

## Woman and Her Work

I believe I am suffering for what a physician would diagnose as "determination of Christmas presents to the brain." I have been reading the subject up, and jotting it down; I have been racking what little brains nature has endowed me with, to think up new ideas on the time worn subject, and then I have been trying to put those ideas in practice and satisfy myself that if those distracting directions are faithfully and intelligently carried out the result will be something like the alluring pictures of the finished article which embellish the pages of so many "Women's Departments." Besides that, it is only natural that I should have a few presents of my own to select, and think about; so the subject has been before me constantly of late, and it is little wonder that I should be inclined to harp upon the one theme, which has at least the merit of being seasonable, to recommend it.

I don't know whether it is that the approach of the festive season makes so many slightly light headed, or whether the human race is naturally lacking in judgement where the selection of presents is concerned; but this I am sure of, that the most steady going and sensible of people whose minds are proverbially well balanced on all other points, make curious blunders in their choice of gifts. Every Christmas when I am strolling through the shops in search of Christmas novelties and interesting copy, I am struck afresh with the collection of reprehensible nightmares that are exposed for sale under the delusive title of holiday gifts. Somebody must buy these things or they would never be offered for sale neither would they be manufactured; and that they are not intended for the poorer and presumably ignorant classes is evidenced by the price, which is frequently quite out of the reach of people in moderate circumstances. I can solemnly aver that I have seen complicated abominations in the shape of dressing cases and manicure sets, marked at the modest price of twenty dollars, which I would have found it hard to say "thank you" for, with any semblance of sincerity. And coming down to the commoner articles, the collection of hideousities is even more noticeable. There always seems to be an especial run on napkin rings, match safes, and boxes of every description, and when the manufacturer can think of nothing else to give expression to his lack of taste, he always falls back on the time honored and long suffering paper weight, and brings out some fresh atrocity in that line.

I think I have seen more horrors in the shape of paper weights than in any other article of bigotry and virtue ever manufactured, though the inkstand makes a good second. The dogs harnessed to sledges, and the monkeys carrying fishing creels strapped to their backs, form an endless procession with the rabbits laboriously trundling wheel barrows, and the dissipated looking cats wearing battered hats, and staggering under the weight of

disproportionately huge loads of mortar which they are endeavoring to carry up very fragile looking ladders to no where in particular.

Then the boxes! The array of utterly useless, and far from ornamental inventions dignified with different names such as work boxes, handkerchief, cuff, etc., that burden the counters of the fancy shops, and which the proprietor must expect to sell. Surely it is the fault of the public that such monstrosities are offered for sale, and if we exercised a little more taste and judgment in the purchase of the gifts we intend for our friends, the grinning monkeys, the impossible rabbits, and the scent bottles bursting from the heart of china, or metal roses, would soon disappear. If we would only bring the philosophic golden rule to bear upon our Christmas shopping what a good thing it would be! Then we should no longer purchase a bisque dog sitting up on his hind legs, and holding a hat nearly as large as himself in his mouth, and gravely send it to Aunt Susan, because we know she will expect something, and this is showy for the money. Neither will we force poor Uncle John to be a hypocrite by trying to seem grateful for a fifty cent inkstand supported on four horses' heads, looking like a giant spider, and so hard to open, that the game seems scarcely worth the powder, especially as it will not hold enough ink to fill a large pen half a dozen times.

It would be so easy to buy something we should like to have ourselves, and Aunt Susan might just as well have had the delft rose jar, or the pretty, simply framed etching which cost almost the same and would have given her such real pleasure. A pair of driving gloves, or if they were too expensive two or three pretty ties, or handkerchiefs, would have been sure to be useful, and Uncle John could have thanked you with a clear conscience.

I believe it takes a child to make a really honest and unselfish present, and I shall never forget being at a bazaar once and meeting a friend carefully carrying a gaudily painted toy representing an interior view of a doll's kitchen. It was made of wood, and besides every variety of kitchen utensils it contained two gorgeous ladies painted blue and green respectively, and a whole array of painted joints and provision, which the ladies were engaged in preparing for the table. My friend held it up with a peculiarly tender but humorous smile, and said: "This is what Etie is taking home to her grandmother; she had ten cents of her own to spend, and laid out five for this; so I am taking care of it for her till we get home." Etie was not quite four years old and she had expended one half of her entire fortune in buying for her especial friend, her grandmother—the thing which to her was the most beautiful in the whole bazaar. Bless her generous little heart she knew how to do as she would be done by, and I know grandma appreciated the gift too, for it stands on the mantel of her own room to this day.

I really believe that many of the mistakes made by good, unselfish people in giving presents come from a too careful, though well meant consideration of the



## Every Woman

should have among her assortment of footwear a pair of good heavy solid laced boots for fall and winter wear. We have a number of these lines now in stock at \$1.75, and \$2.00 per pair.—They are warm and comfortable for this time of year.—Worth while trying a pair.

## Waterbury & Rising

61 King St.  
212 Union St.

recipients tastes, and alas, occupations! "I must try to give her something appropriate" we say, and then we give the girl who teaches music a case for carrying a roll of music around in, which she does not want, and when a silver chain bracelet, or the tiniest of friendship rings would have filled her soul with joy. I know how good my friends are to me in this respect, and how often I wish they would consider the appropriateness of these gifts less, and give me something they would like themselves. Sometimes when I look at the array of editions de luxe, of my implements of daily warfare, in the shape of paper and envelope holders, silver blotters, gold pens and pen trays, and ink stands, that have been bestowed on me from time to time, I feel truly grateful to the donors but I cannot help wishing they had given me instead, the simplest of d'oyleys, or the most modest of picnics. But, bless their hearts, how could they be expected to know just how one's soul sickens at the very sight of anything connected with one's tyrants, the pen and the ink pot, or how pleasant it seems to be the woman who works for her daily bread to possess a picnics cushion that somebody else made, and with which she has not been acquainted from the time it was nothing but a mass of materials in the rough.

"Let us then, oh my friends," as Mr. Chadband said, endeavour in future to give our friends a present they would really enjoy instead of something we think they ought to have.

Who will believe me when I say that the very latest skirt model measures just two and a half yards round? It sounds incredible I know, coming so soon after the limit has been placed at four and a half yards, but I really think my information is authentic, and that the day is not far distant, what with tight sleeves and sheath skirts, when we shall only require to make an estimate of the dressmaker's probable charges in selecting so insignificant an item of expenditure, that we scarcely need consider it at all. But of course that is in the future, and at present the skirts are of very ample dimensions, and much more comfortable to walk in, than if they were narrower.

Fur seems to be the accepted trimming this winter, and it is not considered out of place on any material, no matter how light and flimsy it may be, even an evening bodice of white lace and chiffon, having recently made its appearance trimmed with bands of chinchilla fur. In spite of all that can be said to the contrary, such a combination is decidedly out of place, and no matter how skillfully the combination was effected, it could not have been harmonious, however striking the effect might be. Fur was very fashionable last year, but this season it seems indispensable, and the woman who does not possess a fur garment of some kind, or at least a fur trimmed one, is a conspicuous exception. Capes, coats and hats are trimmed with fur, and no matter how rich and heavy, or how gauzy and sheer the fabric may be, on goes the fur trimming. Sable, fox, chinchilla, persian lamb and broad-tail are the most popular trimming furs, the latter being often applied in wide bands out out in some pointed design on each edge and outlined with a fine silk cord, or braid. Two bands of this description fully seven inches wide from point to point, arranged around the hips pointing down in front, apron fashion, form a very stylish trimming for a gown of green cloth. It is scarcely necessary to say that an ordinary fur like persian lamb, or even mink would be utterly impracticable, for such a trimming, but the broadtail is so thin and pliable, that it can be used almost as a substitute for velvet and silk, entire blouse waists being sometimes made of it. In fact you can almost cover your winter gown with fur, if you feel so inclined, the quantity you use being almost entirely regulated



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References: The Merchants' Bank of Halifax or any wholesale Dry Goods House in Canada.

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Neighborly Courtesy.  
Smith—"I don't like to make any complaint to a neighbor, Mr. Jones, but your dog kept up a terrible barking about all night." Jones—"Oh, that's all right; he's used to it; won't hurt him a bit. Kind of you to mention it, however."

A Pseudonym  
A lady who wanted a servant so badly that she took one without a recommendation, or even an introduction, happened one day to look into a book which belonged to the girl, and immediately thereafter went to her with some uneasiness expressed in her face.

"Is this your book, Susie?" she asked.

"Yes'm."

"How is this, then? When you came you told me your name was Susie Stokes, but here in this book is the name 'Bridget Lafferty'."

"It's all right, ma'am," said the girl. "That's me nondy-plum!"

Mrs. S. James, Seaforth, suffered for years with what is called old people's rash. She was treated by many physicians without any result. Mr. Fear, the local druggist, recommended by Dr. Chase's Ointment, which relieved the irritation at once and speedily effected a permanent cure of the skin eruption. Mrs. James also says Dr. Chase's Ointment cured her of Itching Piles which she had been troubled with for years.

Unknown.  
Mr. F. Litchfield, a well-known art dealer, exhibited some panels of old tapestry at the Manchester Jubilee Exhibition, says Household Words. Wanting one of the panels returned for some season, he telegraphed: "Please send panel eight by ten—Venus and Adonis—Litchfield."

The department head of the exhibition was away, and his clerk returned the message to the post-office as "Not understandable." The post-office people struck with a bright idea, then transmitted the telegram to the city of Litchfield, and received the following reply:

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