

IN THE WORLD OF ART

The Exhibitions of the Week and General Art Gossip.

A PORTRAIT OF GENERAL HARRISON

Two Fine Paintings by Turner at the Art Loan—The Benjamin Parke Avery Medal at San Francisco.

The political side of the visit of Gen. and ex-President Harrison to New-York has quite overshadowed the art part, and that he is being painted by a very distinguished American artist is, it would seem to the general public, a matter of but minor importance. Nevertheless, it is a pleasure to record the fact that Eastman Johnson, N. A., has been selected to execute a portrait of the distinguished grandson of a distinguished grandfather. Mr. Johnson's name is a synonym for good work, and in these days, when so many famous Americans are put on canvas by third and fourth rate men, utterly inartistic and quite incapable, it is a refreshing relief to learn that for once the commission has been placed in competent hands. Among the eminent sitters who have posed for Eastman Johnson may be mentioned John Quincy Adams, Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland, Daniel Webster, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Charles Sumner, William H. Seward, William M. Evarts, Dr. James McCosh, and many others. Mr. Johnson is a native of Maine, and is now seventy-one years old. He has been a National Academician for the last thirty-five years. Thus it will be seen that Mr. Johnson does not lack for experience, and as he has steadily advanced in his art year by year, gaining strength and finish and perfecting himself to a high degree, a satisfactory result may be absolutely counted on.

Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt's superb Turners, "The Grand Canal in Venice" and "The Port of Ostend," which are exhibited at the charity loan collection in the Ortgies Galleries, should be compared with the Turner now on exhibition at the Museum of Art, "Hurrah for the Good Ship Erebus—Another Fish!" sent here by Sir Francis Seymour Haden. This picture was painted in 1846, and exhibited the same year in the Royal Academy. There it was purchased by Mr. Munro, a famous patron of the artist. When Mr. Munro's collection was dispersed the picture was purchased by Gambart, the leading dealer of his time. Later it was owned by Vokens, another dealer, who sold it to Sir Francis. The latter intended to etch it as a companion to his well-known "Calais Pier." It appeared in the Royal Academy exhibition of old masters in 1892. The general tone of the painting is light, the sails of the vessel being white and just merging into view from a silver gray background. A whale has been harpooned and lifts its head in the foreground. It is spouting water colored with blood, and its tail has overturned one of the boats. The delicacy of the hues of sky and water is very impressive. The work is clear and perfect in condition. This is a rare quality in Turner's oil paintings. Sir Francis Seymour Haden, who is President of the Royal Society of Painter Etchers, is Honorary Fellow of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Artists have requested that Mr. S. P. Avery's collection of Haden's etchings should remain on exhibition during the Summer in the Art Museum, and to this request Mr. Avery has gracefully acceded.

The annual report of the San Francisco Art Association makes mention of the fact that the widow of Benjamin Parke Avery, who was one of the founders and the first Secretary of the association, has presented to the museum his collection of works of early California painters in oil and water colors. There are about forty of these, including works of Keith, Hill, Nahl, Williams, and Wandesford. The gift includes a portrait of Mr. Avery painted by Toby Rosenthal, who was sent abroad for study by Mr. Avery. Benjamin Parke Avery was a New-York boy, a brother of S. P. Avery. He went to California with the Argonauts of 1849, became a miner, a storekeeper, the editor, in conjunction with Noah Brooks, of the first newspaper published at Marysville. He was State Printer under Gov. Stanford and the founder of The Overland Monthly. He edited for some years The San Francisco Bulletin, was one of those who saved the State from deciding in favor of slavery, was appointed Minister to China by President Grant in 1874, and died at Peking in 1875. The San Francisco Art Association has founded an Avery Gold Medal, which is to be awarded every year to the most proficient art student. It was awarded on the 21st of May this year to J. T. Martinez. The jury made honorable mention in this competition of Pauline Schuenmacher, Miss E. F. Van Winkle, Joseph Cleary, and Mrs. J. R. McElroy. Other awards were as follows: The Alvord Gold Medal for excellence in drawing from the antique to H. C. Schussler, Henry Warren receiving special mention. The W. E. Brown Gold Medal for drawing from life to Florence E. Lundborg, with honorable mentions to J. T. Martinez, Nellie McCormick, and Charles Burnett.

Joseph Lindon Smith, the well-known Boston painter, whose work on the new public library in that city attracted great attention, has been commissioned to paint an external frieze, 6 feet high and 330 feet long, on the new Horticultural Hall in Philadelphia. The work, it is expected, will take at least 2 year to complete, and will be begun in the Fall.

The annual awards at the schools of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts took place last week. The Toppan Prizes of \$200 and \$100 each were awarded respectively to Miss May E. Fratz for her picture, entitled "Sympathy," and to H. N. Russell for his picture, "Motherhood." The class prizes for the best work in the three concours of the year were given to the following students: Antique course prize, first section, (\$10.) to Linford R. Beck; second section, to John J. Boyle. Women's life and head course prize, (\$10.) to Miss Elizabeth L. Bloomfield; men's life and head course prize, (\$10.) to Francis W. Shaefer; men's day modeling class prize, (\$10.) to John J. Burke; head class prize, (two combined in one, \$20.) to Miss Elizabeth L. Bloomfield; composition class, second prize, (\$10.) to Miss Elizabeth L. Bloomfield; day antique modeling class prize, (\$10.) to John J. Boyle. At the close of this ceremony Dr. Packard announced that the traveling scholarship of \$800, which is established by a member of the board for the purpose of enabling a student of the academy to spend a year in study abroad, was won by W. H. C. Sheppard, whose average was the highest in the three concours of the year.

Subsequently R. W. Vounah, the instructor in the life and head classes, spoke to the pupils on the progress of the past and the future of the school.

Norfolk, Va., has an art league whose Spring exhibition closed May 25, having been fairly successful. It has a membership of 200, and among the number are many promising artists. One, a Miss Rice, having recently painted for the Arkansas Legislature a life-size portrait of the late Jefferson Davis, which now hangs in the State Capitol.

Robert Kraus, the Boston sculptor, has recently completed two commissions of considerable importance. One is a life-size medallion portrait in marble, in low relief, of Mrs. Anna L. Ames, daughter of the Hon. Oliver Ames, and the other is a portrait bust, heroic size, of the late Charles J. Van Depoele of Lynn, who was the inventor of the electric system of propelling street cars by means of the trolley. This last is to be cast in bronze and placed upon the grave of the inventor.

The First Presbyterian Church of Chicago has been presented with a handsome memorial window in stained glass, the work of the Tiffany Company, by the friends of the late Dr. Mitchell, a former pastor. It represents a scene in the life of St. Paul, and is said to be a most artistic production.

Two statues are being cast in bronze by Bureau Brothers in Philadelphia. One is an equestrian figure of Gen. Hancock, the model of which is by the sculptor, F. Edwin Elwell of this city. It will be placed on Cemetery Hill, on Gettysburg battlefield, the position occupied by Gen. Hancock at the turning point of the battle. The second is of Gen. Meade, by H. K. Bush-Brown, which has the same destination.

An exhibition of the works of Claude Monet, composed of new pictures, but recently completed, opened in Paris last Friday at the galleries of Durand-Ruel, in the Rue Laffitte.

The International Art Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, Munich, opens on June 1. The exhibition is arranged by the Munich Artists' Association, and is probably the most representative international exhibi-

tion held on the Continent. All information can be obtained from the manager, Herr C. Jobelmann.

An exhibition of the art of ancient Egypt opened at the Burlington Fine Arts Club in London early in May, and will close on the 6th of July.