POPULIST'S PREPARATION.

The populist central committee met in Portland last week and fixed the time of holding their state nominating convention for March 23, 1898. The following address was also issued which is not likely to be good reading for Pennoyer & Co.:

"The state executive committee of the people's party of Oregon believe it to be for the best interests of all concerned that the following statement be now made, to the end that those of all political affiliations who have the welfare of the state at heart may not be misled in their future political actions:

"A careful investigation of the alleged 'union' party will reveal the fact that it is composed largely of self-appointed leaders and it is better calculated to disrupt than to unite the reform forces of the state, and that all who went into it from patriotic motives are being misled.

"Into one harmonious whole Mayor Pennoyer pretends to want to unite those elements that at the last election supported Mr. Bryan, and array it against all comers under the gold standard. But he insists, at the instance of Mr. Jones, national chairman of the democratic party, that this be done in the name and under the leadership of the democratic party (of which he assumes to be the head and front in Oregon). In support of this position he claims that the democratic party has abandoned its false gods, and therefore there is no logical excuse for the further existence of the people's party, either state or national.

"There can be no united action with the people's party under the banner of the democratic party and its terms of capitulation, nor under the leadership of Mr. Cooper's so-called 'union' party.

"We recommend that our precinct clubs and county conventions consider without prejudice all suggestions intended to unite the direct-legislation and free-silver voters of the state in one party, to the end that the people may have power to make the laws under which they are to live.

"We urge that club work be resumed at once, and our educational campaign be prosecuted vigorously.

"We recommend that no county nominations be made until after the state convention.

"By order of the state executive committee of the people's party of Oregon.

JOHN C. YOUNG, Chairman.
"W. S. U'Ren, Secretary.
"Portland, Dec. 11, 1897."

In the toadying of Americans to the English, it is really edifying to run across one now and then who stands up for the country and the glorious old stars and stripes. "I have 'fought, bled and died' for home and country more times than I can count since I have been here," writes Miss Lillian Bell from London to the December Ladies' Home Journal. "I ought to come home with honorable scars and the rank of field marshal, at least. I never knew how many objectional features America presented to Englishmen until I became their guest and broke bread at their tables. I cannot eat very much at their dinner parties—I am too busy thinking how to parry their attacks on my America, and especially my Chicago and my west generally. The English adore Americans, but they loathe America, and I for one, will not accept a divided allegiance. 'Love me, love my dog,' is my motto. I go home from their dinners as hungry as a wolf but covered with Victorian crosses. I am puzzled to know if they really hate Chicago more than any other spot on earth, or if they simply like to hear me fight for it, or if their manners need improving. I may myself, complain of the horrors of our filthy streets, or of the way we tear up whole blocks at once (here in London they only mend a teaspoonful of pavement at a time,) or of our beastly winds which tear your soul from your body, but I hope never to sink so low as to permit a lot of foreigners to do it. For even as a Parisian loves his Paris, and as a New Yorker loves his London, so do I love my Chicago."

Telepathy.

Miss Maud Lancaster is said to be exciting Great Britain by her seemingly marvelous powers of telepathy. She says that while walking in New York one day with a detective she started as some one passed and exclaimed, "That man has committed a murder!" The detective told her it was true; that he had killed a man, but was only condemned to a short imprisonment.

She further relates that in London a lady sent for her, stating that she thought some of her servants had stolen her jewels. They were passed in review before Miss Lancaster, but she was convinced that the thief was not among them. She says her work as a detective is done by magnetism alone. She went to the lady's boudoir and pointed at once to the drawer from which the jewels had been taken. Going into another room, she saw a man standing. She was immediately convinced that he was the thief and was about to denounce him when the lady said, "Let me introduce my husband." When he had left the room, the news was broken very quietly to the wife, who was at first very indignant. A short time afterward the man confessed that he had taken the missing gems.

She says that a murderer appears to her to be enveloped in a red mist; that if she were taken into a room where a murder had been committed the same night detection would be easy, but if many people have passed the magnetism left by the murderer would be disturbed and obliterated.—Exchange.

JOLLY LITTLE JAPS.

THE DOLLS UTILIZED FOR HOME-MADE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Ballet Dancer Shaving Paper Case That Is Just Too Cute For Anything—A Fantastic Penwiper and Blotting Pad Makes an Acceptable Gift.

As the holidays draw near there is a great demand for novelties, especially for those that can be made at home.

Two useful and dainty gifts which can be easily made by the average bright American girl are here described.

At a Japanese store, that home of pretty things within the reach of the most slender purses, can be purchased for the sum of 10 cents a lifelike little head with a fringe of wiry black hair protruding from under a paper disk. In the center of this is a hole, through which a duster is intended to be slipped, but a very fantastic penwiper and blotter combined may be readily made instead. Cut two circular pieces of chamois of two contrasting colors (every desirable shade can now be obtained in this leather; the model was made of yellow and royal purple), and, having pinked the edges, gather in a bunch from the center and fasten with a bit of wire to a burned match. Slip the match through the opening in the top of the head until it rests crosswise inside, thus fixing the penwiper firmly in place. Now cut six squares of blotting paper of the same color as the chamois and lay them alternately one on top of another; then cut a circle of chamois an inch and a half in diameter and lay in the center of the topmost piece of blotting paper. Take the head, make a hole in each side of the neck and, threading a large needle with baby ribbon, pass it from the chamois on top through the last sheet of blotting paper and then back again, this time passing through the hole in the side of the neck. Now take the two ends of the ribbon and tie first in a firm knot and then in a dainty little bow. Having made a similar bow on the other side, the novel little gift is finished. The ribbon used must of course be of the same color as the chamois.

Another pretty present is a Japanese ballet dancer shaving paper case. An ordinary Japanese doll about ten inches high is used for this novel little dancer. Having disrobed the victim of its native gown, proceed to array it in crape tissue paper. The one in question was dressed in light blue, the ribbon used being black. The trousers, which reach just to the end of the unsightly brown muslin and the beginning of the pink knee, are cut from an oblong piece of tissue paper, sewed up the center and shirred at the bottom of each leg to form a ruffle. A waist is cut from a straight piece with two holes cut for the arms, into which is sewed a plain straight sleeve shirred at the end to form a ruffle. This is creased around the center to make the wheellike effect shown in the illustration. The waist is then shirred around the neck about half an inch from the top to form a ruffled collar. For the skirt cut 20 circles about 4½ inches in diameter and notch their edges, fold in half and then again in quarters without creasing them. Thread these through the pointed end on a strong piece of linen cord and, tying the cord tightly round the waist of the doll, push the frills until they stand out evenly all around. A ribbon is then passed round the waist, crossed in front,

then in the back and is tied in a bow in the center. A loop of the ribbon is then sewed to the crosspiece by which to hang it up.

Hand Painted Presents.

How many exquisite little holiday gifts one can prepare if she can paint! A fancy greatly appreciated by one who cannot paint is this: Take a satin ribbon from three to four inches wide, have it long enough to tie in a handsome bow, fringe the ends and then above this paint a tasteful design. Flowers are perhaps prettier than anything else, but I saw one with a tiny landscape painted upon it with such delicate touches that it was lovely. These bows are to be used as adornments for sofa arms or backs or to put upon the left hand corner of a chair back.

Another article upon which the brush may be used to advantage is the covering of a fine needle-pillow. The latest novelty in shape is that of a muff, half the cover to be of pale pink, the other half of pale green. The ends were tied with bows of pink and green ribbons. The decoration was a branch of pine.

HOLIDAY SUGGESTIONS.

Two Neat Christmas Presents That Can Be Made by Hand.

Among homemade Christmas presents a set of envelopes for interesting clippings can be made as elaborate as

one wishes. The essentials are to take long envelopes and label them for the various purposes for which they are intended. For instance, one set contains one envelope each for clippings relating to politics, medicine, society, stocks, religion, poetry, celebrities and college news. Such a set should be a very nice present for a sister to give a brother who was prominent in college journalism. Just the bare envelopes tied together with the college colors would suffice, but to make the set more fanciful take some chamois skin and cut it large enough to form a sort of book cover for the envelopes, decorate it if possible, but if not simply print the word clippings in gilt letters on the back. Then lay the envelopes together and punch two holes about 2½ inches apart, make holes in the chamois cover to correspond and run ribbons through envelopes and cover to tie them together.

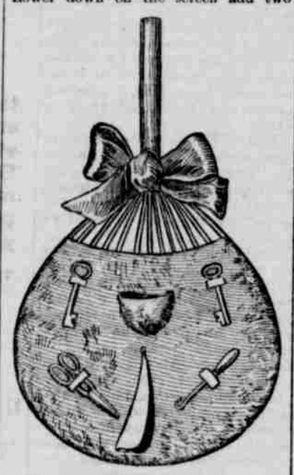
Another fancy made after the same fashion is a number of decorated cards tied together in a book. The cards are long and tied at the ends. The outside card is decorated with clover blossoms and labeled in gilt letters, "Baby's Progress." The next leaf has "Baby's Birthday," next "Baby's Name," next "Baby's Weight," with spaces for weight at birth, at one month, at two months, at six months, etc.; next, "What Baby First Said," and last, "When Baby First Walked," with tiny shoes and slippers for decoration at the foot of the page. This, of course, would be a dainty gift for the fond young mother from her sister or dear friend. These, however, involve some skill in painting and are of no use to the ordinary mortal whose birth was not recognized by the color muse.

A FAN FANCY.

A Pretty Homemade Christmas Present For Mother or Sister.

The omnipresent fan is pressed into a variety of uses. One is to lay flat in the drawer as a scent bag, having wadding and a tangle of lace focused by a knot of ribbon or flowers as a wall pocket for photographs.

There is a not half bad one, as the Scotch say, used to hold toilet odds and ends when one has not the rich morocco case. Cut a piece of stiff card the exact size of the blade of the fan, cover it with chintz or plush and cut a little shield shaped pocket for the watch. Lower down on the screen add two



small straps of plush to hold scissors and button hook. Three or four small hooks sewed to the cardboard in convenient places serve to hang keys, shoehorns, etc. Cover the fan on one side with silk, lay the plush side on the screen and sew the two together. Add a cord all around to hide the joints and a "natty" little bow of ribbon to hang it up by.

A fan so decorated makes an appropriate Christmas present for mother or sister.

PARIS FIREMEN AT WORK.

They Go to the Fire Deliberately, but Are Active When There.

The strength of the French buildings, the uninflammable nature of their partitions, their hardwood floorings and the scantiness of the furnishings, to say nothing of the comparatively slight use of fire for household purposes, have generally kept Paris quite free from catastrophies due to fires, and at the same time have left the firemen seriously handicapped when it is a question of dealing with a serious conflagration.

A correspondent of the Boston Transcript, who saw a fire in Paris a few years ago, relates that while strolling along one of the principal streets leading from the river up to the central line of boulevards his attention was caught by a commotion in a building just across the street. Smoke was rolling out of the windows of the third story, and busy hands were visible throwing items of household use out of the windows with that lack of discretion so prevalent among the savers of material at fires. Chairs and tables, a long legged stool and items of bric-a-brac were saved from the flames only to meet a quicker and more certain destruction on the hard asphalt pavement. In the attic window there was a woman screaming, although it proved afterward she was quite as free from actual danger as if on the sidewalk below. A small crowd gathered and some one said, "They have sent for the firemen." The household goods were taken down in a desultory way and the woman au seizieme continued her screams.

In just 15 minutes the engine arrived. It was such a one as may be seen today at a muster in New Hampshire. It was gently led up the street by its cords and set in position beneath the windows, from which the smoke was still slowly coming forth. The firemen, who are sappers and miners in the French army, were dressed in uniform, each with a leather helmet on his head, and most of them with the short hooked climbing ladder in hand, of a form not unlike that now used by us. If the previous proceedings had been deliberate, all that was changed now. Like so many monkeys the firemen climbed from balcony to balcony, running up their little ladders, so that in a moment the whole front of the building was alive with men. Half a dozen were on the floor of the fire, tumbling in at the windows, but the conflagration had been too quick for them. It had devoured all that was combustible at hand and was truly in a dying condition. It did not need the services of the little engine, for the firemen, scraping together what little there was left of its embers in some kind of scoop, dropped it in a mass after the furniture and other goods. Two brave fellows, climbing to the gutter, rescued the screaming woman, who throughout all that interval had not ceased to make known her distress, and deposited her head first through the window of an adjoining house, and thus closed the little episode.

Genius is only great patience.—Buffon.

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The democratic state papers seem to be much disturbed about republican harmony. They are awfully afraid there wont be any row at election time.—Observer.

BIRCH BARK WASTEBASKET.

Hint For a Pretty and Novel Christmas Gift.

Many people carry home from their summer outing pieces of birch bark which they have stripped from the glistening trees during long walks in the country. Here is a pretty way to utilize it:

A good sized piece is needed to make a waste basket—although smaller ones are pretty to hold grasses—one that has been stripped unbroken from the tree. Make a cylindrical foundation of very heavy cardboard just the size of the bark. Line it with a pretty colored sateen. Cover the outside with the bark. Cut a circle of the cardboard to fit the base of the basket. Cover one side with sateen wadded with cotton, the other with birch bark, and, placing the sateen lining inside, overhand it with strong linen thread to the part of the basket already made. The ribbon which ornaments the top is slipped between the

lining and the birch bark and sewed in place with silk of the same color. It is then left to hang over the edge—one long, one short alternately. The end of each ribbon is folded to a point and is tipped with a tiny silvered bell.

A russet red or any color suggestive of autumn leaves or else a pale green or light blue harmonizes well with the silver gray of the birch.

PRETTY CHRISTMAS GIFT.

Chafing Dish Recipe Book That Is Useful and Ornamental.

A very useful Christmas gift for a friend who owns a chafing dish is a little recipe book filled with directions for savory dishes that can be easily made in that ever ready little cooking utensil. The covers are made of heavy brown linen with a suitable design

drawn with brown etching ink or worked in brown linen thread on the front cover. Inside are a dozen leaves of strong linen paper, on which are written in brown ink recipes for Welsh rarebit, creamed oysters, omelets and every imaginable concoction that can be made in a chafing dish. There are so many now to be found in the newspapers—some of them the work of the best cooks—that it is very easy to gather enough to fill the book. A few pages should be left blank for the recipient to write now or favorite recipes. The writing should, of course, be very clear and distinct.

Sending Christmas Presents.

A word about the manner of sending a Christmas gift. A dainty wrapping will give a holiday air and the little remembrance, that will add greatly to its value. The prettiest way to dress a Christmas gift and those that savors most of sleighbells and freshly fallen snow is to wrap the package in glistening white French tissue paper and tie with silver cord or scarlet ribbon, slipping a bit of crisp holly or mistletoe through the knot and then fastening in a bow. Natural flowers are also used. For example, a dainty box containing a gift for a tiny child is wrapped in snowy paper and tied with white satin ribbon of the narrowest width, through which is thrust a bunch of tiny rosebuds, their ends just turning pink. In using flowers their color should always follow the color scheme of the gift as far as possible.

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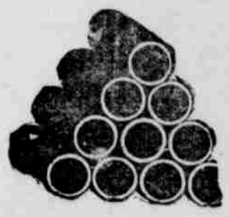

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