

Courier des Dames.

Our lady readers are invited to contribute to this department.

(Written for the Canadian Illustrated News.)

OUR GHOST-CHAMBERS.

The house-hunting season is virtually over, and every one who has paid a dollar and signed a lease, is left to enjoy the prospect of being housed in a few weeks in a new dwelling, superior of course to that which is to be deserted on the first of May. Many families will entirely refurnish on entering the new abode; others will seek to alter the arrangements that prevailed in the rooms of the old home, and perhaps only add something here and there; while young couples in the first blush of married life will enter upon house-keeping, with natty little account books, and diaries, for entering and checking the family expenditure. Let us, therefore, take counsel together, that we may make our new homes more thoroughly homelike. Now we will all agree, I am sure, that the first consideration should be comfort. I wish we all acted up to this golden rule. But we don't. Although we cordially assent to the proposition, we push comfort into the background and prefer style, luxury, and "appearance." The large, light, best rooms in the house smell stuffy and disagreeable to our callers, simply because they are only opened on state occasions. The room which was unlocked for your admission is probably expensively furnished, but you feel miserable while you remain there. Every article appears to be lying in state, having over it the words "Don't touch;" the furniture is arranged with mathematical correctness, and the best pieces carefully placed in the most conspicuous positions, even though causing inconvenience. Grandeur is sought after, while comfort is ignored. They are ghost-chambers!

Let each of us seek to avoid these common errors in house-furnishing and house-management. We can greatly improve our homes if we only conscientiously seek to do so. Here, for example, are some points which we should seek to avoid, and some we should strive to achieve, that when visitors call their impression will be, not merely how splendidly the room is furnished, but how comfortable and pleasant it is. First, don't make your house a poor imitation of some friend's house, because houses in their furnishing show the mental culture of the tenant. Don't furnish a best room and close it up, so that no sun-beam can get through the windows, nor a fly muster courage to enter. Don't furnish in horsehair of funeral solemnity, with mahogany table having a red and black cover, for it is not desirable in this world to be always looking at colours emblematic of mourning. Don't shroud your drawing-room chairs in brown holland coverings, for such make inquisitive persons miserable, and occasionally lead them to untie the strings to peep at the gorgeousness screened from sight. Indeed, I think that in some houses the furniture might as well be covered with holland only, and save the expense of any more costly material, as I am sure the original covering is never seen, but only supposed to be there. Don't arrange the furniture with a view to regularity; rather avoid having everything exactly alike, for contrasts are often preferable to matches in colour. Don't cover your table with books in splendid bindings yet quite unreadable to your guests. Don't buy cheap lots of books at sales to fill up your handsome bookcase, for, as a rule, you will get little that is of any value. Don't keep the shutters always closed for fear of carpet or chair-covers fading; but when furnishing—expensively and elegantly if you will—avoid delicate shades of bright colours. Instead of committing such errors throw open your rooms and let in freely the beautiful sunshine and fresh, pure air; place flower-stands in every room that a sweet perfume may meet you from all sides; and have your favourite books lying at hand to be read as often as may be. Moreover, banish all straight-backed chairs from your sitting-rooms, and have open fire-places. In a word seek to have your house comfortably furnished in good taste; and I hope these hints will aid us in banishing from our houses these ghost-chambers, whether funeral in haircloth or in dish-billie in brown holland.

BLANCHE B.

FASHION PLATE AND LADIES' WORK.

FIG. 1. BLACK GROS GRAIN APRON TRIMMED WITH VELVET RIBBON.—This apron is made of black gros grain, trimmed with pinked ruches of the material two inches and seven-eighths wide, arranged in triple box-pleats, lace three inches and a quarter wide, and tabs of black velvet ribbon an inch and three-quarters and an inch and seven-eighths wide. Hem the bottom of the apron narrow on the outside, sew on the lace there, and set on the remainder of

the trimming as shown by the illustration. The tabs on the bottom of the apron are of the wider velvet ribbon. They are twelve inches and seven-eighths long, and are pointed on the lower end and folded on the under side an inch and three-quarters wide on the top, so as to form a loop. Arrange each loop in a pleat an inch and a quarter from the top. The remaining tabs are made of the narrow velvet ribbon, similar to the wider tabs, and are five inches and a quarter long. Set the apron on a belt, which is closed on the side.

FIG. 2. BLACK TAFFETAS RIBBON TRIMMED WITH LACE AND INSERTION.—The upper part of this apron, which is nine inches and a quarter long, is made of plain black silk and lace insertion an inch and three-quarters wide, which is underlaid with tulle. To this part is sewed a piece seventeen inches and three-quarters long made of kilt-pleated silk and insertion, and edged on the bottom with black silk fringe an inch wide. In order to obtain the requisite shape lay the pleats closer above each other on the upper than on the under edge. The seam made by setting this pleated piece on the upper part is covered by a double box-pleated silk ruche two inches wide, fringed out half an inch wide on the sides. The top of the apron is set on a belt, and is trimmed with bows of black silk ribbon a quarter of an inch wide.

FIG. 3. BLUE CREPE DE CHINE AND LACE CRAVAT BOW.—This cravat bow is made of white lace insertion an inch wide, white lace an inch and a quarter and two inches wide, and loops of light blue crepe de Chine arranged spirally on a tulle foundation, as shown by the illustration, so as to form a nearly circular fan-shaped bow with ends, the ribbon being in the centre.

FIG. 4. CERISE CREPE DE CHINE AND LACE CRAVAT.—This cravat is made of gathered lace as shown by the illustration. It is trimmed in front with a rosette of lace and cerise crepe de Chine. The crepe de Chine ends are fringed out seven-eighths of an inch long. The rosette and ends in front are arranged in such a manner as to simulate a jabot of ribbon and lace.

FIG. 5. SLIPPER FOR BRIDAL TOILETTE.—The slipper is made of white gros grain trimmed along the upper edge with white lace. In front a rosette of white gros grain and lace as in Fig. 6 or Fig. 7.

FIG. 8. JEWEL CASSET.—This casket is made of carved wood stained brown, and is ornamented with appliqué embroidery and lined with green satin quilted in diamonds. The foundation for the embroidery is of dark green cloth, on which green satin figures, ornamented in half-polka stitch with green silk and edged with gold cord, are applied. Green silk soutache is stitched on in connection with these figures, as shown by the illustration. On the middle of the foundation is set a piece of velvet, on which the initial is worked in satin stitch with green silk and gold cord. The sides of the casket can be ornamented in the design shown by the illustration, or else covered with cloth without embroidery.

FIGS. 9 AND 10. FANCY WORK CASE.—The materials required for this are blue and white silk or alpaca (or coloured silk in two shades), sewing silk to match, white flannel, muslin, and two blue silk buttons. The length of the whole is 18 in. by 5 in. in breadth. At one end it is sloped off to a depth of three inches, forming the lapel seen in Fig. 9. The outside is edged with a foliage border in blue silk, and sprinkled with single leaves worked to match. In the inside (Fig. 10) at the square end is a pocket of blue silk for scissors and thimble, etc., edged at the bottom and the sides with half-inch wide white silk, and at the top with a blue silk ruche of the same depth. The pocket is 2½ in. in depth, and is fastened with a small silk cord and tassel. In the second compartment is another pocket, also of blue silk, and measuring 3½ in. in depth. On this lie three pieces of flannel, as shown in the illustration, the two upper ones embroidered in colour. These are fastened to the pocket by a strip of blue silk. The three divisions for cotton and thread are made by sewing to the body of the case three strips of silk—those at the side blue, and that in the middle white, with a line of embroidery down the centre. These, like the pockets, are lined with muslin. Monogram in blue and white silk embroidery.

FIG. 11. FANCY WORK BOX.—This is made of yellow straw, with a fancy straw border in relief, worked with cerise chenille. The inside is lined with cerise silk, and is furnished with loops of cerise ribbon for the reception of the needles, scissors, &c., &c.

FIGS. 12 AND 13. BLACK VELVET JACKET.—The jacket is trimmed with a scalloped bias round the edge, and lace edging, the seam being covered with black gros grain piping.

LADY LAWYERS.

Among the professions to which some of the ladies of our age aspire is that of the law. The idea will afford any amount of entertainment to some of the sterner sex, and we have ourselves been amused by the following utterances from the *Graphic*:—"When young ladies go to lunch with their newly-called brothers and cousins in the Temple, they never fail—as far as our own observations have extended—to 'try on' the wigs and gowns of those young gentlemen; and the effect is usually pronounced to be very pretty indeed. The forensic horsehair, which is not unbecoming to many owners of 'that variety of nose and whisker for which the bar of England is so justly celebrated,' sets off a girl's fresh face to great advantage; and the dignity which it would give to a dowager may be imagined. Can it be a knowledge of this fact which has impelled ladies to 'go in' for the study of the law? That they are actual-

ly advancing in this direction there is no doubt; for nearly a hundred of the interesting sex, we are told, have petitioned the Council of Legal Education to be admitted to the new classes and courses of lectures which are to be open to 'other persons' besides members of the Inns of Court; and it is not to be supposed that they can desire the knowledge without aspiring to the privileges of the profession. The benchers of the Inns of Court, in wording their permission, had, of course, no idea of the extended application which might be given to 'other persons;' but a lawyer, when he is his own lawyer, has a fool for his client just like the lay brethren, and the inadvertence is natural enough. But the difficulty remains; and the council, we believe, is puzzled how to dispose of it. But our old figurative friend, 'the thin end of the wedge,' is clearly introduced, and the ladies will inevitably try to drive it home. We are on the eve, we suspect, of an agitation for throwing open the bar to both sexes alike, and we may be sure that ladies once admitted will not be contented with a 'stuff gown,' but will 'take silk' whenever they can get it, and if restrained by professional etiquette from taking satin and velvet, will make a dash at the ermine at the first opportunity. This is hard upon the existing briefcase. There are already too many men at the bar, and the introduction of women will scarcely improve their chances of practice. For attorneys are but men themselves, and they will surely give the new comers a trial. And we are not quite sure that female advocacy would not in many cases be found effective. We all know how feminine influence governs preferment in many ways. Women make ministers of state, bishops, judges, generals, and miscellaneous appointments to any extent. In court a woman is always potent. A pretty witness is a tower of strength to her side. When she appears as a principal—notably in breach of promise cases and in the Divorce Court—her appearance and demeanour do wonders if she enjoy any advantages in either respect. A lady let loose in advocacy, with a moderate amount of ability, would be a terrible opponent to the unhappy man on the other side; and it is not merely in sentimental cases that she would be most terrible."

AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY.

"Cole's Cook-shop" is the new name of the International Exhibition which is being built at South Kensington. This agnomen is due to the fact that Mr. Cole, C.B., is forming classes for teaching cookery to families having an income of £500 a year and under. Though some of the journalists are inclined to laugh at the idea of teaching a lady having £500 a year cookery, we see nothing ridiculous in it. A woman—whatever her income—either is or intends to be mistress of a house, and if she is to discharge the duties belonging to that position well, she should know how to cook; not only that she may work in the kitchen, when compelled to do so, but that she may be an efficient critic, instead of a helpless fault-finder, easily bowled out by a cook confident not only in her experience but in her mistress's ignorance. Cookery is a very important science, not only from the point of view of rational pleasure but also from that of economy, and the lady who understands the mysteries of sauces and the occult flavours which await the call of culinary manipulation will save her husband a good deal of money and heighten her own charms. Let not female loveliness be startled at connecting her smiles and the aroma of a well-cooked dinner. Love is very ethereal, no doubt. But the rosy god is always represented as plump and well-favoured, and we fear his ruddy cheeks and full outline would disappear, were it not that his organ of gustativeness and nutritive functions generally are in tolerable activity. Nay, the very smiles which make up so large a part of the armoury of "lovely women" would grow pale and thin on low diet and frequent fasts. Therefore there is nothing shocking in the suggestion that a lady would be more attractive if she was not associated with bad dinners. Only the robustest charms can outlive the lead blast that sweeps across cold meat. Man attaches more importance to eating than woman. But the labourer is worthy of his hire, and dinner is one of the pleasures in the hard-working man's day. It should therefore, by its quality and surroundings, be made as agreeable as possible. A few months ago, in the United States, there was a cookery tournament, and the lady who won the prize was said to have had five hundred offers in one day. Five hundred offers! We should like to know what expert in the science of coquetry ever achieved such splendid results. But this girl, in doing a chop to a nicety, accomplished the same feat in regard to the heart of an admirer—nay, of many such; devilled kidneys in a manner so superb as to leave no other impression on the mind of the devourer of the dainty morsel than that she—for all the diabolical process—was "no angel!" Indeed, "but a dearer being all dight in angel instincts;" attended to the roasting of a duck with such subtle appreciation of delicate brown shading that she cooked the goose of hundreds; and with the basting ladle slew half the number that Samson sent to the shades with the jaw-bone of an ass. Did not the Frau Von Stein make a German sausage love's harbinger to the great Goethe? And in fact has not philosopher after philosopher pointed out that the road to a man's heart through his stomach was as short as any other way? The belles of Canada may be certain that some knowledge of housekeeping, including skill in cookery, is the most desirable accomplishment a woman could have. St. Jerome tells us in his epistle "Si tibi putem" that if he had a lover she was *turges alique jejunos fletu pene ocoala*—in other words, the reverse of plump and the antipodes of "jolly." But most men are not saints, and they will always be attracted by what is healthy

and health-sustaining. Nor could there be a worse wife than one who had not a correct idea of the relative importance of dinner. It is the more to be regretted, therefore, from every stand-point, that cookery is so little understood amongst us; and, for our own part, we could willingly spare one or two professors of elegances for one good instructor in the art which Apicius loved. We have a Technological School; let us by all means have added to it an official cook who will make himself active everywhere, save amongst the—accounts.—*Toronto Globe.*

News of the Week.

THE DOMINION.—On Monday the Orange Bill passed its third reading in the Ontario Legislature by a vote of 31 to 22. As on previous reading the entire Ministry voted nay, with the exception of Attorney-General Mowatt. Mr. Garneau, Mayor of Quebec, has been elected by acclamation to represent the County of Quebec in the Local Legislature. Mr. Blake has resigned his seat in the House of Commons.

UNITED STATES.—The appointment by the Pope of the following Bishops for the United States is announced: Very Rev. M. A. Corrigan for the Diocese of Newark, and the Rev. Mr. Gross for the Diocese of Savannah. John McDonald, who left Havre in the S. S. "Thuringia," charged with being connected with the recent robbery perpetrated on the Bank of England, has been arrested at New York with two bags, one of gold and the other of diamonds. Foster, the car-hook murderer, was hung on Friday last. The New York Times has published a detailed statement to the effect that Foster's sickness just before the execution was due to poison; that he told Miss Foster, the matron, that he had taken it during the night; that Scannell, Sharkey, and King, who were in the adjoining cell, knew of the fact; that Dr. Nealls, the prison physician, thinks he would have died of the poison if the execution had been delayed till ten o'clock, and that his weakness on the scaffold was due to its effects. Several arrests have been made by the detectives of passengers on the incoming English steamers, who are supposed to have been concerned in the forgeries on the Bank of England. Letters from parties in London express much concern in regard to the management of the mining property in Utah owned by them. It is stated English capitalists are losing confidence, not in the intrinsic value of the mines, but on account of the sharp speculative practices of the parties interested in this territory. A St. Alban's (Vt.) despatch says the suit in the Chancery Court commenced there on Tuesday week in connection with the management of the Vermont Central, and Vermont and Canada Railroad, involving some six million dollars, which it is charged have been misappropriated by the trustees.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The Gladstone Government remain in power. In the Imperial House of Commons, on Monday, Mr. Gladstone stated that no appropriation to pay the Geneva award will be included in the expenditure for the financial year ending 31st instant. A police agent had left Liverpool with extradition papers for McDonald, the forger, recently arrested at New York. The British manufacturers of agricultural implements have resolved not to take part in the Vienna Exhibition. Mr. Goschen, First Lord of the Admiralty, submitted to the House of Commons on Monday the naval estimates for the ensuing fiscal year. They exceed those of last year by \$1,702,880. Mr. Lowe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will present the annual budget about the 3rd of April. It will show the revenue to be £380,000,000, and the expenditure will probably amount to £355,000,000. Noyes, the alleged confederate of the parties who committed the great forgeries on the Bank of England, was up before the Court for examination last week. The witnesses for the Bank gave their testimony, and the case was adjourned. A serious riot between Englishmen and Irishmen occurred last week in Wolverhampton. At least 3,000 persons were engaged in the conflict. Fire-arms and knives were freely used, and there was much bloodshed, though cases of fatal injury are yet reported.

FRANCE.—The preliminary enquiry into the case of Marshal Bazaine has been concluded. Nothing has been decided upon touching the manner and place of trial or the composition of the tribunal before which the case will be heard. The friends of the Marshal are now allowed to visit him. The elections to fill the vacancies in the representations of several departments in the National Assembly have been ordered to be held on the 27th of April.

The French and German Governments have exchanged ratifications of the Treaty for the evacuation of France. The King of Portugal has sent the decoration of the Order of St. James to President Thiers. The Government has issued an order prohibiting the exportation of war material to Spain. The annual Budget presented at the National Assembly by M. Leon, the Minister of Finance, shows a most gratifying condition of the public funds. There is now in the Treasury half the sum of money due to Germany, and no loan will be required to complete the war indemnity at the dates designated in the convention signed by M. Thiers and Count Von Arnim.

GERMANY.—Saturday last was a holiday in Berlin, it being the anniversary of the birth of the Emperor William.

ITALY.—The Empress of Russia has arrived at Florence. She is journeying to Southern Italy, where she contemplates remaining some time for the benefit of her health.

Jacobs' Rheumatic Liquid is the best Liniment.