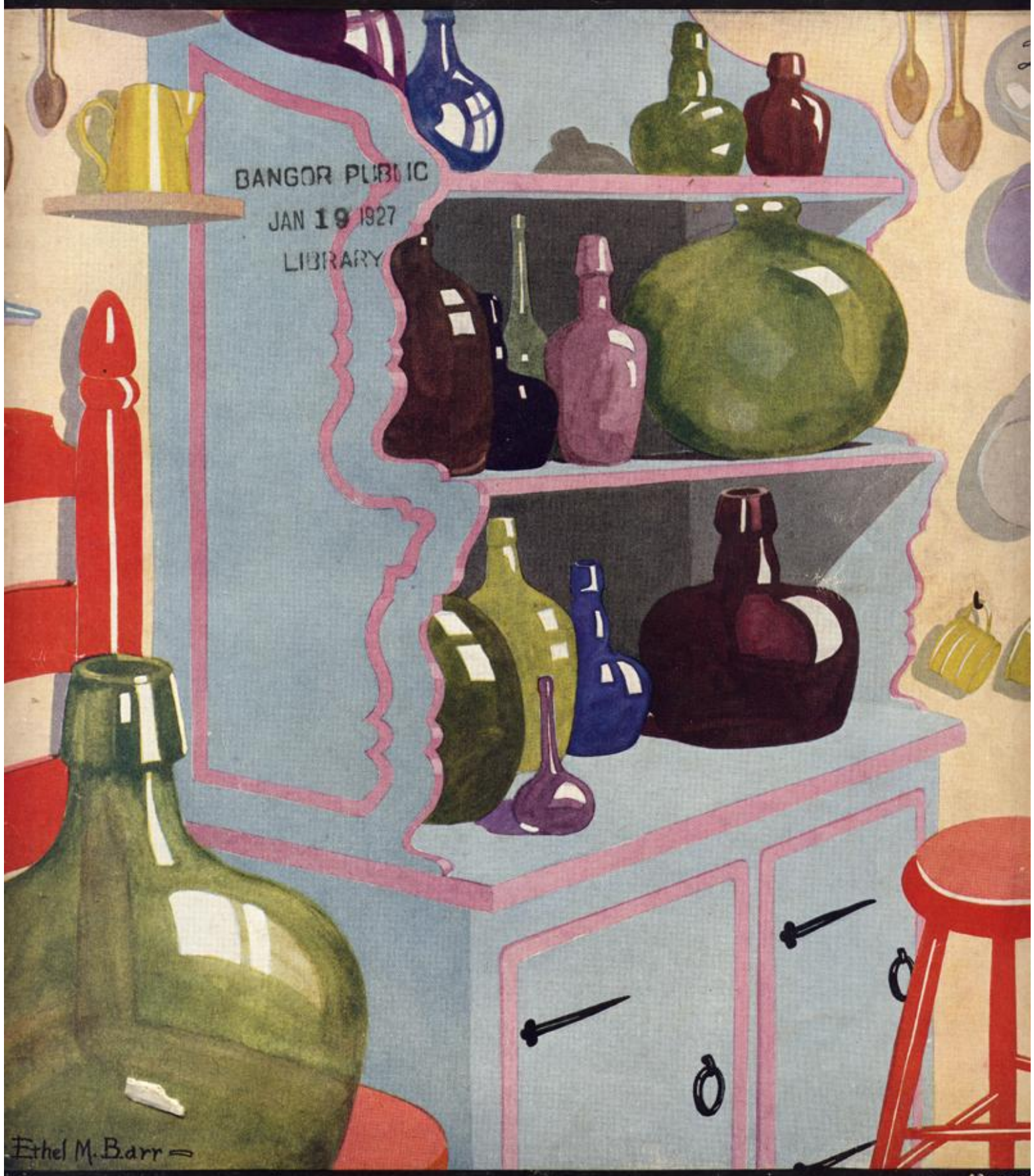


HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

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THE HOUSE IN GOOD TASTE

*A Seventeenth Century House in West Gloucester, Massachusetts,
Now the Home of Albert Henry Atkins, Esq.*



THIS HOUSE, WHICH HAS BY DEGREES, UNDER ITS PAPER AND PAINT, REVEALED ALL THE EAR-MARKS OF A VERY EARLY COLONIAL DWELLING, IS GRADUALLY BEING RESTORED BY ITS OWNER TO ITS ORIGINAL FORM AND FURNISHED IN THE PERIOD OF ITS CONSTRUCTION. THIS HOUSE IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT WAS KNOWN AS THE 'PLANK-FRAME' HOUSE; THAT IS, INSTEAD OF THE MORE ORDINARY STUDS, THICK PLANKS WERE USED VERTICALLY, EXTENDING FROM SILL TO PLATE. BELOW IS A VIEW OF THE PARLOR WITH TAVERN TABLE OF PINE AND MAPLE, A TURNED SLAT-BACK ARMCHAIR, AND A BENCH OF HEWN MAPLE. ON EITHER SIDE OF THE WINDOW ARE WOODEN SHELVES WITH COLLECTIONS OF SLIPWARE AND PEWTER





AT THE LEFT IS A CORNER OF THE PARLOR, SHOWING THE DOOR MADE OF FEATHER-EDGE BOARDING, THE SIMPLE TRIM FLUSH WITH THE PLASTER WHICH IS MADE OF SHELL LIME, AND SHOWS HERE AND THERE BITS OF UNBURNT SEA SHELLS. THE CORNER-POST AND GIRT WHICH ARE EXPOSED IN THIS ROOM STILL SHOW TRACES OF THE BRILLIANT CHINESE RED WITH WHICH THEIR EDGES WERE PAINTED



THE FIREPLACE IN THE PARLOR HAS BRICKS LAID UP IN CLAY. ABOUT IT IS A COLLECTION OF IRON UTENSILS SUCH AS WERE IN USE IN COLONIAL TIMES. A ROW OF IRON PORRINGERS HANGS ON THE BEAM. THESE WERE USED FOR HEATING PORRIDGE INSTEAD OF PEWTER ONES, WHICH COULD NOT BE PLACED IN THE FIRE



IN THE LEAN-TO IS THIS DELIGHTFUL GROUP OF TRESTLE TABLE, BENCH, AND SLAT-BACK CHAIRS. THE TABLE HAS CHAMFERED LEGS OF OAK AND A PINE TOP, A COMBINATION OF MATERIALS THAT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE EARLY FURNITURE OF THE COLONIES

BELOW IS THE END WALL OF THE ORIGINAL KITCHEN, SHOWING AN EARLY PINE CHEST, TWO SLAT-BACK CHAIRS, ONE OF MAPLE AND ONE OF ASH, AND A UNIQUE OLD CUPBOARD. NOTICE THE VARYING WIDTHS OF THE FEATHEREDGE BOARDING OF THE WALL



THE PHOTOGRAPH AT THE RIGHT NOT ONLY SHOWS AN EARLY PINE DESK (ONE NOT FAR REMOVED FROM ITS RELATIVE, THE CHEST), QUAINST STOOL, AND WAG-ON-THE-WALL CLOCK, BUT IT REVEALS THE EARLY CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOUSE, THE HEAVY SUMMER-BEAM INTO WHICH THE OAK JOISTS FRAME, THE CORNER-POSTS, EXPOSED GIRTS, AND PLANK WALLS



A GROUP OF EXCEEDINGLY EARLY PIECES IN THE LEAN-TO. THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF THIS HOUSE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTING, AS THEY SHOW EARLY COLONIAL FURNITURE IN ACTUAL USE AND IN ITS PROPER SETTING. THIS FURNITURE IS CRUDE IN TYPE, AND EXPRESSES SOMETHING OF THE HARDSHIPS OF PILGRIM DAYS. FOR THE MOST PART, IT DOES NOT BLEND WELL WITH THE MORE SOPHISTICATED SURROUNDINGS OF THE PRESENT DAY, AND IF USED HAS A CERTAIN SELF-CONSCIOUS APPEARANCE THAT CALLS ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT IT IS OUT OF ITS PROPER ELEMENT. TO FURNISH A ROOM WITH IT THAT WILL BE IN THE NATURE OF A MUSEUM IS ENTIRELY PROPER, BUT TO TRY TO ADAPT IT TO OUR MODERN SENSE OF LUXURY AND COMFORT, OR TO TRY TO COMBINE IT WITH MORE ELEGANT PIECES OF CABINET-MAKING, IS A MISTAKE