

Scene in Shaker

What the House Must Give to My Home



lot of morning sunshine through windows large enough to empty all the darkness.

Cozy nooks collecting just enough of shadow to give the sunshine plenty to do and make it glad to stay.

Spaciousness enough to be luxurious, yet so intimate that hominess completely permeates it.

Dignity enough in its appointments to make us proud of it; yet such freedom from formality that friends are eager to come and loth to leave.

Enough of lazy comfort to make us glad the day's work was hard.

Mother's room, Dad's den; where we may slip away to think and so readjust ourselves that we give our best to all the others. Rooms for the children that give the joy of ownership; where the whimsies of developing age may be recorded with relics which will bind memory for life to the home of childhood.

Just room enough outside to avert envy and to gladden the passer-by with the greetings of verdure and flowers.

And trees—may fortune be kind and give us trees. Not so many that they hide from sight the busy street; but just enough to filter the sunshine and afford a harbor for the homes of birds and safe shelter for their broods.

Home is more than a house, even as character is more than a beautiful face. Yet, even as character may combine with personal grace, so may my house have symmetry, convenience and charm which shall be so invested with our home-spirit that all may say, "Here is the home of a happy family."

The Van Boweringen Company

From a 1923 marketing pamphlet for Shaker homes, courtesy the Shaker Historical Society and Museum.