

knotty bumps. A badly hanging dress must not be portraited just as it is. Something can be done, by judicious arrangement, to hide the defects, and to hide the infirmities. How is this to be done? To begin, then, let us describe our mode of making a portrait.

Our sitter having arrived, we instantly enter into conversation with him. Interest him, if possible, on some subject, if it should be only the weather. A judicious Photographer will not be long in finding out some subject on which his sitter can talk. With the mother, *the children*; the young of both sexes, *the news of the day*; with children, games or a story, however simple; the farmer, the crops or the markets. The merchant will be willing to hear even your opinion of the prospects of trade, and to enlighten your ignorance.

Carefully note the play of features. Every man or woman has a good aspect, a pleasant side if you can only get to see it. Never be content till you have seen their best face. If in the studio, notice the effect of light on the features. Classify your sitters, 1st, as to their features, colour of the eye, blue, grey or dark, deep set eye, full eye; overhanging brows or the opposite; the bridge of the nose high or not; sharp features or flat face; large nose, small nose, smooth face, clear skin, or deeply lined and strongly marked. All these things you can learn almost at a glance, and retain in your memory, if you accustom yourself to the practice.

Having ascertained all these primary notes (let me call them); and if you have not been in the habit of studying them, make a few notes of them, when talking, before you proceed further; but above all get into the habit of carefully summing up your sitter, whilst holding him in converse, before proceeding a step further; then arrange, in your own mind, the pose you think will be most suitable for your sitter—standing or sitting, full length or half length. Already, I think I hear some one say, I could not remember half the things you mention, nor do I think you could do it either. Gentle reader, sometimes we confess we forget. Sorry are we, we often fail to please ourselves; but nevertheless we hold a great deal can be done in this way, and in a few brief moments. We are at a loss how best to continue our subject, it is so voluminous, and many sided, but at random, let us begin by tabulating our opinions in as few lines as possible. A blue eye requires short lighting. Do you understand us? Your top and side light must not be very far in advance of the sitter; the light must not enter at a long angle. A dark eye