

THE HOLIDAYS.

A DESCRIPTION OF GIFTS THAT MAY BE MADE AT HOME.

Some Easily Constructed Articles for Holiday Presents—Home Handwork—Etc.

As gifts are valued by the true friend more for the giver than for the intrinsic value of the gift...

Art needlework as applied to home decoration is the fashionable craze of the day.

Many trifles manufactured of gilt and silver card-board look especially well upon the Christmas tree.

Empty mustard or spice boxes form a good foundation for these. The card-board is cut to fit and decorated to taste.

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Baskets of all kinds are popular, and are readily decorated. Open wicker baskets are still in great favor for wastebaskets.

The small water-paper baskets, which can be purchased in plain white, gilded, black and gilded by the purchaser, have now been adopted as flower-pot covers, and very elegant ones they make with their square gilded handles standing up and two small rings hanging down as ornaments on either side.

Englishwomen are adapting the tall silk hats worn by gentlemen for waste paper baskets and work baskets. These hats when dismissed by their wearers are usually only about a quarter worn, so no one will wear a "shocking bad hat" if it is possible to get a new one, and to many ladies to find a use for the discarded ones will be a great benefit.

Director Rosewald, of the Strakoch Opera Company, has written a three-act opera called "He a She."

Colonel Bob Filkins will leave New York for San Francisco shortly, where he will superintend the alterations in Haverly's new California Theater; \$12,000 will be spent on the place in alterations.

The cheap Yeddo hats so much worn last summer are made into "wall-pockets" or hanging-baskets. The outside is brushed all over with gold or black paint and allowed to dry thoroughly; the inside of the brim is lined with satin, and a bag top is put in the crown, and drawn up with cords and tassels.

Very pretty work-baskets may be made of straw, lined with red Turkey cloth or satin, the lining forming a bag which draws up at top with a ribbon, and when open turns down over the basket.

Fretty catch-alls are made of the Yeddo hat cut off worn by chemists. For these they are embroidered in long stitches with colored wools, or are decorated with applique figures.

Blotting-books are easily made and also very useful. Stiff crash in two thicknesses makes a good back for one of these.

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stuffed for the monogram, if desired, or for coloring. For this last a design from Kate Greenaway's "Under the Willow" or from "Mother Goose," etc., looks well.

A useful present, also, is a little case to be carried in the pocket when traveling, containing scissors, comb, pins, needles, black and white cotton (on flat winders), sticking-plaster, stamps, button-hook and thimble.

Tea cosies grow in popularity, and are at once pretty and useful. They are made in cap shape to cover the teapot, and, as their mission is to keep the tea hot, must be warmly wadded and lined.

The fashionable side bags will figure largely at Christmas presents this year. Those most liked are the flat bags, with plated rims and with catches and chains.

Pin-cushions are legion. The handsomest are of plush. Next comes silk or satin, so beautifully embroidered or painted that, as a lady said of one such, "it would be a sin to stick a pin in it."

Fans also appear among fashionable articles. A novel fan is the Japanese fan with long handle forms the foundation. This is covered with satin, embroidered, painted or trimmed with lace and flowers.

Pen-wipers pass enumeration. The newest are in form of a miniature tea-cosy, the cosy lined by stiff card and filled in with strips of cloth, or, better yet, with ends of black worked. The outside should be prettily worked.

Very useful on the dressing table are the little baskets of three or four inches in diameter, just large enough to hold a spool of black cotton, one white, a thimble, needle-book and a tiny pair of scissors.

Baskets of this kind are to be had resting on three legs, and may, with a little patience and ingenuity, be made exceedingly pretty as well as useful.

Emilie Melville has captured the Bostonians. John Powell, husband of Mme. Emily Solow, is called.

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