

ON THE VALUE OF AN ARTISTIC OFFICE.



A View of One of the Most Artistically Furnished Private Offices in North America.

At the very start the BLUENOSE announced that it would endeavour to keep before its readers the part that good taste plays in progress. Advancement is always accompanied by an improvement in the appearance and artistic arrangements of things. We say it is accompanied—it would not be incorrect to say that the effort to improve appearances in things in and out of doors is a movement that stimulates the doer to action that brings progress in its train. The man who has fine taste and an eye to art and beauty in whatever he does is the progressive man, for he has the idea of finish, and nothing is complete without finish. It is because we have observed these things in all phases of life that we desire to inculcate the doctrine of taste in development. We have seen it illustrated in the neighboring republic, and at times are inclined to be jealous of our neighbors—a jealousy which prompts us to do what we can to encourage Bluenose people to exercise themselves more in this way.

To-day we wish to take up a phase of good taste in development that will appeal particularly to men, because it is a fact that good taste in furnishing offices and business premises is not a strong point in Nova Scotia. We believe that a man's office should be not less comfortable and cheerful than his home. Yet in this province it will be found that perhaps 90 per cent of the places wherein business men spend the greater part of their lives are not fitted up with regard to the occupant's comfort. The average man has only one idea, which is that he is in his

office to make money; he doesn't reflect that if he were to *spend* money on decorating and making it cheerful, there would be an influence working upon him as *he* works to prolong his days and make him more progressive and more prosperous. We wish to show that "any old thing" will not do. We want to impress upon our readers that the very best a man can afford is none too good. We endeavor to establish the principle, so to speak, that good taste in fitting up an office plays an important part in the owner's progress.

To commence with, we know of no better way in which to draw the readers at-

tention to this subject and keep it there with intensity, than to show what a model business office looks like. The engravings, then, that we present on this page, are two views of what is believed to be one of the most artistically furnished private offices in North America. The photographs need not to be examined very closely to reveal to the reader that they are elegant. If they could be seen as they are in reality, it would be evident that the furnishings have been selected with a view to the most artistic effects and the preservation of harmony. Eyes wearied by the travesties on the art of arrangement so frequently met with in offices may here find rest and positive enjoyment. The paintings, drawings and lithographs that adorn the walls are charming individually and alluring collectively; while the entire scheme of disposition and coloring has been carried out to the best possible advantage. This, in a few words, is a description of what an office *might* be even in Nova Scotia.

After examining the engravings many readers will exclaim that the expense of fitting up an office on so grand a scale would be too great for anyone in a small community in Nova Scotia—too great, perhaps, for most business men in Halifax. In the first place let us say that the expense would *not* be too great if men would look at it in the truly economic light. In the second place it is a standard to aim at, and if for any it is too high, they will not suffer in attaining as near to it as possible.

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Another View of the Office.