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978-1-108-07534-3 - Hints on Household Taste in Furniture, Upholstery,  
and Other Details

Charles Locke Eastlake

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### **Hints on Household Taste in Furniture, Upholstery, and Other Details**

Later recognised for his work in interior and furniture design, Charles Locke Eastlake (1833–1906) had shown early promise in making architectural drawings, and he was awarded a silver medal in 1854 by the Royal Academy. His passion for Gothic style developed during a tour of Europe in the late 1850s, and his *History of the Gothic Revival* (1872) is also reissued in this series. Focusing on interior design, the present work was published in 1868 and influenced the style of later nineteenth-century 'Modern Gothic' furniture. It contains many illustrations of Eastlake's own designs for furniture, tiles and wallpaper, including colour plates which can be viewed online at [www.cambridge.org/9781108075343](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108075343). The book moves from the street into the home and then from room to room, finishing with chapters on crockery, cutlery, glassware, and dress and jewellery. It gives a fascinating insight into the late Victorian taste for the medieval, also fostered by the Arts and Crafts movement.

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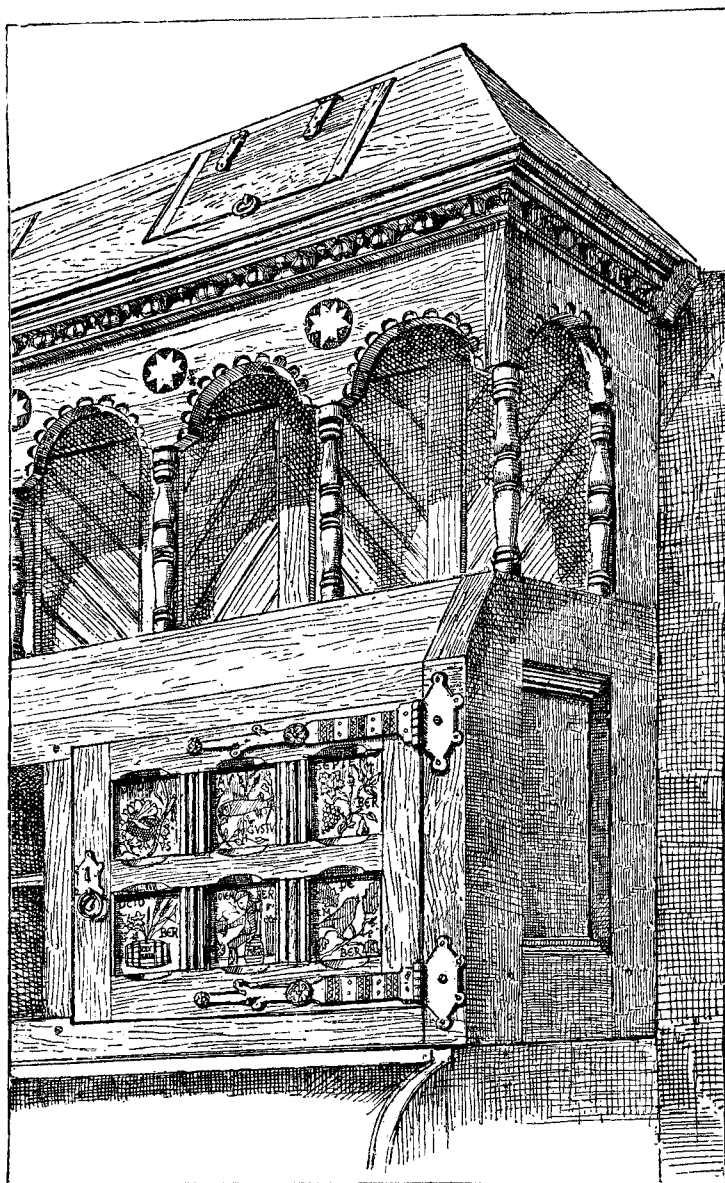
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I.



*Portion of a Cabinet,  
executed from a Design by Charles L. Eastlake.*



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HINTS  
ON  
HOUSEHOLD TASTE  
IN  
FURNITURE, UPHOLSTERY  
AND OTHER DETAILS

BY  
CHARLES L. EASTLAKE  
ARCHITECT

‘Parmi ces splendeurs à bon marché, ce faux goût et ce faux luxe, nous sommes ravis quand nous trouvons un banc bien fait, une bonne table de chêne portant d’aplomb sur ses pieds, des rideaux de laine qui paraissent être en laine, une chaise commode et solide, une armoire qui s’ouvre et se ferme bien, nous montrant en dedans et en dehors le bois dont elle est faite, et laissant deviner son usage. Espérons un retour vers ces idées saines, et qu’en fait de mobilier, comme en toute chose, on en viendra à comprendre que le goût consiste à paraître ce que l’on est et non ce que l’on voudrait être’

VIOLETT-LE-DUC

LONDON  
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1868

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## P R E F A C E.



A FEW LINES in explanation of the object and origin of this book may not be out of place by way of preface to its contents.

Some time ago a little essay of mine on ‘The Fashion of Furniture,’ which appeared in the ‘Cornhill Magazine,’ led to my being invited by the Editor of ‘The Queen’ to write for that journal a series of articles on the same subject. Those articles, combined with others recently contributed to the ‘London Review,’ have formed, after considerable revision and additions, material for the present volume.

The illustrations, which did not appear with the original text, are, with a few exceptions (for

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which I am chiefly indebted to the assistance of Mr. H. W. Brewer and Mr. E. J. Tarver), either drawn on wood by myself, or engraved, by Mr. C. Hancock's photographic process, from my sketches—roughly executed, I fear, in some instances, but sufficiently accurate, I hope, to illustrate the character of design which I advocate.

I could have wished to add to their number, but this was impossible without materially increasing the cost of my book, and thus to some extent interfering with its object, which is, in a word, to suggest some fixed principles of taste for the popular guidance of those who are not accustomed to hear such principles defined.

For, though the question of style and design in art-manufacture has been from time to time treated in various works after a technical, a metaphysical, and an historical fashion, I am not aware that it has yet been discussed in a manner sufficiently practical and familiar to ensure the attention of the general public, without whose support, as every artist knows, all attempts in the direction of æsthetical reform are hopeless.

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*Preface.*

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It is to supply this deficiency that my ‘Hints on Household ‘Taste’ are published: and if the *virtuoso* should find them wanting in antiquarian research, the scientific man in technical information, and the sentimentalist in the poetry of art—it must be remembered that I have neither desired nor attempted in the following pages to do more than show my readers how they may furnish their houses with a sense of the picturesque which shall not interfere with modern notions of comfort and convenience.

CHARLES L. EASTLAKE.

6 UPPER BERKELEY STREET WEST,  
HYDE PARK, W.

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