

The reflexion in a mirror, though it renders the object before it in some ways more perfectly than any painting, lacks the very quality which makes art valuable. This quality is the added bias or emotion of the human observer. In any original work, there it must be whether given consciously or not. It is this which explains the place which mere mechanical reproduction must ever hold. It is the mental emphasis, through which the peculiarities of personal feeling operate, which have given and ever must give art its real value and significance.

This, though it accounts for the fact, that great merits are often accompanied by great incompleteness in some respects, by no means renders it probable that we shall find a mind capable of producing art of any value, content to work with any less than the best expressing power possible under the conditions in which it finds itself.

In the case of Angelico we have a sincere and noble mind, which, in its day of pupilage, accepted the best which circumstance afforded towards the acquisition of expressive power in art. If greater accuracy of design and modelling, if the study of chiaroscuro had in his youth been the heritage of art, no doubt his candid nature would have been the last to shirk their study. Instead of being an unteachable man, who did not wish to enlarge his powers of expression, the very reverse is the fact. Witness the enlargement of his style after going to Rome, from the probably unconscious influence of classic art. Indeed, it is by no means to be supposed that the ideas of Angelico with regard to the direct inspiration of his work prevented the artistic instinct within him from bearing fruit in a steady advance of technical power. With all this it must be admitted that he was not identified with the great naturalistic revival of his time. This Massaccio led. In the first place, however, Angelico belonged by all his traditions and affections, as well as by actual date, to a somewhat earlier period. The men of the newer school kept themselves braced to such constant intellectual effort that the whole mind and life must have been thus occupied. The religious sentiments