

A New Christmas Game.
For the benefit of those who may have become tired of the old-fashioned games usually played at Christmas we suggest the following:
Gather a party on Christmas eve, or early Christmas morning, and then hunt up a lot of poor people who have no Christmas dinner and give them one. The game can be played by any number of persons and is warranted to make more real enjoyment and merriment for all who take part in it than any other game.—New York Press.

IN THE HALL.

Hints as to the Construction and Interior Decorations.

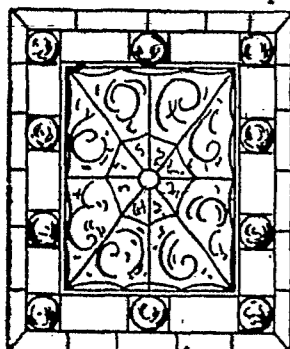
The functions of the hall of a comfortable residence are to afford access to the different parts of the house, and it may be considered the main conduit in the general system of apartments, large enough to contain the staircase, passages and furniture, etc.

It is not possible to say very much in praise of the hall in city houses; it is usually a narrow and rather dark passage to the stairway usually devoid of ornamentation or decoration. It is a matter of necessity that the stairs should be central, and the proportion of risers and treads and the lengths of each flight are to a certain extent dictated to us by their intended use, and leave little chance of variation or of altered modes of construction. Where possible the stairs should be thrown back through an arcade or bay, so as to give a pleasant background and to provide as large an inner area as possible for light and air. All such recessed treatment would give greater depth and add size and dignity to the principal feature of a good house.

If we would be genial hosts we should have our greetings echoed by appropriate surroundings.

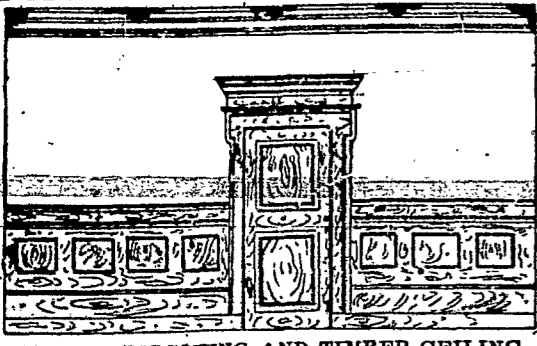
The spirit of welcome may be made to pervade the apartment in which we live if we but know how to express ourselves in the silent language of art.

For the hall, a hard wood floor is an absolute necessity; plain if our means are limited, but where it is possible let it be laid in patterns; square or other geometric figures for the center, with a richer border. Good taste would prefer that the center should be entirely of the same wood, so laid that the grain makes the pattern. The border may be designed for a combination of woods, such as oak and cherry, or oak and mahogany, maple, mahogany, sycamore, ash or Georgia pine. In laying floors in patterns it is well to choose woods which will not form too strong contrasts, such as oak and maple, oak and yellow pine, mahogany and cherry, etc. Georgia pine, being the cheapest wood, may be used in largest quantities, with a few bands of oak or cherry about the walls for a border, which seems to be a necessity, even though the same wood is used. The color of the pine is a bright yellow, and serves as a good background for rugs; but if too strong for the scheme of color adopted, it can be stained darker.



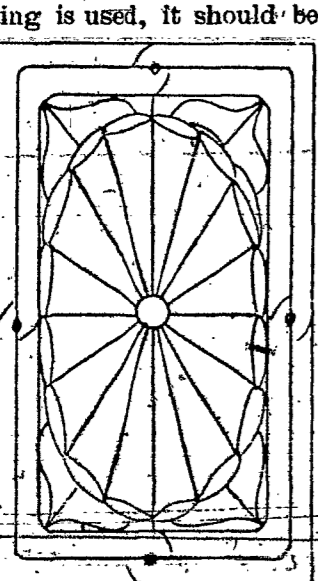
SUGGESTIONS FOR STAINED GLASS WINDOWS.

LOW WAINSCOTING AND TIMBER CEILING.
If an open fireplace is included in the contrast it should be broadly treated. We can rely only on the surface and color of its material for its beauty, or it may be richly carved. In its composition it should be simple and have few subdivisions. The shelf should be high, to contain a few large ornaments.



The hearth may be of pressed brick, or brick colored tiles, sometimes laid in herring bone, but usually in simple patterns, broad enough to receive the loose dust and ashes. The fire place should be lined on the inside with firebrick, or to have ornamental cast iron linings. Large andirons of brass or wrought iron should be used to receive the logs of wood, or basket grate for coal—whichever may be the conditions.

If a high wainscoting is used, it should be six or seven feet in height, keeping the moldings flat and using beveled panels. The entire wall surface above may be treated as a frieze. With a lower wainscot the walls should be treated differently, the divisions depending upon the proportions of the room. The ceiling should be heavily paneled, if of sufficient height. The exposed beams may be stained and carved.



SUGGESTION FOR STAINED GLASS WINDOW.

When the question of color arises we must choose a key note or stovalline tone as a con-

trust. If mahogany or cherry doors and trimmings are used, a rod of the same color should be chosen for walls, but lighter in tone. The walls are best without patterns if the last two coats of paint are stippled so as to give a dull surface. The frieze may come down to the top of the door frames and be in irregular design worked in tones of yellow. The ceiling should be treated with lines of soft red on a yellow ground, and the effect will be decorative, yet quiet and subdued.



ELEVATION OF DOORS LEADING FROM HALL TO PARLOR, WITH STAIRCASE.

If we desire a greater contrast with the same colored wood work, we may employ a yellow ground for the wall surface and cover with an all over pattern in light brown or copper bronze. The frieze may be carried over the cornice line out on the ceiling, perhaps sixteen or eighteen inches, and stop with a molding or bands of color, leaving the ceiling a lighter tone without pattern. Blue is a difficult color to manage in large quantities, and is not appropriate for the hall.

DAVID W. KING.

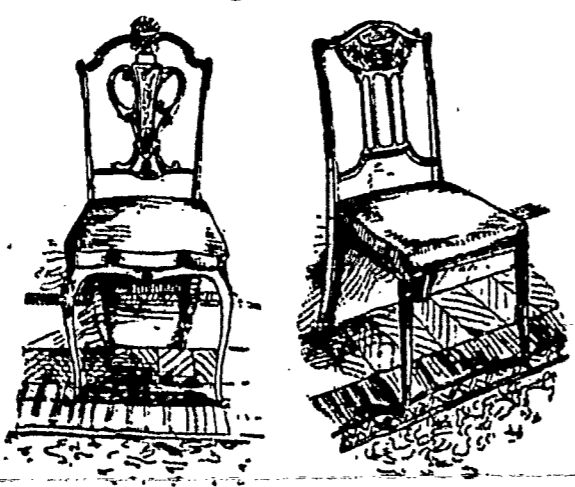
What Had Penmanship Did.

"Study penmanship, my boy, as carefully as you know how. I lost a fortune once by bad writing."

"How?"

"I loved a rich girl, and she loved me. I wrote and asked her to share my lot and she—well, she thought I asked her to shave my pate."—New York Evening Sun.

Drawing Room Chairs.



DRAWING ROOM CHAIRS.

It is particularly hard to find anything new in the way of chairs. The two accompanying designs are not at all startling in the departure from commonplace lines, but they are graceful and show some originality. That on the left of the column partakes somewhat of the French style. The center panel affords ample opportunity for lovers of marquetry work to follow their fancy.

The other chair is straighter and somewhat more substantial, but at the same time is graceful and makes a pleasing article of furniture in drawing or reception room.

Extremely So.

"I, aw, weally don't see why people awsk conundrums," said Gus de Jay. "It's weally tiahsome to be wacking young bwains to answer a question and discover that the fellow who asked it knew all about it all the time, you know."—Washington Post.

Probably.

Mrs. Carson—I don't see why Mrs. Sorrow wouldn't feel just as bad without buying and putting on that costly mourning.
Mrs. Wisdom—Probably she would feel worse.—West Shore.

Rapid Transit in New York.

A school inspector who is rather fond of finding fault with the teachers in his department was visiting one of the primary public schools, when the female teacher in charge asked a number of urchins the following question, "Now, children, if you had a boat at Buffalo, and wanted to get it out on the ocean as soon as possible, and the distance by canal to salt water was 860 miles, and by the St. Lawrence river 1,122 miles, which would be the shorter way to bring it?" The children were puzzled. This was rather irritating, in the presence of the inspector. "Why, you stupid little things," began the teacher.

"One moment, Miss B—", said the inspector rising. "I have found that teachers do not take enough pains to simplify the questions that they ask of children. It is very important, too, that analogies should be drawn from their personal experience. If more pains were taken in this respect, and an appeal made to the reason of the pupils, not only yourself, Miss B—, but a great many other teachers would succeed much better.

"Now, children, it is only two blocks to the Third avenue elevated road, but it is eight blocks to the Sixth avenue road. Now if you wanted to get to an elevated road in a hurry to which would you go?" "To the Third avenue road," shouted the children in triumph. "Certainly," said the inspector smiling, "because it is the nearer. Now then, if you had a boat at Buffalo, and wanted to reach the ocean in a hurry, which way would you take it?" The children thought a minute, and then burst out simultaneously, "By the Third avenue road!"—New York Tribune.

Made Gentle Unconsciously.

The authors of "Blessed Be Drudgery and Other Papers" relate a touching little story of how sympathy and affection sprang up in an unexpected place.

A workman in a pottery factory had one small invalid child at home. He wrought at his trade with exemplary fidelity, being always in the shop with the opening of the day. Every night he carried to the bedside of his "wee lad," as he called him, a flower, a bit of ribbon or a fragment of crimson glass, something that would lie out on the white counterpane and give color to the room.

He was a quiet, unsentimental man, and said nothing to any one about his affection for his boy. He simply went on loving him, and soon the whole shop was brought into half-conscious fellowship with him.

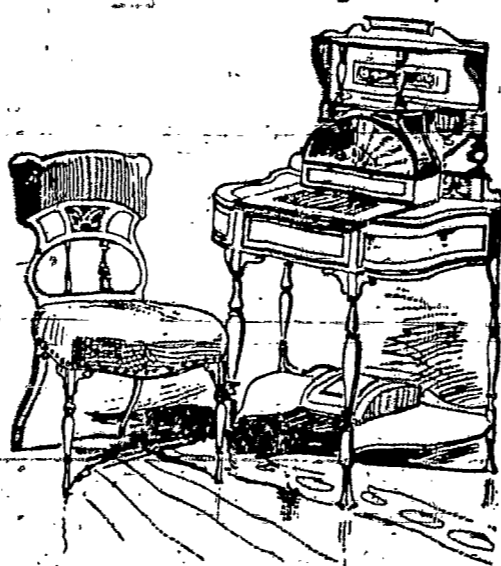
The workmen made curious little jars and cups, and painted diminutive pictures upon their sides before they struck them in the corners of the kiln at burning time. One brought some fruit and another a few engravings in a rude scrapbook. Not one of them whispered a word; this solemn thing was not to be talked about. They put the gifts in the old man's hat, where he found them; he understood all about it. Little by little all the men, of rather coarse fiber by nature, grew gentle and kind, and some dropped swearing as the weary look on their patient fellow worker's face told them beyond mistake that the inevitable shadow was drawing nearer. Every day some one did a piece of work for him and put it on the sanded bank to dry, so that he might come later and go earlier. So when the bell tolled and the little coffin came out of the lonely door, a hundred stalwart workmen from the pottery, all in their clean clothes, stood just round the corner. Most of them had given a half day's time for the privilege of following to the grave that small burden of a child, though probably not one of them had ever seen him.

Possibilities of Journalism.

Senator William Maxwell Evarts, of New York, says: When I graduated from Yale in the famous class of 1887, in which were Samuel J. Tilden, Edwards Pierpont, the late Chief Justice Waite and Professor Benjamin Silliman, the most noted of that noted family, the choice of professions was exceedingly limited as compared with that of today. I naturally commenced to canvass the profession I was to follow. Journalism was not then considered the profession it now is, and had no attractions for me. The ministry was a leading profession then as now, but it was attracting to its ranks some of the most brilliant minds of the country, and besides, I was not of a ministerial frame of mind. Medicine was such a grewsome business that I could not bring myself to consider it seriously as a life vocation, although it promised wealth and honors.

I was very favorably impressed with the life of a farmer. In fact, throughout all my life I have had a passion for farming, and I now own two large farms—one in Vermont of 1,000 acres, and one in Maryland, on the Potomac, of about the same number of acres. But when at the time I speak of I attempted to lift a barrel of apples into a wagon as a test of my physical strength, and found that I was not equal to the task, I turned my attention to the law, which I have followed for over fifty years with more or less success. I think how that if I were standing where I was fifty-three years ago, and journalism was what it now is, that I should choose as the business of my life that of a journalist. I can see in it greater possibilities than are embraced in other professions.—Washington Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A Graceful Writing Table.



WRITING TABLE.

Here is a suggestion of a lady's writing table pure and simple. The principal feature of the thing is the inclosing, by means of a fan, of the stationary cabinet on the table top. This elegant bijou contrivance forms a refreshing alternative to the oft repeated curtain element now so commonly used as a recess dust excluder. The oblong panel, just above, might consist of a Barolozi tinted print, framed in by a broad band of silk or plush. This class of treatment is now "the rage," and makes a welcome change from the beveled glass plate so frequently resorted to for this purpose.

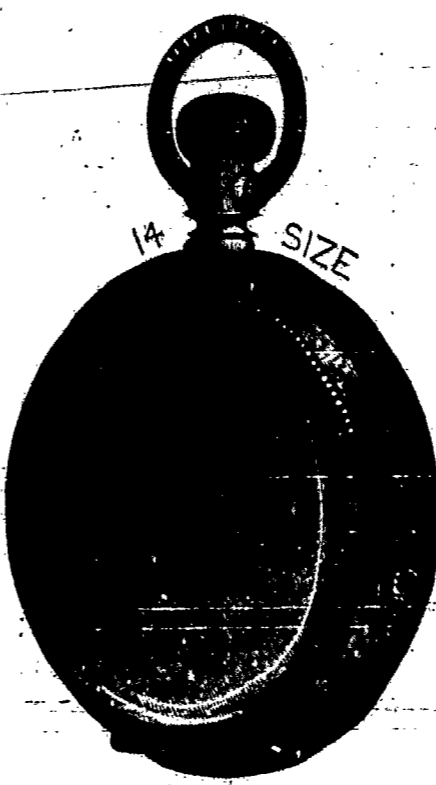
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