

**WALL PAPER AND DECORATIONS—Cont'd.** are at all fastidious unless they attend to it. Wall paper printers are like ordinary printers, they must have the details of the business at their fingers' ends or they can't turn out decent work. Of course, good men must be paid big salaries, and some manufacturers—particularly in the States—prefer to employ cheap men and get inferior results. This kind of stuff may do for a certain class of trade, but men who have any artistic taste won't look at it, and when they buy wall paper they have to send to the city to get what they want. If the local stores want to supply the best trade they must take more pains in selecting their stock."

#### THE LOCAL DEALER.

The local dealer can often increase sale by judicious advertising. A small, but tasteful ad. of C. B. Scantlebury, Kingston, Belleville and Winnipeg, struck us the other day as timely and attractive. It reads as follows:

"Sample books of choice wall paper for residences, churches, offices, lodge rooms, public halls, hotels, stores and our booklet "How to Paper" sent free to any address. Write a postal, mention what prices you expect to pay, the rooms you wish to paper and where you saw this advertisement. We pay express charges.

"A full assortment of choice room moulding now in stock. Hanging paper guaranteed or money refunded."

#### "FALL OF THE EMPIRE."

The reign of the Empire is over. The craze for polished and brass trimmed mahogany is dead, and no longer will our weary eyes meet the same sight in every drawing room we enter—prim, stiff sets of highly polished wood, upholstered in crimson brocade and emblazoned with torches, wreaths, bowknots or even big and brazen N's. Among the newly rich the Empire style was very popular. The massive designs, the splendor of yellow and crimson (which are the colors in which really correct Empire furniture is upholstered), and the dazzling glitter of the mahogany, all appealed to the lover of splendor, gaudiness and ostentation. Of course, in order to supply the demand which the Empire had created, much, one may say most, of the so-called Empire furniture, even when of good quality of workmanship, was bad in design and decorated with an airy indifference which to the initiated was very edifying. Imperial bees, victory torches, lion's heads and rosettes were placed on chairs, tables and other pieces with reckless liberality, forming an ensemble as picturesque as it was bewildering. Nevertheless, the genuine specimens of Empire furniture were ex-

remely handsome and their decorative possibilities were really amazing.

The professional decorators, who are just now busy furnishing houses for the autumn and winter, declare that Louis XV. and Louis XVI. furniture in more artistic patterns and better materials than commonly seen, will be widely used. English designs will also be used, but for draperies and wall hangings Aubusson and Gobelin tapestries and delicate, rich brocade will be the favorite materials. The one color scheme of decoration is dying out, and bright mixed colors will rule in newly furnished houses the coming season.

When several colors are combined more taste and ingenuity are required to form a harmonious effect, and the color-blind woman, who, with various shades of a single tint, could make a room a perfect poem, will be very apt to come to grief when she starts out on her decorative career with several hues with which to work havoc.

Unless one has perfect confidence in one's own taste and judgment, it is best to take the advice of a skilled decorator before attempting to make a harmony of a many-colored room. Where the blunderer will produce a melange of hues calculated to ruin one's eyesight and set every æsthetic nerve to tingling, the artist will combine colors with a careful eye, not only to harmony in contrast, making each color bring out the best tones of its neighbor, and so not only produce rich and varied effects, but also practise a "decorative economy," in sharp contrast to the reckless extravagance of the well-meaning amateur.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

#### HE DID IT HIMSELF.

"I didn't see you in town yesterday."  
"No, I had a room that needed papering and painting, and I thought I'd stay at home and do it myself. But I can't stop to talk—I'm in a hurry." "What's up?"  
"Well, I've got to take my business suit to the dyer's and cleaner's, and my wife's best dress along with it, then I must call in and order a new carpet, and hunt up some painters and paperhangers to—to put the finishing touches on that room, you know."

#### MATting INSTEAD OF WALL PAPER.

Wall paper is probably not doomed—it would take something of a revolution in house decoration ideas to bring that about—but it has a rival in the affections of people who want something unique in the rooms of their new houses. This rival is matting, especially Chinese mattings, and the idea is to cover a wall from floor to ceiling with them. Nothing of this sort has ever been suggested by the decorators before, though strips of matting have often been used as friezes, and even as dados. To

cover every inch of the four walls of a room with matting is a distinct novelty in the beautifying of rooms, however, and where it has been tried it has been hailed as a great success.

A special grade and special designs of mattings are, of course, used, as the ordinary variety would present no attractiveness on a wall. In every case, patterns that show extremely large figures are the thing. Diamonds and stars are high in favor, and squares and blocks made to imitate carpet designs have hardly less popularity.

In all, there are a dozen or more new and fresh patterns peculiarly adapted to nailing up on walls. Red and white and green and white are the colors that are used. The blue and white matting has not come into vogue yet for wall decoration, though it may appear at any time.

These mattings are laid on in strips across the walls, not up and down. It should be remembered that the ordinary floor mattings would not be at all the thing on walls, and that only the special varieties mentioned above should ever be used. With the proper matting laid on skilfully, there is an admirable background for any sort of pictures, and a room is made that will seem delightfully cool in the hottest sort of weather.

For a matting-walled room, window shades of matting of the same kind, or at least of a harmonious pattern, should be used.

#### AN ODD DECORATION.

There is a room in a club house near Washington that has been furnished and decorated to imitate a farm yard scene. As we enter the door it seems as though we were stepping out of doors and on a piazza, from which we look out over the farm yard and the open country beyond. This result is obtained by a landscape painted on the wall, while trellises, on which vines of artificial leaves appear to clamber, make the effect more natural. The other three sides of the room are weatherboarded to imitate the sides of a house. Rough tables and chairs, three-legged milking stools and a churn form the furniture of this unique apartment, and here the members congregate to dine al fresco. The ceiling is finished with beaded boards and rough open rafters, to still further carry out the idea.—The Painter's Magazine.

#### WOMEN'S DRESSES AND WALL PAPERS.

The observing decorator will notice that the prevailing colors of women's dress goods and millinery are apt to be reflected in the season's wall papers and decorative fabrics. And this is altogether natural, for the choice of such things is almost always left to the women of the family. Poor men,