

be the men and women of the next generation. They think, no doubt, that it is for the benefit of those children that they continue to economize and toil; but a few moments' reflection would show that the foundation of all education is laid at the home of our childhood. With the perceptions of order, symmetry, and beauty, awakens the desire for possessions, and with them comes that refinement of manners which distinguishes a civilized from a coarse and brutal people. And as the first perception of order and beauty is awakened in most minds by external objects, a comfortable and attractive home has an important bearing on education and refinement.

Like a strong anchor, the mere sentiment of home has saved many a man from shipwreck.

Then, how necessary does it become, for a thinking moral people, to throw every attraction around their home that their means will allow. In this view, the adornment of the Homestead has social and moral influences far beyond the mere gratification of the eye, or the consideration of dollars and cents.

The desire to surround ourselves with the higher sources of enjoyment, rather than be content with mere utility is to acknowledge the existence of a sentiment, which, next to a religious one is the purest and noblest part of our nature. A man's dwelling, to a certain extent, may be regarded as a type of his character, and in the aggregate the appearance of the houses, as an index of the people.

Ranlett, in his work on Architecture, observes that, "The house proper deserves more care and calculation, in its structure, than a packing box. It is the case in which a man places the objects which are dearest to him; in which he shuts himself from the world to enjoy that portion of it which he can call his own; it is his sanctuary in the time of trouble, his retreat from oppression, the scene of his struggle for life, and the last glimpse of the world."

Doubtless many persons are deterred from endeavouring to render their homes attractive, by fear of its involving a large outlay of money. To a certain extent this need not be the case—

taste and judgment will point out many additions and ornaments that can be had, which cost but a trifle, or a few hours' labour.

The effects of vines, evergreens, and shade trees are not sufficiently appreciated.—Three-fourths of the cottages that have endeared themselves to the hearts of true poets and lovers of nature, have owed their charms to the trees and shrubs and vines with which they were embowered. It is the rural character imparted by this drapery that wins the affections.

Associations of refinement, grace, and beauty, are connected with the occupation of a cottage, where

"Across the porch, thick jessamines
twine,
And in the garden, myrtles blossom."

A row of evergreens judiciously placed might hide an unsightly object from the view. But nothing can compensate for the want of shade trees around a country house.

In lieu of enclosing the door yard and adjoining field with the ordinary worm fence, how much better it would be to have a hedge—a plain paling—a rough board, or even a post and rail fence. Such additions as these, costing little but time, would entirely change the aspect and throw a charm around many a place that now looks cold and desolate. Something of a love for the beautiful is always suggested by a vine covered cottage, because mere utility would never lead any one to adorn their residence.

A house may be compared to a woman. A great deal of money might be expended in rich dressing, which would add, if properly applied to the attractions suited to the taste of some persons, but when neatly and tastily dressed with well fitting garments, there is a charm that all will acknowledge; and to carry the simile a step further, if slovenly dressed, a dislike is sure to be produced.

There is a misapprehension of the requisites of beauty in a dwelling; most persons think to embellish a house would be very expensive—this need not be the case. An expression of beauty can be given to the simplest farm house. Even a common log house may be made attractive.