

THE TEMPLE OF BAALBEC.

THE ruins of the ancient City of Baalbec, situated on the plain, forty-three miles northwest of Damascus, are the wonder of modern architects. The massive walls of the temple are thus described by Dr. H. M. Field in a letter to the *Evangelist*: Everything is colossal. The area is larger than that of the temple at Jerusalem. We may begin with the walls, which are half a mile around, and of such height and depth as are rarely attained in the most tremendous fortress. When from within I climbed to the top it made me giddy to look over the perilous edge to the depth below, and when from without the walls I looked up at them they rose high in air. Some of the stones seem as if they must have been reared in place, not by Titans, but by the gods. There are nine stones thirty feet long and ten feet thick, which is larger than the foundation stones of the temple at Jerusalem, dating from the time of Solomon, or any blocks in the great pyramid. But even these are pigmies compared with the three giants of the western wall—sixty-two, sixty-three and a half and sixty-four feet long! These are said to be the largest stones ever used in any construction. They weigh hundreds of tons, and instead of being merely hewn out of a quarry which might have been on the site, and left to lie where they were before, they have been lifted nineteen feet from the ground and there imbedded in the wall! Never was there such cyclopean architecture. How such enormous masses could be moved is a problem with modern engineers. Sir Charles Wilson, whom I met in Jerusalem, is at this moment in Baalbec. Standing in the grounds of the temple, he tells me that in the British Museum there is an ancient tablet which reveals the way in which such stones were moved. The mechanics were very simple. Rollers were put under them, and they were drawn up inclined planes by sheer human muscle—the united strength of great numbers of men. In the rude design on the tablet the whole scene is pictured to the eye. There are the battalions of men, hundreds to a single roller, with the taskmasters standing over them, lash in hand, which was freely applied to make them pull together, and the king sitting on high to give the signal for this putting forth of human strength *en masse*, as if an army were moving to battle. A battle it was in the waste of human life which it caused. These temples of Baalbec must have been a whole generation in building, and have consumed the population of a province and the wealth of an empire.

CANE AND PARASOL RACK.

THESE pretty, convenient racks are intended for either the dressing room or hall, and should be hung upon the wall as a receptacle for canes and sun umbrellas or parasols. The foundation is made of thin board, which can be cut by a carpenter. It is to be shaped with three large scallops at the top, gradually tapering the sides toward the bottom, where it is finished with three smaller scallops. The piece of board should then be covered smoothly with black leather and fastened with small

tacks all round the edge of the wood. It will be necessary to slightly slash the edges of the leather to make it fit smoothly over the wood. Two pockets of the same black leather are then tacked on, the edges finished with a very narrow gimp, held in place with small sized tacks. Before fastening the pockets to the back, the bottom pieces should be sewed in, first binding the edges of these semi-circles and the lower edges of the pockets. Then overhand the edges of the pockets and semi-circles together and tack to the back, as directed. Finish with gimp round the outside edges, also through the division in the pockets. The tops of the pockets should also be bound with gimp. At the top of the rack, in what may be termed the corners of the scallops at each side, two small screw rings should be securely fastened, by which to hang it against the wall. The rack is now ready for its decorations. Golden rod and purple asters form a pretty design, which can be easily painted, and contrast well with the dark leather.

WATER FROM EUCALYPTUS ROOTS.

IN many parts of Australia, where water is scarce, the natives formerly procured it from the roots of the eucalyptus and a few other trees. The tree most preferred throws out numerous lateral roots, which lie at a depth of from six to twelve inches below the surface. The native, having ascertained by means of prodding with a pointed stick or spear the position of some of the roots, removes the superincumbent soil with his wooden shovel for twenty or thirty feet, and cutting the root off at each end lifts it out of the trench and cuts it up into lengths of about eighteen inches or two feet, knocks off the bark, and stands the several portions on end in some receptacle to contain the water. As soon as these pieces are placed on end the water commences to drip, and when the whole of the root or roots are cut up and placed on end, the native, beginning at the first placed, puts the end in his mouth, and by a vigorous puff expels the remaining water. The water is beautifully clear, cool and free from any unpleasant taste or smell.

COUNTRY AND CITY LIFE.

IF the boys who are brought up in the country understood their advantages surely they would not throng to the city. The chances for wealth are as great, practically, in the country as in the city, and the expenses of living and the risks of disaster much less. The competitions of city life and the struggles to get hold of business and salaried work are fearful. No man should come to the city unless he knows what he is going to do, or has money enough in his hands to take care of himself until he gets a living position or becomes satisfied that he cannot get one. Even to-day, with the evidences of renewed prosperity all around us, there are probably ten applications on file for every desirable place, and no man living here could help a friend to a place unless he could create one. And as far as social advantages are concerned, what is there in the city that can compensate for the pure pleasures of country scenery and country life?