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Tokens of Esteem Adapted to All Ages and for Friends of Every Degree—How to Make a Score of Inexpensive, Useful and Attractive Articles.

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Now that the chill of autumn in the air makes indoors and lamplight endurable evenings our thoughts begin to go forth into the "shadowy future," and visions of coming festivals flit before us. Thanksgiving day has a way of caring for and providing for itself, so we concern ourselves but little about the turkeys that are fattening and "the frost that's on the rind," ripening and mellowing its fruit, for well we know the barnyard will supply the one, while the other will grace the feast for most of us.

But Christmas has its own peculiar claims, and each of us feels that loved ones are not only dear to our hearts, but that we want to demonstrate that love by giving some evidence of its existence. And what more convincing reminder than to offer the work of our hands, each stitch proclaiming the loving care that fashioned the gift for the one whose wants it is intended to supply?

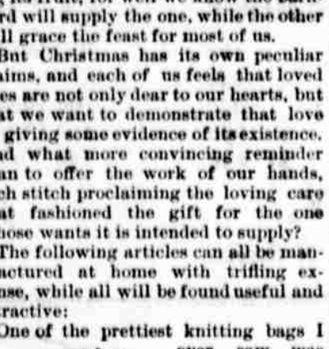
The following articles can all be manufactured at home with trifling expense, while all will be found useful and attractive:

One of the prettiest knitting bags I ever saw was made of an ordinary sleeve protector, such as the clerk at the soda fountain usually wears and the butcher always affects. It may be ornamented with a spray of flowers in crewels, done in long, irregular stitches, a fern leaf in bronze green shades, with a few white or yellow daisies, or a bit of rhyme outlined in silk being pretty. If the latter,

KNITTING BAG.

When day is fading in the sky
Then we make the needles fly,

would be appropriate. Make a bag of silk twice as deep as the cuff, turning a hem at one end and running a case for ribbons to draw. Gather the other end, and after covering a round piece of cardboard with silk neatly overcast the gathered edges to it. Slip the cuff over and fasten to the bag with herringbone stitch.



SPECTACLE CASE.

One yard of 4-inch ribbon; fringe the ends; turn just above the fringe and baste; turn one end up six inches, the other four, overcasting the edges to form pockets. Run one end through a brass crescent after having etched in irregular letters "Spectacles" on one pocket, "Eyeglasses" on the other. Finish with small plush balls or brass sequins. A pair of spectacles and eyeglasses may be etched on the pockets if preferred.

If there is a big brother who goes to evening parties or to the opera, certainly he will be pleased with a perfumed pad for the drawer in which he keeps his dress shirts, gloves and ties. If a very handsome one is desired, china silk may be used, though the best quality of cheesecloth in delicate pink or blue is extremely pretty. Measure the length of the drawer and get a half yard more than its length. Two sheets of wadding

A PERFUMED PAD.

laid on the cloth, turning in the selvages and doubling the unpadded side over brings the edges together after treating the ends the same way, some favorite perfumed powder having been sprinkled between the wadding. A piece of daisy ribbon will be wanted to tie the pad, and three yards of 2-inch ribbon the same shade for bows on the pockets. These are turned over on each end, one ten the other seven inches, for gloves and ties. Pale blue with pink is particularly pretty.

A gold colored silk one with white ribbons delighted a bride of my acquaintance.

CASE FOR WASHCLOTH AND SOAP.

Almost any little girl of ten or twelve years who is expert with her needle can make this case, with perhaps a little assistance in transferring a design to be outlined. A strip of pillowcase linen, 14 by 6 inches, one end rounded, has a simple spray of flowers on the square end not exceeding five inches in height. Line with white enameled cloth, bind with linen tape, and on the flap outline "Take me" or "I am ready," as may be preferred. A crash or linen washcloth, scalloped or fringed, with a daintily perfumed piece of soap, completes the useful and pretty trifle.

Most of my readers have doubtless seen the pretty banners that are so frequently hung on the head of the bed in guest chambers, but if not they will find pleasure in sending one to some friend recently visited, or in placing one in their own spare room. Since fresh flowers cannot always greet a friend, this pretty conceit may be substituted.

Three-eighths of a yard of sash ribbon and a brass rod are the materials needed, with a bottle of liquid silver or gold, as will compare best with the ribbon selected, and a very fine camel's hair brush. Trace these words of welcome on the ribbon, leaving sufficient margin at the top to turn under and fasten to the rings on the rod. Fringe the lower edge:

Sleep sweetly in
this quiet room,
O thou, whoe'er
thou art,
And let no mourn-
ful yesterdays
Disturb thy peace-
ful heart.

Nor let tomorrow
vex thy rest
With dreams of
coming ill,
Thy Maker is thy
changeless
friend;
His love surrounds
thee still.

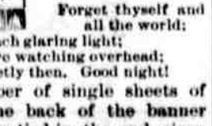
Forget thyself and
all the world;
Put out each glaring light;
The stars are watching overhead;
Sleep sweetly then. Good night!

Fasten a number of single sheets of note paper to the back of the banner with daisy ribbon tied in the end rings on the rod. On these guests will inscribe [illegible] dates of visits and any [illegible] they may wish to ex-

RIBBON CASE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS.

One and a half yards of two contrasting shades of 4-inch ribbon, one-quarter yard china silk to match either ribbon, wadding and sachet powder form this dainty case. Hem each ribbon; overcast the edges together for eighteen inches, turning up nine inches and overcasting the onter edges. Make a bag of the silk, line with wadding, perfume and slip into the ribbon bag. Fringe the ends four inches, knot once, and five inches above the margin of the bag tie a long looped bow, folding it over so the fringed ends will meet the bottom of the bag.

Another useful and pretty trifle for a spare chamber is a shoe button basket. The one illustrated is 6 inches long, 4 wide and 2 deep, lined with gray china silk and pink ribbon trimmings. Two yards of ribbon, a spool of black flax, small pair of scissors,



SHOE BUTTON BASKET.

some buttons on ribbon, a thimble and silver plated hook complete the furnishings. The scissors are tied to the end of the ribbon on which the flax is strung, bows being tied where they are fastened to opposite corners. A tiny bag of wider ribbon contains the thimble, and the buttons are secured to the fourth corner. Across the basket is laid the hook, a bow tied on the handle.

A card may be added conveying this little rhyme:

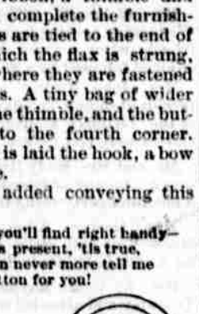
Here's something you'll find right handy—
A poor Christmas present, 'tis true,
But at least you can never more tell me
I don't care a button for you!

TRAVELING SHAWL AND WRAP CASE.

One yard of grass linen and two large bunches of star braid are wanted. Cut two circles of the linen nine inches in diameter, braid a large initial on each, or three rows of braid may be put on, beginning half an inch from the outer edge. A piece a half yard wide by three-quarters long will fit the circles, after taking hems an inch wide from the ends. Braid to match the circles, adding a small pocket to one side. Handles of doubled linen may be added, or leather handles can be bought at trifling expense. Close with buttons and button holes. Herringbone stitch may be substituted for braid.

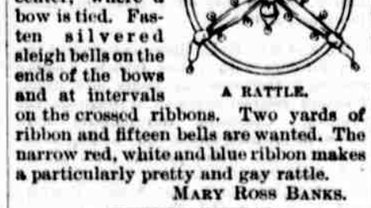
A more useful gift is hard to find, the "holding" capacity proving a charm on a family outing when numerous light wraps are wanted.

The list of gifts that a young man may offer to his young lady friend is so limited that a hint in that direction may not come amiss. Of course books and flowers are always permissible, but all girls are not "bookish," while flowers retain their beauty and sweetness so short a time after being removed from the hothouse atmosphere one scarcely feels repaid for sending a gift that will not survive the day it commemorates. No article of apparel can be offered, and "Huyler's" has ceased to be a novelty. A fan is the one article of use and adornment that can be safely offered, and to make the gift complete one of those pretty ribbon cases to be carried on the arm may accompany it. These



A RIBBON FANCASE.

are made of one and a fourth yards of ribbon wide enough to cover the fan easily, the edges overcast to within three inches of one end and six of the other ends. Cut in two lengths; fringe three inches deep. Fold over the upper ends three inches, run a case for the arm ribbon, and gather in the middle so as to form what looks very like butterflies with their wings spread for flight. Any flower design may be painted on the case. Violets on yellow, forgetmenots on pink, apple blossoms or wild roses on blue being especially pretty. Run narrow ribbons in the cases.

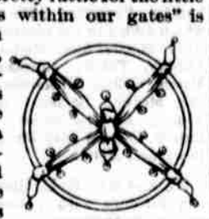


PRETTY BOOK COVER.

This is recommended for papered covered books or magazines only, the blotting paper of which it is composed being scarcely durable enough to supplant board covers.

Take a sheet of buff blotting paper and cut two pieces a trifle larger than the book it is to cover. Bind both ends and one side with brown ribbon that "shades in" with the paper, pasting it on with powdered gum tragacanth dissolved in a little cinnamon water. Cut two pieces of ribbon a fraction longer than the covers, turning down and pasting the ends to prevent fraying. Gum the unbound edges and lay on one ribbon, let it dry, then paste the other ribbon directly over the first. A sketch in sepia of a pretty spot described, a favorite passage quoted or "Old Friends Are Best Friends" on the cover will give pleasure to the owner of the treasured volume.

A simple and pretty rattle for the little "stranger that is within our gates" is made of a 7-inch embroidery hoop, wrapped in ribbon, crossed so as to meet in the center, where a bow is tied. Fasten silvered sleigh bells on the ends of the bows and at intervals on the crossed ribbons. Two yards of ribbon and fifteen bells are wanted. The narrow red, white and blue ribbon makes a particularly pretty and gay rattle.



A RATTLE.

MARY ROSS BANKS.

One Woman's Dress Album.

A dress album is now the popular fad. I saw a most interesting one lately, one that had been kept for years—long before they became fashionable. The owner is a young bookkeeper, with an artistic faculty, who is always exquisitely dressed on a most moderate salary.

Her album contains scraps of nearly every gown she has worn, from the dainty baby dresses to her latest tailor made gown.

"My grandmother taught me when I was a little thing to string pieces of my dresses together with thread and needle," she said, "and I had always kept up the custom till a few years ago, when the idea of tacking the scraps into an album came into my mind, though I had never heard of any one's doing so," and she opened a large scrap album to the first page, where are pieces of the white baby dresses, with scraps of delicate lace and embroidery.

"Of course I cannot remember these," she said. "My recollection begins with this, which was a favorite dress when a child," pointing to a pretty pink sprigged lawn.

By an odd blue and white plaid is written: "My first silk. Eighth birthday." Then follows an array of schoolgirl dresses, each labeled with some brief reminiscence or date.

One page is given up to scraps from her wardrobe when she first went to boarding school. Under a light summer silk are the words, "First trained dress." In a pale blue wool she had her "First proposal. Declined." These simple and pretty gowns culminate in scraps of india mull and lace, which bear the momentous date of "Graduation."

The explanatory notes grow in interest after this. There are ball dresses with initials of senders of bouquets; a scrap from a riding habit with initials of escort; street and house dresses with some piquant suggestion of adventure or interesting occurrence.

The dresses for a particular season are grouped together under a heading, "Summer (or winter) of 18—." Then follow the scraps with more elaborate notes. Bits of the trimming accompany each gown, with brief descriptions of the style in which it is fashioned and name of modiste.

A violet strewn lawn has the simple line: "June 15, 18—. H. L. accepted." Under a soft golden brown wool is written, "Dearest of dresses, because H—— loved it."

Then comes a page of mourning garments worn for the man whose wife she was to have been, and for the father whose dearest pleasure had been the gratification of her every wish.

The dresses became less costly after this, for she had been thrown upon her own resources, like many a petted child of luxury, and by a plain blue flannel is written, "First dress I bought with money I had earned myself." The gowns begin to be made over now. A seal brown wool trimmed with velvet appears on the next winter's page in combination with a harmonizing stripe, while the velvet is used as collar, cuffs and revers on a lavender cassimere tea gown; but the dresses are as tasteful and dainty as when hundreds of dollars were invested in them.

A cheviot dress dates from the first trip to the seashore; a pale green evening gown bears date of a grand reception, while here and there are noted names: "Wore this when introduced to Mrs. ——." "This to a Sorosis dinner." "This when C. P. R. called."

There is more than one gown by which is written the initials of some unfortunate man with the terse legend, "Rejected."

"And when will you add the wedding dress?" I asked.

"Never," she answered sadly, turning back ten years to "The dearest of dresses, because H—— loved it."

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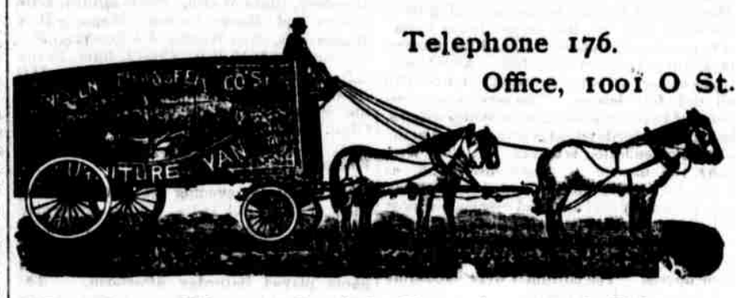

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