

when we design our ornament from natural types, we must entirely omit all shadows. Nature changes the direction of her shadows every hour. How absurd is it to see in our room, natural shadows cast in one direction and the artificial ones on our carpet taking a totally different line.

I produce two specimens of Indianbead work, the one the work of the Indians at Caughnawaga, the other the production of the Micmacks at Nova Scotia. How infinitely superior in design is the latter one. Now notice the reason. The one has shadows, the other has not. In one, nature is poorly imitated, in the other, cleverly conventionalized. An art for which I own to little sympathy, is that of the grainer and marbler. I do not love imitations of things too expensive for me to buy. If I cannot afford a walnut bureau, I will do with a pine one, only I will not grain my pine one to imitate walnut. Why should my poverty try to tell a lie. My wife shall never wear sham jewellery, neither shall my furniture.

The other day a friend told me of a remarkably cheap purchase that he had made—a glass candlestick for twelve cents; and yet I never saw a more ambitious design than this cheap production. Here it is—a transparent and very rampant dolphin, in the painful attitude of supporting a long Belmont sperm on the tip of his tail. For not one cent more cost, the manufacturer might have given us a really elegant design. Here is another candlestick of earthenware, which only cost a quarter dollar, and yet I have seen many a candlestick of massive plate of far less pleasing form than this very simple and appropriate one. All cheap things should have the modesty to appear simple, and if so, they will never be displeasing.

I cannot help saying a few words about taste in color as applied to furniture; and here let us take a lesson from the fair sex. A lady wearing a red dress, does not match it with a red bonnet on her head. Far from it. She chooses a color which will both harmonise and contrast with it. And so should we dress our house. I do not know who first invented the system of having everything to match. Our paper is green, therefore our chairs must be green, our curtains green, our carpet green. This is a great mistake. Art is most displayed in the harmony and contrast of colors. Without taking up your time by going into much detail with regard to laws of color, allow me to state that every color has its complement or neutralizing color. Nature will teach us a lesson in this respect. Take a sheet of white paper and place on its centre a red wafer. In a strong light gaze fixedly on that red spot, for about two min-