

THE HARVEST MOUSE.

There are very few animals among the Mammalia who venture to exert their skill upon aerial architecture. Consequently the *Harvest Mouse* is regarded with special interest; and this not only because its home is suspended above the ground in such a manner as to entitle it to the name of a true pen-sile nest, but also on account of its intrinsic beauty and elegance. The nest is generally hung to several stout grass-stems; sometimes it is fastened to wheat straws; and occasionally it is found suspended to the head of a thistle. It is a very beautiful structure, being made of narrow grasses, and woven so carefully as to form a hollow globe, rather larger than a cricket-ball, and very nearly as round. It is so firm that one of them has been rolled across the table, and yet the eight young blind mice, packed within as tight as herrings in a barrel, never rolled out. The marvel is, that unlike birds' nests it seems to have no entrance, so that how the owner of the mansion gets in and out remains a secret. We can only see the interior by breaking down the grassy walls, and then, alas! with all our bricks and mortar, and our clever hands, we could never put them up again.

The harvest mouse is an elegant little creature, its fur is about the color of the squirrel's, and so soft and thick, it feels like a little velvet cushion; it is so tiny that when full grown, it weighs scarcely more than the sixth of an ounce, and we cannot but wonder how it contrives to form so complicated an object as a hollow sphere with thin walls.

The food of the harvest mouse consists principally of insects, flies being especial favorites, although it now and

then eats nuts, and should you at some time find in the field an empty nut-shell with a cleanly cut round hole in it and all the kernel gone, you may be quite sure that the harvest mouse has been over the ground before you.

COLORS IN FURNITURE.

Blue is not advisable in rooms where hard service is expected, or much exposure to light and sun necessary. Crimson is not a serviceable color for furniture, turning gray and fading in spite of care, though crimson and maroon are admirable in carpets, holding their own against time, and hard use,

such pretty lights and reflections, or so much cheerful warmth and beauty, as one of these troublesome, monotone-shaded red ingrains. Indeed, in colors, carpets have the advantage decidedly. Take green, for instance. Green rep, which was so popular and pretty not long since, soon fades, turns rusty, dingy, gray; it is, if anything, worse than crimson; but a green carpet, particularly the olive shades, wears admirably, though changing slightly if in too strong sunlight, as all colors do, more or less.

With brown and gray the case seems reversed, since a brown carpet gets dingy, and a brown and gray one combined needs a good deal of bright color to give any air of comfort or of cheer to a room in which it is. This is not true of brown carpets, whose tones incline to butternut or maroon, but of the cool, pure browns and grays. On the contrary, chairs and sofas upholstered in brown prove the most satisfactory, perhaps, of all, since they keep warm, rich tints and mellow shadows in spite of sun and time. Gray is very lovely for furniture, but rather delicate; it is especially handsome when relieved by puffs of scarlet, crimson or blue.

A large tract of land in the delta of the Fraser river, B. C., is about to be dyked, and when completed will be equal to the famous Swinomish flats, Washington Territory. J. A. Navarre, of Victoria, B. C., is the superintendent of the work, and states that these lands are to be let or sold to any one applying for them. British Columbia offers a most excellent home market, at fair prices, for all produce. Oregon shipped about 60,000 barrels of flour to our British Columbia neighbors during 1878.



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and abuse, even, amazingly. Nevertheless, one requires much patience when she takes into her house red and black, or red and maroon carpet, for not a speck of dust, a thread of material of any color, a hair, even, can escape detection, and a broom is constantly required. The word *constantly* is used advisedly, no other suiting the emergency. Nevertheless, no carpet gives