

**I**T is better to be a crystal and be broken  
Than to remain whole, a mere tile upon a  
house-top. — *From the Chinese*

**N**OW that which is inevitable in the work has a higher charm than individual talent can ever give, inasmuch as the artist's pen or chisel seems to have been held and guided by a gigantic hand to inscribe a line in the history of the human race. This circumstance gives a value to the Egyptian hieroglyphics, to the Indian, Chinese, and Mexican idols, however gross and shapeless. They denote the height of the human soul in that hour, and were not fantastic, but sprung from a necessity as deep as the world. Shall I now add, that the whole extant product of the plastic arts has herein its highest value, as history; as a stroke drawn in the product of that fate, perfect and beautiful, according to whose ordinations all beings advance to their beatitude? — *Emerson*