

## ORNAMENTAL TOBACCO BOX.

As ornamentation is one of the departments included in the plan of THE ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE OF ART, we cannot do wrong in calling the attention of our readers to the beautiful specimen of ornamental work which adorns this page. It is a snuff-box executed by Avisseau, the celebrated enamel worker at Tours, an artist who is described by one of his countrymen as a second Bernard Palissy. No greater honour could be conferred upon him than to give him this distinguished title, but the specimen of his workmanship here exhibited

as it may, there can be no question that it is a beautiful work of art—at once a gem and a picture—rich, but not overloaded with decoration, elegant, and finished. It represents the hollow trunk of an old tree amid a mass of rocks, and twined around with ferns and climbing plants. An adder, coiled about it, is on the watch for a frog upon the lid. Lizards crawl about here and there, showing their heads from the various crevices. On the right and left hand are two stone tablets, one of which contains a drawing of a peasant



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goes far to prove that it is not at all more than he fairly deserves. It is one of his most recent *chefs-d'œuvre*, and is rendered by our artist with great fidelity and perfection. The reader might be puzzled to know what it was, if he had not the assistance of the title. From that, however, he will learn that it is nominally a tobacco box or pot, though of course hardly likely to be really employed as such. Indeed we can easily imagine that, to many of our readers—especially those of the gentler sex—it would seem a shameful profanation to apply it to any “such base uses.” Be that

of Brittany smoking his pipe, and the other the arms of Tourraine and Brittany. Inside the lid there is the following inscription, “A M. PITRE-CHEVALIER, AVISSEAU PERE ET FILS, 1851.” This inscription, with the tablets, explains the nature and object of the beautiful production. It symbolises the union of Tourraine and Brittany, literature and art; Avisseau being an artist of Tourraine, and M. Chevalier, to whom it was presented, a distinguished author, who has written a work upon the history of Ancient and Modern Brittany.