

When in the year 1830 the ladies of England desired to offer a tribute of admiration and devotion to that "hero of great renown, Lord Nelson," the chosen medium was a superb service of China, the best that could be produced at the Worcester Works. The Empress Catherine II. of Russia, a great patroness of the ceramic art, had a remarkable service of Wedgwood ware made for the prince near St. Petersburg. The cost of it exceeded £515,000. On completion, in 1774, it was exhibited in Portland House, London, before being despatched to Russia. And now, after near a century and a half, portions of that service have been gathered from the palaces of the Czar, and are once more being exhibited in England's capital, to the admiring eyes of Collectors and Connoisseurs of both Hemispheres. These are but instances taken at random as indicating the tastes of the people of different nationalities. Many more such examples could easily be cited. It is not, therefore, surprising to read of Charles Lamb that, when visiting among people of distinction, he was always eager to see *first* the collection of old China, and *afterwards his attention was given to the pictures*; and the writer recalls the memory of an old friend in England, who used to aver that he derived more real pleasure from the specimens of Porcelain which he possessed than from the contemplation of the finest scenery in Europe. These are certainly extreme cases, of which we cannot wisely say "please copy."