

I should be sorry to be discussing the subject from a merely monetary view-point. Yet it may fittingly be observed here that a good collection, judiciously made, is in the nature of a sound investment for the future. The tendency from one decade to another is towards higher values. The Ceramic treasures acquired in their early life by the elders of to-day have in most cases more than quadrupled in value. And from year to year the trend is in the same direction. Our purely modern products, which fail to express the individuality or some master-mind or the work of some master-hand, will not in the nature of things augment materially in value. A well-known art critic unhesitatingly affirms that both in the design and in the decoration, English Porcelain has, for some time, remained outside the art movement of the day, though he claims a good record on behalf of two or three continental factories, notably those of Copenhagen and Sèvres. It cannot be denied that modern Worcester, termed "Royal," and modern Derby, designated "Royal Crown," entirely fail to captivate the artistic sense of the connoisseur in Ceramics; and the best of their pieces will doubtless be put in a third class by the discriminating collectors of fifty years hence. But the pieces of a former day, which express the creative art and intellect of real craftsmen, cannot deteriorate in worth, but must steadily rise higher in the scale, and to such advancement there is practically no limit.