and hard to handle. The common quarter stitch is the one used, and the raveled edges of the silk give the curtains a soft, fringing effect. If the colors are judiciously sorted and arranged, the effect of the curtain is very handsome, and it will look well hanging in a dark corner of a hall, which it will brighten up with its gay stripes.—*Home Decoration*

SICILIAN PUDDING.—Melt $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. fresh butter and let it cool gradually, pour on it the yolks of two eggs and the white of one, add some rolled fine white sugar, and flavor to give taste with either essence of almond or lemon, beating all up together; line a dish with good puff paste, and put a layer of one or two kinds of preserve in it, pouring the above mixture over all; bake. When it is baked, spread over some froth of white of egg, and sift some powdered sugar over till it looks quite white; let it stand for a few minutes in a cool oven or before the fire to harden, and then stick with pieces of blanched almond.

NORWEGIAN HOSPITALITY.—In no land is hospitality more open-handed and more unaffected than in Norway, and though these features are naturally becoming blunted along the beaten lines of travel, the genuine goodness of heart, fine "gentlemanly" feeling, and entire absence of that sordidness which is so often seen even in primitive regions, cannot fail to strike the unprejudiced observer. Nor is etiquette ignored by even the rudest of the people. In the cities the stranger is apt to make many blunders. In the country, however, this is not less marked, though perhaps the visitor will be less conscious of its presence. One of the peculiarities of the Norwegian farmer is that, when visiting a friend, he must ignore all the preparations made for his entertainment. He will see the coffee roasted, and the cups set out, and then, just when the good wife is about to offer him her hospitality, he gets up, bids the family good bye, and is only persuaded to remain after some resistance. Every cup must be filled to overflowing, otherwise the host would be thought stingy. When milk, brandy, or beer is offered, the guest invariably begs that it will not "be wasted on him," and then, after emptying the cup, declares that "it is too much"—going through the same formalities, it may be, three or four times. In the farm-houses, or upland "saeters," the guest is left to eat alone, silver forks and spoons being often substituted for the carved wooden ones used by the family, and a fine cloth for the bare board which serves well enough on ordinary occasions. To a punctilious guest this may not be a drawback, for at the family table, as, indeed, among the peasants in Scandinavia everywhere, the different individuals dip their spoons into the same dishes of "grød" and sour milk; but for anyone desirous of studying a people, a load of foreign prejudice is a grievous burden to carry about. When a child is born the wife of every neighbour cooks a dish of "flüdegrød" (porridge made with cream instead of milk), and brings it to the convalescent, there being a good deal of rivalry among the matrons to outdo each other in the quality and size of the dish. When anyone has taken food in a Scandinavian house he shakes hands with the host and hostess in rising from table, and says "Tak for mad" ("Thanks for food"), to which they reply, "Vell bekomme" ("May it agree with you"). In many parts of Scandinavia all the guests shake hands with each other, and repeat the latter formula; and in Norway, at least, it is the fashion for a guest to call on the hostess a few days later, and when she appears to gravely say, "Tak for sidste" ("Thanks for last time"), great gravity on this formal visit being a mark of good breeding.—*Peoples of the World.*

COMMERCIAL.

A fair amount of trade has been done in wholesale lines during the past week, and the promise for the future continues good. The leading staples continue firm—some of them buoyant in prices. This is especially the case with cotton goods, in which an advance of from 10 to 25 per cent has been made and held. As, however, raw cotton has advanced fully 61 per cent from bed rock figures, the manufactured articles must continue to rise till the equilibrium is restored, or the producers must lose money. Woolen goods are in much the same position, and nearly every new quotation is higher than its immediate predecessor. As the yield of agricultural products all over the world has proved to be very large, the farmers—who form by far the largest portion of the community—have more money to spend than usual, and will more readily accept the advance in prices of clothing, than they would if the conditions were reversed.

Country orders are coming in quite freely, both by mail and from commercial travellers, and payments continue to be made promptly. Comparatively few traders are compelled to ask for extension, and the tone of the market is decidedly healthy.

BREADSTUFFS.—The market for wheat, corn, and other cereals, continues to be very weak and languishing. The product of wheat in the United States is almost double this year what it was two years ago, while that of Canada—especially of Manitoba and the North-West—has enormously increased. Corn is also a very large crop. Under these circumstances it is in no wise surprising that the market shows so little strength. Wheat and flour must continue to fall, and will doubtless touch considerably lower prices than they have done for many years.

PROVISIONS.—That the pork market is decidedly weak is proved by the fact that twenty to thirty thousand packers in Chicago going out on a strike a few days ago, scarcely enabled it to rally at all, and it remains at this writing very dull and heavy. The chances of a healthy and permanent recovery are extremely slim. Of course, if Armour, of Chicago, and some of the pork kings, figure out that there is money for themselves in doing so and work together, they push it up to some extent; but it is hardly possible that any gain so brought about can be held. Every one knows that an abundant, and consequently cheap, corn crop means cheap fattening food for hogs, followed by full supplies and low prices.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Cheese and butter—particularly the former—maintain a very firm position. Some persons express surprise that this should be so; and when the upward movement begun in June last, thought that it would prove ephemeral, and could not be sustained, but they have learned that their ideas were wrong. The fact is, that many farmers, finding their dairy operations during the previous two years unprofitable, fattened and marketed a large number of their cows last fall and winter, which it has of course been impossible for them to replace this season. Naturally and necessarily this has had the effect to very largely reduce the make of both cheese and butter—the latter, however, to a less degree than the former.

GROCERIES.—A good active business has been done in sugar and molasses. Raw sugars have been rather dull, and holders show a disposition to store what they have, in the expectation of better prices later on. Molasses evinces a slight upward tendency. The demand from the country always increases in the autumn, and this, doubtless, accounts for the firmer tone of the market. For good brands, there is a steady consumptive demand, and prices are well sustained. In coffee, little has been accomplished, and the market is somewhat dull, though prices are nominally unchanged.

FRUIT.—As predicted last week, the English apple market has begun to improve, and henceforth shippers will probably obtain good prices for what they send there. A telegram, dated the 5th instant, from Messrs. Pitts Bros. & Co., apple salesmen, London, reads as follows:—

"The market is firm, with brisk demand, and we recommend shipments of sound stock. To-day's prices on this market are as follows:—Baldwins, Greenings, Seekers, and Canada red, 15s. to 15s. 6d.; Northern Spies, Spitz, King Tomkin, Fumense, Roxbury Russet, and Straw Pippins, 16s. to 16s. 6d.; Culverts, 20 oz Pippin, Vandevere, Rib-ton Pippin, and Golden Russet, 18s. to 19s."

From other sources, sales of Ben Davis apples in London are reported at an average of 18s. per barrel.

POTATOES.—There is a good consumptive demand, and under its influence, coupled with the fact that the Ontario crop was badly crippled by the rot, holders are very firm in their ideas, and good potatoes will hold their own this season.

LIVE STOCK. continues to come forward in good but not excessive supply, so that prices are kept unchanged. The average quality is better than in other years, which is, at least partially, due to the fact, that on many farms the want of rain in the early portion of the season stunted the grass crops so much that farmers considered it more profitable to turn their cattle and sheep upon it, and to rely on their surplus hay from last year, than to cut it. In doing so, they have, as a rule, acted wisely, and to their interests.

LUMBER. remains about the same as at the last writing. The demand is fairly active; and while the supply does not outrun, it keeps well up with it. It is believed that larger gangs will be sent into the woods next winter than ever before. Active preparations for the winter campaign are making.

REAL ESTATE.—Business in this line has been rather quieter during the past week, but several parties are known to be looking at eligible properties, and conclusions may be reached in some of them at any day.

FISH.—Since our last issue, there have been more arrivals of dry and pickled fish from the Coast than for the week previous, and the demand has been good. About all the arrivals have been placed without any difficulty at fair rates. We have an idea that No. 3 large spring mackerel will not go