only, never by the eye ; all our notions of things being ostensibly
derived from verbal description, not from sight.   .   .   .

Even as the matter stands, you will find, that the knowledge,
which a boy is supposed to receive from verbal description is only
available to him, so far as, in any underhand way, he gets a sight of
the thing you are talking about.

I remember well that, for many years the only notion I had of
the look of a Greek Knight, was complicated between recollection
of a small engraving in my copy of Pope's Homer and a reverent
study of the Horse Guards.   And though, I believe that most boys
collect their ideas from more varied sources, and arrange them more
carefully than I did, still, whatever sources they seek, must always
be ocular : if they are clever boys, they will go and look at the
Greek vases and sculptures in the British Museum, and at the
weapons in our armories, they will see what real armour is like in
lustre, and what Greek armour was like in form, and so put a fairly
true image together, but still not, in ordinary cases, a very living
or interesting one.

ANIMATED HISTORY TAUGHT BY MEANS OF DECORATIVE PAINTINGS AND PICTURES.

Now the use of your decorative painting would be, in myriads of
ways, to animate their history for them, and to put the living aspect
of past things before their eyes as faithfully as intelligent invention
can ; so that the master shall have nothing to do but once to point
to the School-room walls, and forever afterward the meaning of any
word would be fixed in the boy's mind in the best possible way.

Is it a question of classical dress ?—what a tunic was like, or a
chlamys, or a peplus ?   At this day, you have to point to some vile
wood-cut, in the middle of a dictionary page, representing the thing
hung upon a stick ; but then, you would point to a hundred figures,
wearing the actual dress, in its fiery colors, in all actions of various
stateliness or strength ; you would understand at once how it fell
around the people's limbs as they stood, how it drifted from their