

PEN: DRAWING: AND
PENDRAUGHTSMEN
BY: IOSEPH: PENNELL:

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PEN DRAWING
AND PEN DRAUGHTSMEN





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PEN DRAWING AND PEN DRAUGHTSMEN

THEIR WORK AND THEIR ME
THODS A STUDY OF THE
ART TO-DAY WITH TECH
NICAL SUGGESTIONS
BY JOSEPH PENNELL

LECTURER ON ILLUSTRATION AT THE
SLADE SCHOOL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE



MACMILLAN AND COMPANY
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BY
JOSEPH PENNELL
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TO

A. W. DRAKE
W. LEWIS FRASER
CHARLES PARSONS
RICHMOND SEELEY
FOUR MEN WHO SHOULD BE
HONOURED FOR THEIR EN-
COURAGEMENT OF PEN DRAW-
ING AND PEN DRAUGHTSMEN
IN AMERICA AND ENGLAND

I

DEDICATE THIS BOOK

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

POPULAR illustration is the product of the nineteenth century. It has never been treated seriously, and to-day it covers such a wide field and is so many-sided that it is impossible to discuss more than one of its phases at a time. The best illustrators are as conscientious in their profession as the best painters or sculptors. But with the enormous growth of, and demand for, illustration, draughtsmen have appeared who care nothing at all for their art, whose only desire apparently is to produce more than any one else, and who threaten, owing to the cheapness and rapidity with which they work and the avidity with which certain publishers seize upon the results, to drag illustration down to their own low level. I have endeavoured to show what a high standard the best illustration reaches, and to give, for purposes of study, the most notable examples from all over the world.

I am afraid my book may not appeal very strongly to the book-lover, since in it I have transgressed many of the established laws of book-making, and thought more of facing the text with the appropriate illustration than of the size and shape of the page. In some cases the actual appearance of the drawing as book decoration is very unpleasant to me. But it was a case of sacrificing either practical examples for study, or else here and there the decoration of a page. If the book is to have any value, it must be of use to the student; therefore, in certain places I have not kept to traditional forms. I object as much as any one to the meaningless and senseless dotting of pictures over the margin and their eccentric arrangement in the text, and I think it will be realised that necessity, and not eccentricity, has occasioned any placing of the cuts in other than the true decorative form.

It is also because the book is intended primarily for the student that I publish much work that has been seen before, gathered from every available source and put together, I hope it will be found, not in a haphazard manner, but as carefully as possible. Many artists have been consulted in the selection; to many others it will probably be a surprise to see their drawings here; I think there are very few whom, from ignorance of their work, I have omitted. I have not included examples of very original men like Manet and Jean Béraud, for, though I admire their work as the supreme expression of individuality and originality, it is only of value from the man

who produces it, and the copy by the student is worse than worthless. And for the same reason examples of many well-known comic draughtsmen will not be found; their reputation is based on their wit and humour which cannot be imitated, while the student can learn nothing from their technique. I trust the critic may not be obliged to point out that I have forgotten any well-known pen draughtsmen or important pen drawings published during the last half-century, within which time pen drawing has taken rank as a separate art. If I have unwittingly overlooked any one, I shall be only too glad, if I am allowed the chance, to insert or describe his work on a future occasion. The spelling of some of the names of lesser known artists may be questioned, while there is at least one man whose nationality may be wrongly given. But when artists themselves spell their names in three or four fashions, I cannot be expected to know which is right; I have tried to use the most common form. And when they are continually changing their nationality, one cannot tell to what country they really belong.

Where old reproductions have been used it has not been for cheapness, but because these reproductions were the best made at the time the drawings were published, and because if I had commissioned—and Messrs. Macmillan were willing to order—drawings from artists of established reputation, it is extremely doubtful, even for this purpose, if they would have surpassed the best work they had already done, and my object has been to show their best work. While in the making of the book I have had the interest and enthusiasm, generosity and encouragement of the leading publishers with very few exceptions, these few to my great surprise have come altogether from France, and I have no hesitation in saying that they have prevented my including either any work of certain artists or that which I specially desired.

Many critics and literary men have allowed themselves to be carried away in praise of drawings which artists cannot respect, and have even devoted volumes to the work of men and women whose names are not in the following pages. But my book is technical, and unless a drawing possesses technique I care not a jot or a tittle for its intellectual, social, or spiritual qualities. Without technical merit such work is useless for study. I have made no endeavour to estimate the value of the drawing of the artists represented, nor to claim for them any place among the immortals. I believe much of the work will live and will be known as long as there is any real love for art. But since all the greatest men here represented, with one or two exceptions, are living and working to-day, it is impossible to form any estimate of the place they will occupy in the future, nor is it my business to do so.

In the preparation of the book, instead of having, as in most cases, authorities to consult and acknowledgment to make for information gained from them, I can only say that there are no authorities on my subject, this indeed being one of my reasons for writing. No works of importance,¹ so far as I have been able to discover, have been written upon pen drawing since the introduction of process which has made it into a

¹ The text of this book was entirely finished before Prof. E. Knauff's articles on illustration began to appear in the *Art Amateur* in 1889.

separate and distinct art. However, I have deep acknowledgments to make to artists,—the real but usually unconsulted and ignored authorities,—to publishers, and, above all, to my wife.

This book, which is the outcome of Mr. Richmond Seeley's offer to publish a small handbook on pen drawing, would never have appeared in its present form, had not Mrs. Pennell devoted much time to the writing from my dictation of the text. She has managed all the correspondence in connection with it, and relieved me of the drudgery of the work. Without her aid and encouragement, the almost insurmountable difficulties, altogether unforeseen but encountered at every step, could not have been overcome.

I must next thank Messrs. Macmillan, especially Mr. Frederick Macmillan, for their generosity in allowing the illustrations to be so complete, for their permission to use or reproduce drawings which have appeared in their publications, and for their willingness to reject process block after process block, the most imperfect of which perhaps not half a dozen people in the world would have criticised.

The Century Company, my friends and patrons—for publishers to-day are the greatest art patrons who ever lived,—have freely lent me all the drawings I wanted from their unrivalled collection. In this matter I am particularly indebted to Mr. Charles F. Chichester, the assistant treasurer, and Messrs. A. W. Drake and W. Lewis Fraser, the art editors.

Mr. David Douglas of Edinburgh has lent me the plate by Amand-Durand after Mr. George Reid. Messrs. George Routledge and Sons have also contributed the blocks after Randolph Caldecott engraved by Mr. Edmund Evans. Messrs. Harper have given me permission to use the two drawings by Messrs. Abbey and Parsons from *She Stoops to Conquer*; and Mr. Charles Parsons, the late head of their Art Department, was good enough to select drawings and have electros under his supervision made from them in New York. Messrs. Carrère and Hastings undertook the printing of an edition of Blum's drawing from their book on the Ponce de Leon Hotel; while Messrs. Cassell, Charles Scribner's Sons of New York, Bradbury, Agnew and Co., and R. Seeley and Co., have furnished me with editions and plates and blocks from their different publications. As to the great mass of French, German, Italian, and Spanish work, with the exception of original drawings, it was obtained through the Electrotypes Agency, the proprietor of which, Mr. D. G. Nops, has on several occasions gone to much trouble in obtaining certain electros, as well as in other matters.

But after all there would be no illustrated publications were it not for artists and engravers, and from them I have received directly more sympathy and substantial assistance than I ever could have expected. It is useless to specify the many interesting letters I have received from all quarters of the world. But when in several cases these letters have been accompanied by original drawings as freely given as they have been gratefully accepted, I hardly know how duly to acknowledge the kindness. On commissioning Martin Rico to make a drawing, he gave me with it another quite as important—the one which begins the chapter on his work—simply, as he put it, as a *petit souvenir*. Casanova, refusing to make a drawing at any price, sent instead what he called a little sketch; it appears as a full-page photogravure. I must also specially

acknowledge my indebtedness to Messrs. Alfred Parsons, E. A. Abbey, Wirgman, W. L. Wyllie, George Reid, David Murray, Mackmurdo and Horne, Harry Furniss, Linley Sambourne, and the artists of Pick-Me-Up; while I must at least refer to the kindly aid and interest of Adolf Menzel, Vierge, Dantan, Mme. Lemaire, Messrs. W. M. Rossetti, Howard Pyle, Charles Keene, and J. G. Legge, the latter having attended to many difficult business details for me in Paris. But the list is endless. I have already tried to thank each individually; I am glad to be able to thank again all collectively.

Messrs. Dalziel with the greatest possible generosity—a generosity which can only be appreciated when I say that these drawings were lent solely for the purpose of endeavouring to surpass their own wood-engravings, in which I have succeeded—furnished me with the original drawings by Sir Frederick Leighton, Messrs. F. M. Brown and Poynter, which were published in their Bible Gallery. Messrs. Dalziel and Swain have not only given me much invaluable information about the greatest period of English illustration with which they were so intimately associated, but Mr. Swain has also furnished me with the photographic negative from which the Sandys plate was made. As to the photo-engravers who have been particularly successful in the reproduction of drawings, I have sought to give them due credit where their work appears.

I have not space to mention all the collectors I have bothered, all the collections I have waded through; but I must at least allow myself the pleasure of again thanking Mr. J. P. Heseltine for lending me the drawing by Frederick Walker, Mr. Edmund Gosse for his book plate by Mr. Abbey, and Mr. Hall for the drawing by the same artist from *She Stoops to Conquer*. The authorities of the British and South Kensington Museums will probably remember me as one who has given them an immense amount of muscular exercise in the mere carting of bound magazines; the fact that they not only never rebelled, save on one occasion in the British Museum, but were willing to aid me by other than physical means, calls for my very best thanks.

I must also explain that when I say that American printing is the best, I refer especially to magazine work—that is the rapid printing of large editions. But this would not be true in speaking of the printing of a book like this. Messrs. Clark have taken the greatest possible pains with it, and have been completely successful. I do not believe it could have been better printed anywhere.

WESTMINSTER, August 1889.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

*I*T is always a delight and a pleasure to bring out a new edition of a book. It is sometimes a triumph, a positive proof, in the case of a purely technical work like this, that one's point has been proven, one's arguments accepted.

But apart from this, a new edition affords one the opportunity to correct blunders and fill up omissions.

In the first edition the mistakes were many, in facts, not in theories, and there were more notable artists omitted than admitted, almost. However, no one pointed these things out, and it has been left for me to correct and amplify my facts, and hunt up new and old draughtsmen.

I have seen no reason to change my views regarding the old men. Since the first edition of this book appeared I have revisited the Print Rooms of almost all the great Galleries, and I find that I was right; and I wish for stronger arguments than cheap sneers and poor sarcasm from anonymous writers to prove that I was wrong. I said, and I still say, that Dürer, Rembrandt, Bellini, and Holbein were the greatest pen draughtsmen among the old men, though at times Mantegna, Botticelli, Carmagnola, and, upon a few rare occasions, Raphael, when he took the trouble, approached them. But none of them equalled the best men. Later on Van Eyck, Jan Wierix, and Canaletto made some attempts, mostly in the wrong direction. And with Breughel began, I imagine, the scheme of producing bad work for the edification of an ignorant and admiring public.

One charge made against the book was that it was written by a working pen draughtsman. But since its appearance all intelligent art criticism has come to be written by artists in England and, to a great extent, in France also; while the fact that I am bringing out a new edition shows just the effect of the envy, spite, and malice of those who railed against it, whose chief cause of complaint was that they never thought of writing the book themselves. Several other people, however, at once proceeded to do so; and since 1889 one large treatise has appeared by Mr. C. G. Harper, English Pen Artists, in which he has done me the honour of imitating the form and get-up of my own so closely that it might be taken for an appendix by any one who was completely ignorant of the subject. Mr. Hamerton has also reprinted his Encyclopædia Britannica articles on Drawing and Engraving, and Mr. Hutchinson has issued Some Hints on Learning to Draw. There has also been the usual output of monographs on little and big people, manuals which should completely educate the artless, and all that sort of thing.

On the other hand, Col. Waterhouse published a most useful and interesting treatise

on *The Photographic Reproduction of Drawings, in which mechanical engraving is most practically and intelligently treated.* Mr. Gleeson White's chapter on *Drawing for Reproduction in Practical Designing* is also most sensible and instructive; while the *Ex Libris* and the *Books about Books* series both contain volumes on *Illustration*. In France, *Les Arts de Reproduction* has been issued, but it is not of much value, being overburdened with the author's, M. Jules Adeline's, own drawings, which are quite artless.

A series of articles, signed by various people, in the *Studio*, have been full of practical information. In America Professor Ernest Knaufft has been writing on *Pen Drawing* for years: in fact, his articles began to appear before this book was issued, but unfortunately I never saw them at the time. Therefore, whether the result of my book or not, a literature of *Illustration* has arisen during the last four years; and, if it progresses in the future at the same rate, threatens to assume alarming proportions. Charles Scribner's Sons have also published two volumes on *French and American Illustrators*—they are, however, rather more pretentious than practical.

It would be impossible for me to individually thank all the artists who have specially made or lent work for this edition. The interest in it, I may say, has been universal among artists, and there are but three men to whom I have applied who have refused to lend or make drawings for it; their absence, if conspicuous enough to be noted, is at their own request.¹

It has been pointed out to me by one or two reviewers that the work should be arranged in some sort of alphabetical or chronological sequence. No one wishes more than myself that this could be done, but to fit the drawings on the pages in that excellent manner would require at least twice the space, and it is impossible. Again I think I was right in not giving much space to illustrated daily journalism. The men to-day who illustrate at one moment for the *Daily Graphic*, have their drawings printed the next in the monthly magazines. Good work looks well anywhere, and the best style for the daily is often the best for the monthly. I know that very elaborate drawings cannot yet be printed on a rapid newspaper machine, but that this will be possible before long I do not doubt. Many men represented here have developed a style which prints well anywhere.

I have really tried to be as broad and as liberal as I could. I do not think that Spanish illustration is the final expression of art; nor yet do I pin my faith to the methods practised by Mr. Morris and his fellow arts- and craftsmen. Both may be equally good—they sometimes are; because one form of expression is right, the other is not necessarily wrong.

I have also included the English work of thirty years ago, because it seems to me to have been the most interesting period of English illustration. I think this chapter is almost complete, and nearly all the examples have either never been published hitherto, or else are from photographs of the drawings on the blocks made before they were engraved. In this matter I have to thank personally for innumerable favours almost every one of the artists whose work appears in the chapter.

¹ Messrs. Charles Shannon, Professor Herkomer, and Charles Ricketts.

The magnificent Danish and Norwegian work I was quite unacquainted with, and probably should have remained so had it not been for the kindness of Mr. H. L. Brakstad, Mr. William Archer, and Frans Hendriksen, who, by the loan of some books, and by referring me to others, have enabled me to make this one of the most important sections of the volume.

In the German Chapter I was greatly helped by Dr. Hans Singer of the Dresden Museum, and also by Messrs. Obach and Company; and greatly hindered by the official red-tapism of the Berlin Gallery, in which Dr. Lippmann appears to be hopelessly entangled. The proprietors of Fliegende Blätter have, in this case, broken their usual rule and granted permission for me to use their blocks, to the great improvement of this special chapter. From all German artists and publishers I have received nothing but kindness and assistance. It has been the same in America and England, but then that was what one would naturally expect.

From France have come long-winded promises of support, which have amounted to nothing; gushing letters which have been nothing but gush; and vows of all sorts, which I am sure those who made them had not the slightest intention to carry out. But what would you? It is thus they order these matters in France. Still the chapter is fairly complete, and most of the omissions are not due to any fault of mine.

I must also thank Professor Colvin, Mr. Lionel Cust, and Mr. Austin Dobson for much valuable assistance; and Lord Battersea, Mr. Fairfax Murray, and Mr. G. L. Craik for the loan of drawings. Most of the illustrations, however, have been obtained directly from the artists themselves.

There is much less text in this edition than in the other. The drawings, I do not think, can hurt any one. My object is to help artists only, and I know that they will appreciate—or at any rate they did appreciate—the opportunity of being able to see much of the best pen work ever done in the world between the covers of one book.

That artists did care for the first edition is very flattering to me, and I hope they may continue to do so. I have omitted the Chapter on Architectural Pen Drawing, for I see no reason why it should be considered separately. With the mechanical and technical delineation of architecture I have nothing to do. Mr. Phene Spiers' Architectural Drawing covers this ground much better than I could. And the aim of the best men who draw architecture is to be as artistic as possible, therefore those who draw architecture are placed with other artists, not apart from them. I must again thank Mr. Frederick Macmillan for his sympathy and assistance in preparing the new edition, which is really a new book; Mr. S. Hutt and his assistants for carrying out many details; and Messrs. Clark for consenting to adopt forms in their printing which they strongly objected to on the score of tradition, and congratulate them on the great improvements in their already excellent press-work made during the last four years. As for the artists themselves, they have made the book. I have endeavoured to thank individually all who have helped me, as well as their publishers; now I would thank them collectively; and, personally, I am awfully thankful that the book is finished.

JOSEPH PENNELL.

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Note.—Many of the plates and blocks being unsigned, I am unfortunately unable in certain cases to give the engravers who reproduced them credit for their work. There are also a few illustrations to which the date of publication is not appended. This is due to the fact that either original drawings were sent me by artists or publishers without date or title, or else examples were selected from unsigned and undated collections of proofs.

ERRATA.

- Page 242, line 5, for Kipling's "*Stories of Child Life*," read "*Jungle Book*."
 „ 316, „ 6, for "Launcelot, Speed," read "Launcelot Speed."
 „ 377, „ 9, for "Anderson," read "Andersen."

PEN DRAWING & PEN DRAUGHTSMEN

INTRODUCTION

THERE are three reasons why I wish to write of pen drawing at the present time. The first is because I believe that, just as none but the physician is allowed to speak with authority on medicine, none but the scientist on science, so only the man who has made and carefully studied pen drawings should have the right to speak authoritatively of them. Only the writing on art by one who has technical knowledge of it is of practical value, and I think this explains why it is, that of the many books on art written of late years, so few are of real use to the artist. Such volumes as Lalanne's *Treatise on Etching*, and some parts of Ruskin's *Elements of Drawing*, are indeed the exceptions.

This leads me to my second reason for writing : the very unsatisfactory manner in which pen drawing has hitherto been treated. The principal critics of the day hold their own estimation of contemporary and earlier art in all its many branches to be the only right one, and abuse every other as vitally at fault; while it is the tendency of many modern writers so to enlarge upon the divine mission, the intellectual value, the historical importance of art in the past, as to belittle contemporary work, and to ignore altogether technique, which is as great to-day as in any former time. Without the nearest possible individual approach to technical perfection, according to the standard of the age in which it is produced, art work cannot be of value as a whole, although in parts it may be instructive.

If often this belittling of contemporary art is to be expected, it is unwarranted when extended to pen drawing, which, as a distinct art, belongs only to the last few years. This fact has been so completely overlooked that in treatises accepted as authorities, pen drawing in its modern

development has not received the attention it deserves. This is true even of Mr. Hamerton's chapter on the subject, though it must be remembered that *The Graphic Arts* was published in 1882, before pen drawing had developed to any extent in England; probably also this chapter was written at a much earlier date. Looking in *The Graphic Arts*, I find that not one of the pen drawings is reproduced by any intaglio process of photo-engraving, and it is the development of photo-engraving, side by side with pen drawing, that has brought the latter to its present perfection.

Of course the pen drawings or sketches of Albert Dürer, of Da Vinci and Raphael, of Michael Angelo and Titian, in fact of every old master, and above all of Rembrandt, are unquestionably instructive and interesting and curious. Of the drawings of several of these men I shall speak further on. As a rule, however, the drawings of the old masters are but memoranda, the adjuncts of another art. To-day pen drawing is not only an art in itself, but one which, as well as painting in oils, requires its own technical perfection. It may be objected that the old men often made elaborate pen drawings. So they did; just as Rossetti elaborated with his pen or pencil until one wishes he had put the same time and infinite amount of work that went to his illustrations of Tennyson, and copies of his pictures, for example, into his beautiful pastels. True, in the end he succeeded in getting what he wanted, but he was not an intelligent technician; like the old masters, he did not in the modern sense know how to make a pen drawing.

With a certain class of writers on art I am not here concerned, since to them eloquent writing is of more importance than honest criticism, and their ignorance of the technique of any art is only equalled by their ability to write on it. There have been men, however, who have sought to treat pen and ink drawing technically, and the third reason for my writing is that some of these writers, who call themselves pen draughtsmen, have evidently the very smallest knowledge of their subject. One such manual states on cover and title-page that pen and ink drawing is commonly called etching, showing at once to what manner of audience it is addressed, viz. people who draw with pen and ink on antimacassars and call it etching, and who are continually asking what is the difference between a pen drawing and an etching anyway.¹ If Mr. Hamerton and Mr. Ruskin have not been able to show this elementary difference, it would be not only presumptuous, but a

¹ The Master of the Architectural School of the Royal Academy also falls into this careless mistake. On page 47, paragraph 143, of his *Architectural Drawing*, writing of pen drawings, he illustrates his matter by reference to what he

calls a perspective *etched* in brown ink. Other architects are continually talking of a drawing being etched when they mean it is drawn in pen and ink.

great waste of paper on my part to quote their words. However, for the benefit of such people, to whom it probably will be information, I may say that pen drawing is, was, and ever shall be, drawing with a pen, and nothing else. As to etching, it is a method or engraving on a metal plate with which I am not here concerned.

Neither do I propose to make this a treatise on drawing. For one must know not only something of art, but all that one can find out for one's self about drawing, before good work can be done with the pen. Strange as it may seem to the crowds who are actually flooding the world with pen drawings, the same qualities which go to make a good pen drawing are indispensable to the production of a good etching. The only advantage is, that instead of having a treacherous material to work with, you have the simplest possible. This being so only proves the great difficulty of really drawing well with the pen.

When one sees pen and ink copies of woodcuts, of oil paintings, of anything and everything, all worked out with an awful and reverent, but utterly misplaced and wasted fidelity, one best realises that pen drawing, like etching, is one of the most facile, least understood, and most abused of the arts.

I do not believe with one of the few men who have already written of pen drawing that he or any one else can, in a book, "teach drawing in Indian ink, upon principles so easy and progressive that individuals may attain this pleasing amusement without the aid of a master"; or indeed, unless the student has great ability, with his aid. But I am not without hope that the pen drawings published here will show many, who are pleased to call themselves pen draughtsmen, that they are without the faintest idea of the aims, objects, and limitations of the art; as well as bring to the notice of amateurs, collectors, critics and print-sellers, a healthy, vigorous, flourishing craft which is being developed and improved in all its branches, and owes nothing whatever to their fostering care or encouragement.

For examples, I have selected the best work, so far as I have been able to find it, of all schools, and not merely of one narrow French, English, Italian, German, Spanish, or American method, the merits or shortcomings of which one would be unable to point out without using this comparative plan.

Mr. Hamerton has called pen drawing a "simple process," and some people may unwisely suppose, therefore, that a simple process implies an easy and trifling form of art. To the incipient artist encouraged by the financial success of pen drawing hacks, I would only say: unless you feel that pen drawing is something to be revered, something to be studied, something

to be loved, something to be wondered at, that you are the motive power behind the pen, and that you must put all your individuality and character into your work, you will never become a pen draughtsman. And you should be prouder to illustrate the greatest magazines of the world, thus appealing to millions of readers, than to have your drawings buried in the portfolios of a few hundred collectors. For I believe that, in these days, artists, who show their work to the people through the press, are doing as did the masters of other days, who spoke to the people through the church.

PEN DRAWING IN THE PAST

PEN DRAWING IN THE PAST

OF pen drawing in the past I shall say but little, for the simple reason that there is little to be said, that is, from my standpoint: the making of pen drawings for illustration and reproduction. No artist would study the old masters, with a very few exceptions, notably among the old Dutchmen and Germans, for the technical qualities of pen drawing. As painters now look to Titian and Velasquez, Rembrandt and Franz Hals, so men in future times will look back to some of the pen draughtsmen of to-day as not only the early, but the great masters of the art. It is not necessary to do more than to point out the scope and aim of pen drawing as it existed among the great artists of other days, in order to emphasise its far wider scope and higher aims among the men of the present. A knowledge of its immaturity in the past helps one to the appreciation of its development in our own time.

It must be understood, however, that if the pen drawing of the old masters was undeveloped in comparison with the work of to-day, it was simply because with them there was no call for it as an art apart. It was quite perfect for the purpose they wished it to serve. Since in engravings on wood and steel all the pen quality of a drawing was lost, when they wanted to reproduce their work autographically, they etched. What Mr. Hamerton says generally of pen drawings, is really applicable only to theirs: they were "sketches of projects and intentions." They are to be studied, of course, for their composition and arrangement, suggestion of light and shade, and rendering of the figure, of which I have no intention to speak, since in these matters pen drawing is subject to the same laws as any other art; but for pure technique these pen memoranda, as a rule, have little to teach the modern draughtsman.

That the old masters made great use of the pen is well enough known.

One cannot go to any of the galleries of the world without seeing many of their pen drawings, which are interesting in relation to the pictures of which they were the germs, and as records of strong impressions and ideas vigorously and simply put down. And here let me insist again that, while one may make notes and sketches as they did, and study their marvellous facility and vigour in so sketching, such sketches are not, as many modern art critics and artists consider them, pen drawings. This is proved at once by the very different methods used by these same masters in their etchings, to which the pen drawings of to-day are equivalent. But their pen sketches, or rather memoranda, really were for them very much what instantaneous photographs are for the modern artist—suggestions and notes of action and movement, suggestions which when adopted, and notes which when taken, from the camera, nearly always resulting in the ruination of the artist, while the photographer struts abroad glorying in his greatness. By all means the old sketches should be studied. But it is the veriest affectation nowadays to imitate them literally.

If the artists of to-day were not possessed of such external aids as photography, they would probably excel all old masters in sketching—always excepting Rembrandt, though Whistler in his etchings is quite the equal of Rembrandt. The modern artist has many aids and adjuncts which the old men knew nothing about, and which make the work of to-day much more true and accurate and scientific than that of any other time. But because of his dependence on these aids, the modern artist has lost much of the old facility in sketching. What I say applies even to colour. And if a man with the gifts of Titian were to appear to-day, he would surpass Titian himself, just as Corot surpasses all the old landscapists.

Michael Angelo, Da Vinci, and Raphael often made the first sketches for their pictures with pen and ink : sketches full of character, which have lately been made better known by Braun's autotypes and numberless photographs. Botticelli's delicate and refined illustrations for the *Divina Commedia*, though drawn in with sympathetic silver point, were gone over with pen and ink.

Landscapes by Titian, with little villages or houses in the middle distance, have a delightful suggestion of picturesqueness ; but it is curious to compare these with modern pen and ink landscapes by Rico or Vierge, for example. Titian's, the honest critic must admit, suffer when comparison of their technical points is made. A drawing of a Turk by Gentile Bellini in the British Museum can, for beauty of modelling with a pen and delicacy of handling combined with simplicity, be advantageously studied

by the pen draughtsmen of to-day. It shows what the old men might have done with a pen.

There are pen studies of horses and carriages by Velasquez, very simply and strongly suggested. But it is unnecessary to go through the list of all the masters whose drawings have been preserved. It is endless, and, differing as the drawings do in character, they are nearly all alike in being mere notes or records of facts; or if, as rarely happens, carried out, they are, save in few more than the cases I have mentioned, valueless for study of technique. That is, to the student, who should learn that the greatest care and not the utmost freedom of touch should be his aim. While one may rave over these early drawings, one should no more recommend their technique to the beginner than feed a baby with champagne. There are ideas enough to be learned from them, and sometimes the best and strongest work of the artist is to be found in his pen drawings.

The pen draughtsman will study to best advantage such old work as Holbein's *Dance of Death*, and beautiful designs for metal work, many of the originals of which may be found in the British Museum; Albert Dürer's and Israel von Meckenen's metal engravings; Rembrandt's etchings; the lovely Renaissance decorative head and tail pieces. Dürer, having no perfect process by which to reproduce his work, apparently put little delicacy of line into his wonderful drawings for the wood-cutter, and delicacy is all that is lacking to make them in technique equal to the drawings of to-day. That he could draw delicately is shown by his etchings and engravings, every one of which is worthy of reverent study. That he did not, only proves that he understood the limitations of wood-cutting. This want, however, added to a certain archaic decorative feeling that pervades all his engraved work, makes it affectation for an artist to-day to model his style on that of Dürer.

But, on the other hand, nothing could be nearer perfection for an artist of a northern country to study than Rembrandt's etchings of out-of-door subjects, especially his little views of towns. Even Mr. Ruskin gives this advice in his *Elements of Drawing*. Rembrandt's etchings have so many of the same qualities as pen drawings that, I feel certain, had he lived in our age, he would not have etched so much, but would have made innumerable pen drawings, for the same reason the best pen draughtsman of to-day, who could etch if he chose, once gave me. Why, when he could have his drawings reproduced perfectly, should he use a nasty, dirty process, which is successful more by good luck than good management? You can see by reproductions in the *Gazette des Beaux-Arts* how well Rembrandt's

simpler etchings, as well as Vandyke's, are rendered by process blocks from clean wiped prints. Many of Rembrandt's etchings come very well without any wiping.¹ Collectors now appreciate old etchings for their rarity, but when they were made, they were sought for because of their perfect reproduction of the master's work. There were then no fancy prices attached to Rembrandt's etchings,² or, in his time, to Méryon's either for that matter. They were sold for a few pence, as are our best illustrated magazines.

There is a little of the modern feeling and go in some of Tiepolo's drawings. Claude's landscape sketching in pen and ink is also marked by more of the modern spirit. Both these artists used washes of bistre or sepia in their pen drawings. But to this I see no reason to make objection. I am no purist in art, and therefore no advocate for "pure pen drawing." I think it more important to give a desired effect, no matter how, than to limit the means by which it is to be obtained.

The development from Claude and Tiepolo, through Paul Huet and others, onwards to our time, could be easily traced. Doubtless many pages could be filled were I to follow this growth in detail, and ample opportunities would be afforded to discover my omissions and praise my discoveries. But I do not think it worth while, since it is in its maturity, rather than in its making, that pen drawing is most interesting. And besides, as I have said, the introduction of photo-engraving had so much to do with its development that there seems to be but one step from the old "sketches of projects and intentions" to the modern comparatively perfect work.

The history of the development of pen drawing and the history of the development of photo-engraving are two distinct subjects, neither of which do I propose to treat. Sir H. Trueman Wood in his *Modern Methods of Illustrating Books* devotes a chapter to mechanical processes, in which he gives the bare facts about photo-engraving. I think it more than likely that the processes he mentions were used in France and America before they were ever attempted in this country, though Mr. Fraser of the *Century* says the first really successful process was Woodbury's in England. However, the first successful reproductions which appeared in any English magazine, I have found in *Once a Week*, and they were taken from French periodicals.

¹ For reproductions of Rembrandt's etchings by process, see *Les Artistes Gélèbres; Rembrandt*, par Emile Michel, Paris; *Librairie de L'Art*, 1886; and *Dabeim*, Leipzig, Sept. 1888, seq. Also

Rembrandt, Michel-Hachette, 92, and Heinemann, 93.

² Save "The Hundred Guilder" and some others.

There are, on the other hand, innumerable histories and biographies of the great and lesser masters of all times from Giotto to the man who died yesterday, all of whom have helped to develop pen drawing. But until about the year 1880 pen drawing did not begin to flourish as an art in itself. Before this no artist, except as an experiment, would have his work reproduced by these, then, only partially developed processes. The drawings of the old masters, when reproduced at all, were drawn on wood and then cut all to pieces, and this method was continued until a very few years ago, when photography was made use of to transfer the image of natural objects on to the wood. Thence it was only a step to photograph the pen or other drawing on to the block, the original work remaining untouched. The last step of all is the photographing of the pen or other drawing—with pen drawings alone I am of course here concerned—on to a sensitised block, gelatine film or zinc plate, or other substance, from which a mechanical or process engraving is made. It is this development of process which has made pen drawing into a distinct art, equal in importance to etching.

Throughout this volume I use the word process to express the reproduction of a drawing. It is the word used by artists, and therefore the right one.

PEN DRAWING IN THE PAST
ILLUSTRATIONS
GENTILE BELLINI

DRAWING OF A TURK MADE AT CONSTANTINOPLE



THE modern method of pen drawing is best seen in the work of Gentile Bellini. I do not mean to say that he was the first to use the pen to produce a separate and distinct form of art; but, whether he used a pen or a point, until Chodowiecki, his drawings were unrivalled. I should not commend the drawing for its handling; we have improved on that, but Bellini seems to have been one of the few among the ancients who cared for pen drawing for its own sake.

TITIAN

I show this drawing by Titian, and with it a little sketch in Holland by Maxime Lalanne, for the purpose of comparison. I am quite aware that it will be thought absurd on my part to compare the study for a great picture, which this may have been,—I confess I do not know for what picture it was a study, if indeed it was ever used, for I cannot recall any of Titian's pictures in which the composition recurs,—with an apparently slight and trivial drawing by Lalanne. I know it will at once be said that the hand of a greater man and a larger and broader mind is shown in a pen drawing which, like Titian's, can give a rocky foreground with a great tree, a middle distance with a town and woods, a lake stretching away to a mountainous horizon, and above all, a fine cloud effect. I would be the first to admit this, if the drawing by Titian expressed, with the same simplicity and meaning of line, a result as artistic as that of the drawing by Lalanne. But this is certainly not the case.

Before analysing Titian's drawing, I must do that which will seem gratuitous. I must make an apology for it by saying that I do not believe Titian ever intended it to be shown. And because Titian was one of the greatest, if not the greatest Italian painter who ever lived, there is absolutely no reason why we should bow down and worship everything that came from his hand. Though the composition is suggestive and may have been of great value to the artist, the actual lines are worthless for study. They are careless and trivial from one end of the drawing to the other. To come down to details, the idea of the tree trunk which comes out towards us is very well given, although there is in it absolutely no feeling for line. But it grows out of a meaningless blot at the bottom and disappears at the top in meaningless scrawls which common sense tells us are meant for foliage. Compare it for a moment with the young tree by Lalanne;¹ note how gracefully the growth of the tree is indicated, and the way in which Lalanne shows the direction of the prevalent wind in Holland, which causes the tree to bend and its branches to grow on the side away from it. Then in Titian's drawing it is impossible to tell where the rocky foreground ends and the

¹ La Porte Saint-Antoine, Amsterdam. *La Hollande à l'ol d'Oiseau*, Henry Havard, Decaux, and Quantin, Paris.

water of the lake begins, even though the lake lies far below. Everything is clumsily obscure. In Lalanne's this is shown in the clearest manner with about one-third the number of lines Titian has used. In the Titian there are blots in the water, and you cannot make out the construction of the boat. In the Lalanne this is plain enough ; you can even see the different colours



in which his boat is painted. Look at the careful and yet slight indication of the roadway leading back to the towered gate. But can any one tell me what the cross-hatched, scrawled-in hill on the right of Titian's is composed of? Titian's middle distance of a town, woods, and a house under the trees on the opposite side of the lake has the handling of a small child, while the perspective is all out. In Lalanne's, note how every line has a purpose, how beautifully the shadows are given on the houses, how the little blots all have a meaning, while Titian's are due to pure carelessness. There is quite as much suggestion in Lalanne's pure white paper sky, as in Titian's laboured clouds. I know that any person can see these things. But the point I wish to emphasise is that students are bidden, and do study drawings like this of

Titian's ; because he was a great master of colour, he is supposed to be a great master of everything ; but Lalanne, who was an equally great master as a pen draughtsman, is ignored because he is a modern and rarely painted. And I want to insist in the strongest manner that this, and all other drawings of Titian's I have ever seen—and I have gone through almost all the great galleries,—are simply of no value whatever for the study of technique. I repeat what I have already said that neither pen drawing nor landscape painting was then developed, or had even become an independent and separate art of any great importance. I do not for a moment assert that Titian could not have made a fine pen drawing. I only say that, judging from his drawings which we possess, he did not.

NOTE.—For other Lalannes, see Illustrations to Chapter on French Pen Drawing.



SOME COMPARATIVE HEADS:

OLD AND NEW

By using these heads I thought it possible to compare the old work with



the new, even though grouping together two or three different countries and periods, in order to explain more easily the difference between ancient and modern methods.

Commencing with Dürer; we all know what he could do with a pen from his designs and decorations, so refined as to be models for use to-day, and from his woodcuts, for whether he drew these with a pen, pencil, or brush is of very little importance since the results resemble pen drawings on the block. But when we come upon a drawing like this, of which he must have been proud or he would never have signed it, we find at

once, exquisite though the drawing is and fine as is every line in it, that Dürer had not a knowledge of the wealth and depth of colour which can





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most conclusively by the accompanying head of a child, though, of course, in his day such a drawing could never have been reproduced ; but to-day it could be, as indeed it has been perfectly. Even the chalk work in it comes admirably. However, the head of Mme. Madrazo by Galice, though not to be compared with it in knowledge of form or in beauty of line, in some ways shows plainly the advances we have made technically. While all of Vandyke's shadows are made, or at any rate have been reproduced in nearly pure black, Galice's, being drawn with a fine pen, give variety to the whole, and allow him to concentrate his blacks where he wants. Vandyke has scattered his blacks all over. Nevertheless his drawing is but another proof that the old men could have drawn with a pen

be obtained with a pen. By comparing it with the drawing by Rossetti this becomes apparent, even though the Rossetti has lost very much in the wood - engraving. The lines in the Dürer are of course far finer than those in the Rossetti, but the latter suggests far more colour and is much more freely handled than the earlier drawing of Dürer. Neither of these drawings was intended for reproduction, and the Dürer no more resembles his etchings than the Rossetti resembles his designs which were put on the block.

That a man like Vandyke, for example, could draw with a pen is shown





feeling of flesh is far more completely carried out than in the Vandyke, while the hair, moustache, and imperial, somewhat similar in both, are vastly better rendered by Desmoulins. Here is a man who, I venture to say, is almost unknown, and yet in black and white he has surpassed Vandyke with his world-wide reputation. However, Vandyke has had but a handful of followers; Desmoulins, whether the fact is known to newspaper editors or not, is the man who commenced the drawing of portraits in pen and ink for illustrated journalism. Vandyke gave to a few of his friends a most interesting gallery of his contemporaries; Desmoulins has given the

had there been any necessity for it.

I have had a process made from Vandyke's etching of the head of Snyders and it is upon his etchings that Vandyke's reputation as a black-and-white man rests. I have placed with it two heads by F. Desmoulins from *La Vie Moderne*, which I think any one must admit are quite equal to Vandyke's work, and yet utterly different. The smaller drawing is as full of character and the modelling as well given as in the Vandyke; in the larger one the



whole world a most artistic rendering of many great and little Frenchmen, and has influenced a vast army of pen draughtsmen of whom he still remains the master.

These drawings also demonstrate another fact: we moderns have advanced very little, if at all, in merely getting a likeness. But we have made great strides in technical execution in the drawing of portraits. If any one will dispassionately compare the manner in which Vandyke has dotted and stippled the light side of the face of Snyders, and lined the shadows without reference to the modelling, with the very simple yet suggestive line of Desmoulins, he will find that Desmoulins has carried his subject further and rendered the head more completely with an expenditure of probably half the time and labour. The actual time and labour given to a drawing is of course of no importance. But if one can show a good result produced simply, it cannot but be an advantage.



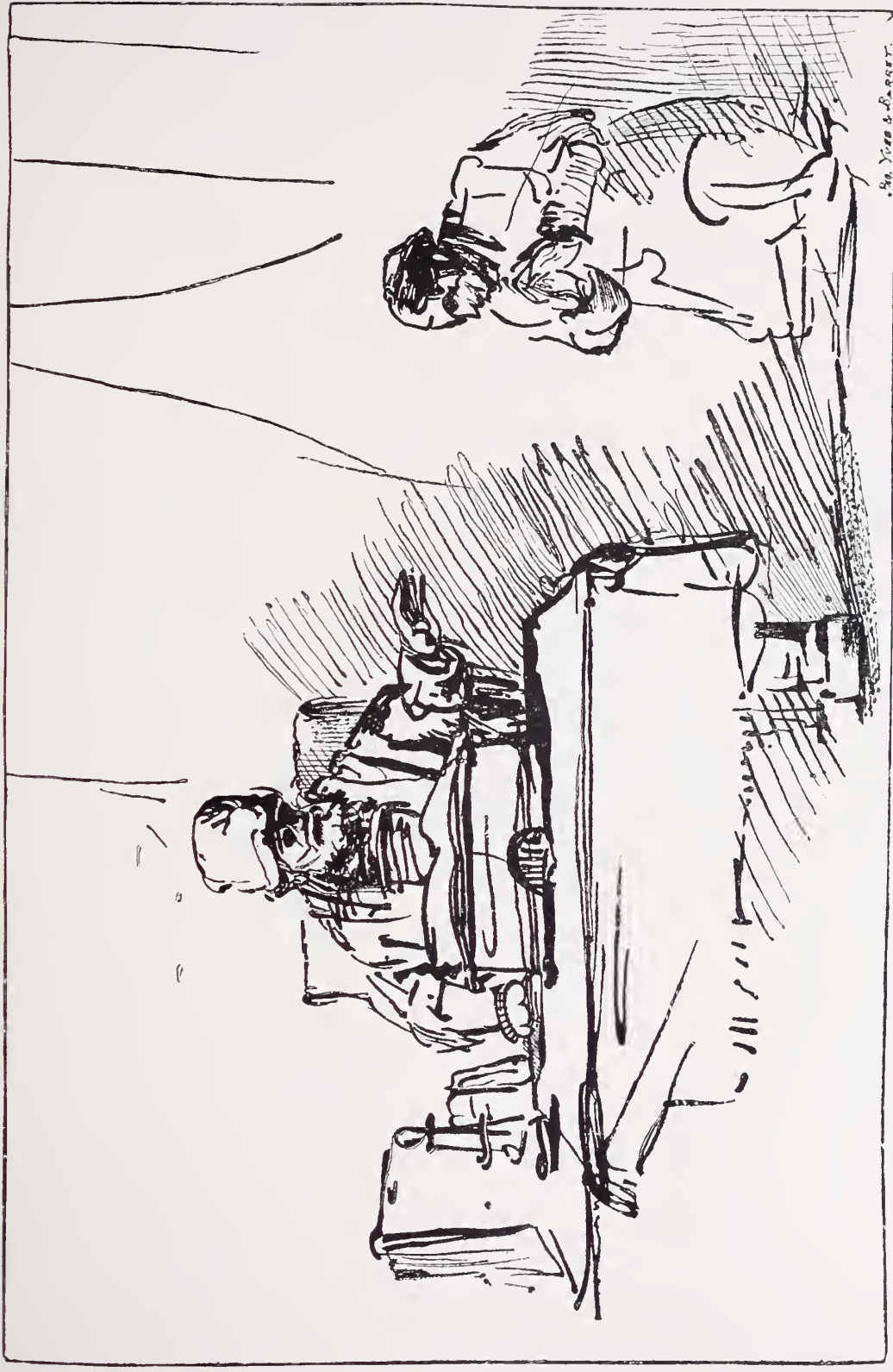


REMBRANDT

REMBRANDT, great in every way, shows his knowledge of the limitation of every art by his admirable and right work in it. The etching of the old man's head here given is a perfect study for a pen sketch. It is as free as it can be, and yet every line is put in carefully. The most positive proof that Rembrandt would have been a pen draughtsman had he lived to-day is the fact that this head reproduces charmingly by process. Compare it with the head of the master in the *Unfaithful Servant*, the full-page pen drawing, and note that though every line in the latter is put down with a purpose, and there is in it none of the wild scrawling so visible in Titian, it is without the delicacy and refinement shown in the two etchings. It is only a note to be used in a picture or an etching, and I am sure is not a work upon which Rembrandt would have wished to base his reputation.

As I have said of other men, Rembrandt knew perfectly the limitations of pen drawing in his day and he respected them. When he wanted the quality which now is to be had in pen drawing, he etched, and in his simple etchings, which are not dependent on dry point, he obtained this quality, though of course they possessed a certain softness which no process has yet been able to give. No man among the ancients is greater than Rembrandt as an etcher, but Whistler in his etchings of Old London is even greater than Rembrandt. Therefore, if you wish a simple style good for all times, you will find it in many of these landscape and figure subjects of Rembrandt's. But for work of to-day, and Rembrandt gave the things that were about him, the student would learn more from the work of Whistler.





Go. Yusef & P. 1900

It seems to me that this study of a boy by Rembrandt is one of his most modern and careful. But



it is only necessary to compare even this with a dozen drawings done at the present time given in other parts of the book to see what advance we have made ;

the pen work is good as far as it goes ; very good, somewhat like Keene's delightful sketches for his *Punch* pictures. That Rembrandt thought this no more than a sketch, though an excellent sketch, is at once proven from the drawing and etching of the two pigs. In the pen drawing of the pig lying down, there is certainly the germ of the etching, and there is just as certainly the most perfect expression of the fact that Rembrandt knew what could be and could not be done in his day with a pen. How enormously we have progressed, any one may see by noting the fact that now the delightfully delicate etching reproduces quite as well as the rather primitive, though excellent pen drawing.



DÜRER'S "APOLLO"

DRAWING IN PRINT ROOM, BRITISH MUSEUM

NEITHER the Print Room of the British Museum, nor any other great gallery, contains a more interesting drawing than this Apollo by Dürer. It is well enough known and has been reproduced before. Its interest for curators, collectors, and art historians arises from its resemblance, not only to Dürer's Adam, but to Jacopo de' Barbari's treatment of the same subject.

My reason for reproducing it, however, is quite different. It is, in the first place, executed with perfect freedom; a study made as one might make it to-day, without thought, apparently, of the engraver or wood-cutter. But this want of thought is only apparent; for the word Apollo is written backward, showing conclusively that it was done for the engraver. And still more interesting is the fact that between the legs, around one arm, and in the hair, are distinct marks of pencil or silver or some other metal point having been used in the roughest but most ordinary fashion to trace it on to another sheet or, more probably, block or plate. No notice, so far as these most important facts are concerned, has ever, I believe, been taken of this drawing. And yet, whenever I have asked engravers or illustrators or art editors of intelligence to look at it they have at once agreed with me that this is an original design made by Dürer for engraving, carried out in his usual fashion, that the lines in the study were simplified by the wood-cutter, and that the flesh and background were cut by the engraver without any reference to the lines of the original.

On the other hand, it is known that this drawing never was engraved. This possibly is the very reason for its existence. How do we know that Dürer did not destroy those studies for his engravings, carried out, everybody now knows, mainly by other people, as soon as they were engraved in metal or cut on wood? That it was intended for engraving is proven absolutely by the Apollo being written backwards.

Again, Mr. Sidney Colvin maintains that lead pencils were not known to Dürer, and that this tracing is of later date. But I do not know that the

tracing on the drawing has been made with lead, it may be silver, rusty iron, or any sort of metal that would leave a mark ; and every one who has had to trace drawings knows that the simplest way to make a tracing, not in reverse, is to go over it with something that leaves a mark which can be rubbed out afterwards, because a line is left and one knows just how much one has traced. Otherwise it is necessary constantly to lift up the drawing—often shifting it—to see how much has been done.

Therefore it seems to me that here is one—possibly the only one—of Dürer's original drawings in preparation for the wood-cutter or his own engraving. And as such I have, I believe, for the first time discussed from this point of view, one of the most interesting possessions of the British Museum. The lines in the sky are done with the utmost freedom ; and yet they are so laid down that any intelligent wood-cutter could simplify them so as to produce a sky that would print. And one should note though Dürer did draw, in this instance, with a freedom and a delicacy quite absent from his woodcuts, that these qualities are absent from them, is his misfortune not his fault.

The glory or mirror which frames the word Apollo is quite characteristic ; but when we come to the flesh all is different. The outlines of the figures, background, and less important parts were most likely traced on the block or plate by assistants ; and he then filled in, simplifying or adding to, the important figures in just the fashion he wished, on the block, all of this being cut to pieces, which was the course pursued by Cruikshank, Doré, etc., until the introduction of photography.

I have simply discussed Dürer in this way as a practical working illustrator, working as all other illustrators worked ; and, great as are his designs, I believe they were produced in very much the ordinary fashion.

The reproductions of this drawing and the Bellini have been made by the Swan Electric Company, and are most interesting examples of the Ives method (the blocks were made by Mr. Ives himself) of reproducing line drawings by the half-tone process. The advantages of this are too self-evident to need any comments.



SPANISH AND ITALIAN WORK

PEN DRAWING OF TO-DAY

SPANISH AND ITALIAN WORK

PEN drawing as an art in itself belongs to the nineteenth century, especially to the last quarter. Mr. Hamerton, who in his *Graphic Arts* gives a brief sketch of its history, says : “Fortuny, the Spanish painter, introduced a new kind of pen drawing which has been followed by Casanova and others of the same school, and which has had some influence outside of it, as well as upon the practice of etching.”

But when he wrote, though but ten years ago, the real significance of this new kind of pen drawing had not been brought to his notice. For the truth is, in Fortuny's day pen drawing was revolutionised ; he, Madrazo, Rico and Vierge in Spain, Menzel and Dietz in Germany, Lalanne and De Neuville, following Meissonier, in France, with the new method of photo-engraving to help them, may be said to have made it the art it now is. You have but to place a drawing of Meissonier's, Fortuny's, or Menzel's by one of Rembrandt's or Raphael's to realise how completely modern pen draughtsmen have broken away from the old limitations, and shown that the pen can be used for something more than the mere sketching of projects and intentions. Pen drawing is a painter's process, and nearly all these artists were, or are, painters as well as pen draughtsmen.

Fortuny's chief innovation in methods was the use of short broken lines, or rather, possibly, the substitution of the spot of lines, for the line itself, the use of these spots of lines to indicate the mass of shadow, the omission of a definite outline, and the suggestion of that outline, by means either of the background, or the modelling inside the figure itself. Mr. Hamerton says that Fortuny preferred short lines probably because he wanted to get variety, and because he saw nothing in nature “that could be fairly interpreted by a long line.” But a far more likely reason is that he found with short lines he could model and break up the mechanical look

often given by long conventional lines—though all lines are conventional. Fortuny's drawings are full of the most delicate modelling; his figures, instead of being simply and strongly suggested as in the pen sketches of the old masters, are as carefully worked in as if with a brush, and their strength is increased rather than lessened by this care. Mr. Hamerton asserts that the apparently "coarsest pen drawings are usually the work of great artists; the delicate and highly-finished are usually the work of amateurs, or else of workmen who are paid to imitate engravings for the purpose of photographic reproduction." True as this was in a certain sense, it shows that Mr. Hamerton did not foresee the development of photo-engraving, and it is misleading, since nothing could be more delicate and less suggestive of engraving than the drawings of Fortuny. They are moreover full of the most wonderful brilliancy. It was in Africa that his eyes were opened to the strong effects of light and shade under a hot sun, and the desire to reproduce these effects had much to do with his breaking away from academical traditions to originate and develop new methods.

One cannot study too long, too carefully, or too lovingly, the unfortunately few examples of his work which Fortuny has left to us. These are to be found scattered in the illustrated papers of France and Spain, for which he occasionally worked. Poor as were at first many of the reproductions, mostly wood-engravings, they stood out from the other work, just as one of his pictures will when, by chance, it makes its way into an exhibition. His drawings may also be found reproduced in some of the lately published lives of the artist, notably in that by Davillier, his great friend. Here and there in other of Davillier's books are a few of Fortuny's drawings of bronzes and of Spanish and Moorish trappings. The wood-engraved reproductions, however, are not to be studied, for fine as a few are, notably Leveillé's of the portrait of M. D'Epinay in the fashion of Goya's time, the feeling of pen and ink work is in them cut out to a great extent. It is best to see direct reproductions or the photogravures that have been made. It may be asked, How is one to know the difference between wood engravings and process reproductions? This is difficult to explain. In the former there are little dots and engraved lines which can, after some practice, be detected, at times only through the magnifying glass; while the fine grey lines made with a pen are nearly always much harder and broader.¹ Fortuny lived a little too soon for the processes by

¹ This difference can easily be seen by comparing the drawing by Rossetti, which is a wood-engraving, with the other heads done by process,

given in the explanatory chapter, "Some Comparative Heads: Old and New."

which his followers have profited. Otherwise there would doubtless have been a still greater number of beautiful pen drawings as well as fine reproductions from them. As it is, many of the process reproductions give his drawings a rough and hard look, which the photogravure reproductions in Davillier's *Life* prove most conclusively to have been the fault of the undeveloped process.

I have spoken as if Fortuny was the leader of the new movement in Spain. There is very little doubt that he was ; but he gave his time almost entirely to painting, and though his few published drawings prove him to have been a master, he did not devote himself to the development of pen drawing to the same extent as did some of the other men who worked with and around him. However, Fortuny is known to the whole world as a pen draughtsman, but, owing to the persistent way in which black and white work has been ignored by critics and artistic associations, especially in England and America—notwithstanding the fact that it is the only healthy art developed in the nineteenth century,—the names of the men who have made illustration what it now is, and whose work is studied by intelligent illustrators the world over, are absolutely unknown even to the many who are flooding the world with pen drawings. And yet, men who have studied Rico, Fortuny, and Vierge, are thought to be masters, and their work is praised as being original, when originality is the last merit they would claim for it.

As a landscape pen draughtsman, there is not and has not been in any country or time a stronger man than Martin Rico. Though it may be information to many, Rico, co-worker with Fortuny, is living to-day, still producing those beautiful pen drawings of the canals of Venice and the palaces of Spain which are the admiration of all who know them. He is almost faultless as a draughtsman, and can on white paper with pen and ink catch the sunlight of a Venetian day and the glitter and transparency of a moving, shimmering canal. He understands the true limitations of his art and never goes beyond them ; he knows just where to put a blot of colour and where to leave it out. With his wonderful facility, he can do what seems an impossibility : fill a piece of white paper with modelling, and make a brilliant black with six grey lines. Everything he touches glitters and shines with sunlight, and there is not one superfluous stroke in his drawing ; neither is a necessary line omitted. How true he is only those can realise who have reverently studied him in the countries alone adapted to glowing, glittering, out-of-door pen work—that is in Spain, Italy and Southern France, Africa and the East. Abortive attempts to imitate this

great master are almost daily made by people ignorant of his work, of the scope of pen drawing, and the reasons for a brilliancy that does not exist north of Southern France and Italy. It is perfectly true that on a summer day some of the little whitewashed villages of England and many towns in the United States, especially in the south, are not without the brilliancy best reproduced by the methods of Rico. But how much better it is for the English artist, in a country where these effects are the exception and not the rule, to strike out in a new direction for himself, as has been done, for example, by Alfred Parsons and Sir George Reid, two of the very few British landscape pen draughtsmen of originality. Rico's work is very difficult to find. Many of his original drawings are never reproduced, but are bought up immediately by collectors to be given an honourable place in their galleries. I have seen a number in New York. A few have been reproduced in *L'Art*, *La Ilustracion Española y Americana*, and *La Vie Moderne*.

I think one of the Spaniards who should be ranked with Fortuny and Rico, and indeed above them, as a pen draughtsman and illustrator, is Vierge, a man who has all the draughtsmanship of Fortuny and Menzel, the colour and brilliancy of Rico, the grace and beauty of Abbey, the eccentricity and daring of Blum, Brennan, and Lungren; in a word, a man who, in the few short years of his working life, has proved himself one of the greatest illustrators who ever lived. I rank Vierge thus above Fortuny and Rico because he has devoted himself more entirely to black and white work.

He flashed out upon the artistic world in a few drawings in *La Vie Moderne*, *Le Monde Illustré*, the Spanish papers, and *The Century* (then *Scribner's Monthly*); in many books, some comparatively commonplace, but one, the most brilliantly illustrated work ever published, which illness, however, prevented him from finishing. Before the illustrations for *Pablo de Ségovie* were all made, his right side and right hand were paralysed, and he lost the power of speech. But when a man is as great as Vierge, his career is only checked, not stopped, by a misfortune that would have killed another less strong. A few months after this attack, we find him learning to draw by painting with his left hand—and painting with a cleverness unknown outside of this group of Spaniards. Even the French were so struck with this astonishing marvel, as they called it, that in the papers of that time are to be found drawings of Vierge sitting out of doors, beginning to paint with his left hand. Now he is slowly regaining the use of the right, but still works with the left.

Vierge seems to have learnt everything and to have mastered that

cleverness, or the knowledge of how to use one's ability, which is indispensable to good pen drawing, an art only for so-called clever men—men who are interested in their work and who, to attain their ends, are ready, if necessary, to use other than conventional methods, or to get other than commonplace results by ordinary means. If the pen draughtsman who thinks he has discovered some new method looks in that wonderful book, the history of *Pablo de Ségovie*,¹ he finds that Vierge discovered it long before him, and can give him a few new hints into the bargain. You cannot examine the smallest drawing in his masterpiece of illustration without seeing how much study prepared the way for its brilliancy and grace.

Such an influence did this book have upon French pen drawing, that after its publication an entire school of pen draughtsmen following Vierge appeared, and their work was more clever than that of any other draughtsmen, though it did not equal the drawing of their master. Among these men are Ferrand Fau, L. Galice, V. A. Poirson, and F. Lunel. Their drawings can be seen in the early numbers of *La Vie Moderne*,² a complete file of which is to be found in the South Kensington Museum. At the present time, however, this paper is artistically worthless. The youngest generation of American illustrators too have discovered Vierge, and American illustration reeks with pitiful imitators who have appropriated almost all of his mannerisms.

Daniel Vierge must not be confounded with his very talented but less brilliant brother, who signed his name S. Urrabieta, while Vierge always omits the Urrabieta and simply signs himself D. Vierge. His brother died recently.

In the Fortuny group, for originality Casanova must be given a very high place—indeed, one almost equal to that of Fortuny himself. I have not seen any large photogravures,³ or even any very good reproductions of his drawings. They could hardly be engraved on wood, and in the more or less rough and almost cruel reproductions for the *Salon* Catalogue and in French illustrated papers they necessarily lose enormously. The best are in *L'Art*. But even in the poorest reproductions can be seen the exquisite modelling of a monk's head or a woman's hand, the wonderful sparkle of a tiny jewel. His delicate grey lines would be lost in any ordinary attempt at a wood engraving.

¹ See also *Pablo de Segovia*, T. Fisher Unwin, London, 1892. For this edition Vierge completed his series of designs.

² Also see *Les Premières*, the French theatrical journal, *Paris Illustré*, etc.

³ See the one published in the first edition of this book.

In the list of the Spanish-Italian school of figure draughtsmen, Madrazo, Fabrès, and a host of others, hold a high rank. But to describe their work in detail would be endless repetition. There is nothing to do but to study it for one's self. To-day the Spanish and Italian illustrated papers are full of the work of imitators of the greater men who revolutionised the whole art of France and Italy—work with which the pages of these papers glitter and sparkle and glow, though it is without the originality of Fortuny, Casanova, and Vierge.

To speak of an Italian school separately would be impossible, since all alike these children of the sunlight, as they might be called, spend their winters in Paris, Rome, or Madrid, in the life schools or doing nothing, while in summer they find their work out of doors in Spain, Southern France, Italy, or Africa. Senzanni, whose decorative compositions are most charming and graceful, Paolucci, Chessa, Scoppetta, Fabbi, all have a style and character which is well worth study, although it has been founded on that of the great Spaniards. Men like Ximenez, Michetti, Tito, Favretto, Raffaëlli, Gomar, Montalti, whether born in Italy, Spain, or France, as artists can hardly be said to have any nationality. The sun is their god, and Fortuny and Rico are his prophets. Another reason for not speaking separately of Italian pen drawing is, that the greater number of Italian papers and books are so badly printed that the principal pen draughtsmen strive to get their work into French publications, which are not only better made, but appeal to a much larger audience.

The work of the Spanish school may still be a problem to critics who, though they admit its brilliancy, think it all wrong and stupefying because of its contradiction to their preconceived notions of art, it never seeming to occur to them that perhaps their notions, and not the methods criticised, are at fault. But all those with technical knowledge and broad opinions have recognised new masters in these innovators whose influence has continued steadily to increase.

SPANISH AND ITALIAN WORK

ILLUSTRATIONS

MARIANO FORTUNY

THE full name of Fortuny is José-Maria-Bernardo, but as he dispensed with the greater part of it, we may as well follow his example. He was born in 1838 at Reus, a little town in the province of Tarragona, where he lived until the age of fourteen years, attending the village school. Then his grandfather proposed that they should start out to seek their fortunes, and they footed it to Barcelona. I make these bare statements about Fortuny's early life, simply because I wish to show, first that Fortuny was born years after Menzel and Meissonier, and secondly, that, though this would seem as if from the beginning he had been influenced by them, as were all northern artists, he most probably knew nothing about their work until he went to Rome in 1857.

But there, when studying in the Academy, in the course of the ordinary academical training he most likely, as his biographer Yriarte, who knew him well, says, came under the influence of the followers of Overbeck. I have not the slightest doubt that these Germans possessed examples of Menzel, if indeed at the German embassy or some of the Roman libraries was not to be found a complete set of his already published drawings, which certainly must have been making a profound sensation among the students of that time; while Meissonier's *Contes Rémois* was just issuing from the press. Fortuny, not having yet worked out a style of his own, doubtlessly was influenced by the drawings of these two men, the like of which had never been seen before. The chances are, drawings by Fortuny showing this influence might somewhere be found. But war breaking out between Spain and Morocco, Fortuny went off with a Royal Commission to paint on the spot.

It was here in Morocco his eyes were opened to the wonderful effects

of light and shade—effects which Menzel and Meissonier had never seen, and had therefore never tried to render. Just as Meissonier, influenced by all the old men who, as far back as Bellini, had produced pen drawings which were wonderfully fine, was the first to take up pen drawing and seriously work at it to express his ideas—why I do not know unless because of an innate love of the medium; so Fortuny, when he got to Africa and back again into Spain, discovered that here was a method by which he could give not only modelling, but the brilliancy of sunlight as well. Though he lived too soon for the processes which have enabled his followers to improve on his methods, at the same time we owe the inspiration of all the brilliant work of the modern Spanish school to him.

Fine as is this drawing, I cannot help thinking that those by Fabrès and Blum, which also are in this book, made years afterwards for process and with a full knowledge of the means to be employed and the results to be obtained, are of more value to the student; because there is in this design of Fortuny's the freedom of a master which in the student would merely lead to carelessness, while the background and the floor are worked over so much that, without a vast amount of intelligent hand-work, no process block could reproduce the lines. Knowing some of Fortuny's original work, I fancy that in this block a great many of his delicate greys have been lost. Had he lived later I have no doubt he would have somewhat modified his style, as Vierge has done, to meet the requirements of process. Just as in the Blum drawing one can see the texture of the coat with its great buttons and silk lining, the sheen of the breeches and the polish of the boots, so one can study these same indications of texture in the Fortuny block. But when you come to the face you find that it is almost impossible to follow the lines, they having been made probably with grey ink, the back of a quill pen, or anything to be had, without thought of reproduction. The effect is right, but one cannot altogether commend the means by which it has been obtained; in fact the drawing was done for study and not for reproduction. But if this is all we have, we ought to be only too thankful for a drawing which has had so much influence on pen work.

This block shows Fortuny's methods as well as could any other reproduction. There are photogravures in Davillier's *Life*, but they are scarcely important enough to use again. Among the other well-known reproductions are the engraving by Leveillé, which does not show the work at all; a very good process block in the *Magazine of Art*, and other blocks in *L'Art* and *La Vie Moderne*, and in Davillier's books. Beyond these I know of very few published examples of Fortuny's work. I have no doubt he made hundreds of drawings, but they would probably be found in the portfolios of his friends.





DANIEL VIERGE

As Menzel is responsible for the development of pen drawing in Germany and England, so is Vierge for the present style and the great advance in technique of draughtsmen in France, Italy, Spain, and America. I know that Vierge falls apparently under Sir Joshua Reynolds' condemnation of superficial cleverness. But when a man draws with Vierge's knowledge and adds to it his skill in handling, his work is something vastly more than clever, although every line might seem to deserve this condemnation. Because Vierge is followed by a number of men in France, Italy, Spain, and America, who, if they lack a certain amount of his inventive cleverness, have added to it much that is original of their own,—although I admit they would never have worked after his manner had he not led the way,—a certain number of critics, and artists too, jump to the conclusion that anybody can do this sort of work. Yet the fact remains that the number of these clever men has not increased, nor have any other draughtsmen been able to supersede them. They in their turn have had their imitators, men without the slightest knowledge of the means used by Vierge to obtain his effects, but no one, even among Vierge's immediate followers, has yet succeeded in surpassing him.



Vierge doubtless owed much to Fortuny and much to Gigoux, that early and little-known Frenchman of this century. The greater part of his work, and certainly the most characteristic, is done with pen and ink, and, like Fortuny, he uses the pen to fill his drawings with delicate modelling. But however much he learned from his great countryman, he brought to his work a strength, a delicacy, and a character that were all his own. From the beginning there was no mistaking it for that of any other draughtsman. Not that it is in the least mannered; in looking over the pages of *Pablo de Ségovie* one is struck with the entirely different methods used in the many drawings. With this cleverness of technique one finds the most perfect modelling in the tiniest figures and faces, the most artistic rendering of architecture, the most graceful suggestions of landscape; and the assured touch of the master stamps each and every drawing with individuality.

To get the refinement given in the beautiful little cuts from *Pablo de Ségovie*, it is necessary to make one's drawings very large and yet at the same time to work with the greatest amount of delicacy. There is next to no cross-hatching except in Vierge's later work done since his illness, and therefore his drawings can be reduced to almost any extent without the lines filling up. Still, in the volume of *Pablo de Ségovie*, the blocks were almost too small to do full justice to his work, as any one can see by comparing them with the larger reproductions here given. Then, again, when he wishes to get a rich colour, he uses a positive black, in the reproduction of which there is apparently no change, although it is a perfectly well-known fact that the whites of any reproduction grow whiter and the blacks blacker as the size decreases. Another quality to be noted in his work is the amount of colour suggested without the use of it. Many of Vierge's later drawings are marred by the introduction of large splotches of pure black—neither put in with a feeling for decorative balance nor colour effect. This can be most plainly and unfortunately seen in the English edition of *Pablo*. Again, too, he has used tint backgrounds, and Vierge himself ordered them to be used and not the photo-engraver, as some of his would-be critics and exploiters assert.

There is really very little to be said about Vierge's drawings, except to advise the student to study them in the most thorough manner, and to remind him that their cleverness and apparent freedom are the result of years of the hardest study, and, in each drawing, of days and sometimes weeks of the most careful work. After all I have said, it is almost useless for me to repeat that the effects of light and shade in Vierge's designs, being intended for Spanish or southern subjects, are of course utterly out of keeping in drawings made in England. But the cleverness, the skill, is never out of keeping, and the nearer it can be approached, the better for the pen draughtsman and the art of pen drawing.





G. FAVRETTO

THIS is only a simple study from one of Favretto's pictures, it is useful as showing how much colour can be suggested with very little work. Any one can see that the figures stand in front of a bright, sunlit, glittering wall, and yet there is no work in it at all. The plant, which tells so well against this wall, the bright colours of the flowers, and the still more brilliant tints of the kerchief about the girl's neck, are all rendered charmingly, to any one who can feel them, in this little pen study. To me it is just as much Favretto's work as one of his Venetian paintings. The only thing to be regretted is that we shall never have any more of it. Favretto died a few years ago.



J. F. RAFFAËLLI

RAFFAËLLI'S drawing is an excellent example of a simple direct, straightforward rendering of a head. The greater part of it, I should say, was drawn with a quill. The bony formation of the head is remarkably well rendered, and yet, as it should be, in the simplest manner possible. Notice how Raffaëlli has drawn the tassel by a flat mass, and still made it look round, and kept its proper relation and form. Notice too how the stubby beard and the lines of the face are drawn to show the growth of the beard and the direction of this growth, and to express the construction of the face; and only one set of lines is used. Raffaëlli's work is very like Herkomer's. Indeed it is much more like German work than Italian. Raffaëlli is a naturalised Frenchman.

A. MONTALTI

MONTALTI's drawing is from *C'era una Volta*, a book of Italian fairy tales published by the Fratelli Treves of Milan in 1885. The whole book is a proof of the possibilities of pen work on grained paper, which is described in the Chapter on Materials. There is no possible comparison to be made between Montalti's drawing and the head of De Lesseps by Ringel.¹ That is a pure exercise in the rendering of a low relief; this is an example of artistic decoration applied to book illustration. Not only does it illustrate a passage in the story, but it is given with the greatest amount of decorative feeling, and in a style which goes to prove that there is no reason why we should be dependent on the decorative methods of other times. Conventional forms, of course, are the property of the whole world. It may be argued that there is no meaning in this decoration. Neither to me—and I am sure I speak for all artists who have any honesty in their opinions—is there meaning in nearly all decoration except that of pleasure in the beauty of the design itself. We may be told in Smith's *Classical Dictionary*, or in any of those useful cribs much affected by the intellectual artist, that such and such mysterious swirls and scrawls mean life and immortality, but we are not impressed by this hidden meaning; we only look to see if the line is gracefully drawn.

Montalti's decorations at the side and top of his drawing are graceful. They may have been derived from old iron-work or from his inner consciousness. The result is pleasing and restful. The white circle behind the girl may be a swirl of life or the bull's eye of a target; it really is a proof that Montalti is an illustrator who knows the requirements of his art. He has used this white circle for his mass of light which draws attention to the figure of the girl; the figure of the piping shepherd is his great black, and the positive black and white really neutralise each other. It also may be said that the half-decorative, half-realistic daisies at the bottom of the drawing are out of place: nothing is out of place in art if the result is good, and it is nobody's business but the student's how it is obtained.

The drawing was made on the Fratelli Treves' tinted paper, on which I have worked, but at that time it was not so good as the *Papier Gillot*. The original paper can be seen in places where the mechanically-ruled horizontal lines are visible. The positive blacks in the decoration, for example, were probably put in with a pen first, as well as in the figure and the flowers, which no doubt were done with both pen and brush. Having gotten in his darks, Montalti scraped with an eraser or penknife the light round the shepherd, and thus made a lighter tone by means of cross-hatching, bringing out a perpendicular line in the white. He then

¹ See French Illustrations.

obtained his high lights by scraping with much more force, and removing all the tint from the paper, as in the circle and in the white blots of the



decoration. In some places he very probably used Chinese white, because you will often find in working on this paper that after scraping it, if you again attempt pen work, you will be sure to get blots. The drawing cannot be reduced very much in size, while to obtain any but mechanical results is difficult.

ANTONIO FABRÈS

THIS is not only a masterpiece of feeling for pen work, but a remarkable example of reproduction. Published in *L'Art* a few years ago, and drawn in 1879 in Rome, of course under the influence of Fortuny, this drawing not only surpasses anything Fortuny himself did, but has exerted an enormous influence on pen drawing. I have no hesitation in saying that Fortuny never made a drawing which can approach it for technique, although any one comparing it with the *Man Reading* on another page will see a great similarity. Fortuny has just as carefully studied the man's embroidered coat as Fabrès has the peasant's breeches. But Fabrès' rendering of the texture of the coat, the vest, and the trousers of the peasant, reproduces much more perfectly than Fortuny's work, and this is the point to be noted. Again, Fabrès' head is better than the Fortuny, and he has boldly drawn the hands which Fortuny shirks. To me, at least, his rendering of the whole is more successful than Fortuny's. But Fortuny, being the original man, is responsible for Fabrès, just as Fabrès is for half the French and American illustration of to-day.

How is this drawing done? The greater part of it, including the most delicate modelling of the head and hands and legs—in fact everything, but part of the hat and coat and a little of the hair, is drawn with a pen. The coat and all the hair may have been drawn by a pen by dragging it in various directions, allowing all the ink to run into a blot, and then lifting some of it off with the finger or with blotting paper. The hat most likely was drawn with a brush or with an inked thumb, the background with both. On these flat tints, the rouletted effect, that is the effect of wash, has been produced by a roulette in the hands of a photo-engraver who is an artist. But this example is the most successful result I know of a very unreliable experiment on the part of the draughtsman. With any but a most skilful artistic workman, the result is certain failure. I am very sorry that the photo-engraver's name is not on the print. I should be glad to give him full credit for his surprising success. The printing of such a drawing is extremely difficult. Do not imagine that the apparently wildly-scrawled background is composed of nothing but wild scrawls. It is indication and suggestion, every bit of which is put down with a purpose. Notice how the background grows out of the deep shadows of the coat, and how the wash and pen work are combined in the shadows between the legs; how the wash work in places is reinforced by pen work, as on the left side near the coat sleeve, and how wonderfully the effect has been reproduced. There are other drawings by Fabrès in *L'Art*,¹ notably a photogravure of a Moor with a gun over his shoulders. But I do not think any of them compare with this.

¹ Also see *Illustracion Artistica*.





LOUIS GALICE AND FERRAND FAU

THESE charming little drawings give a good idea of the work of two followers of Vierge. The drawing in both is excellent, but it is easy to see that the artists, who would probably be the first to admit it, are inspired by their great master Vierge. The work of men of this school can be seen in *Paris Illustré*, *Les Premières Illustrés*, *Le Monde Illustré*; in fact, they are the pen draughtsmen of France to-day. But I have given so much space to the master that it would be only repetition, beautiful as is their work, to dwell upon his followers.



MARTIN RICO

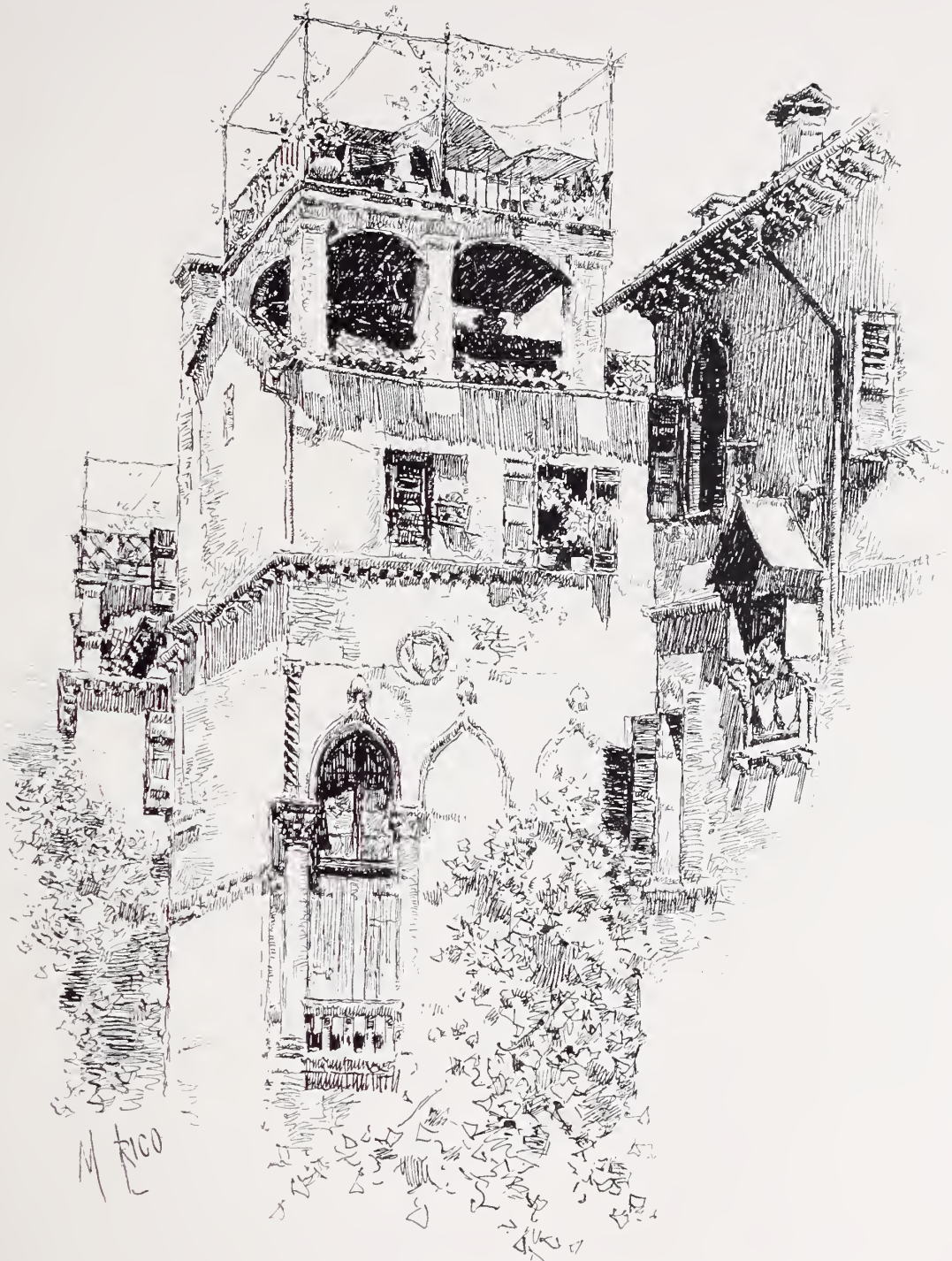


OWING to the interest which Rico has taken in this book I am able to publish, not only two of his well-known drawings, but two new ones which he has made expressly for me. These are the corner of St. Mark's on this page, and the study of Venice on page 53. The other two, originally published in *La Ilustracion Española y Americana*, have been known to me for years, and I have reproduced them here because I consider them two of the best pen drawings Rico ever made.

The great beauty of Rico's work is the grace of his line, and the brilliancy and strength of light and shade which he obtains with comparatively little work. Not only is there not a superfluous stroke in his drawing, but each line is used, either singly, to express or, together with others, to enforce certain effects he wishes to give. In bright sunlight, the characteristic of Italy and Spain, all his drawings and paintings are made. In



From *La Vie Moderne*.



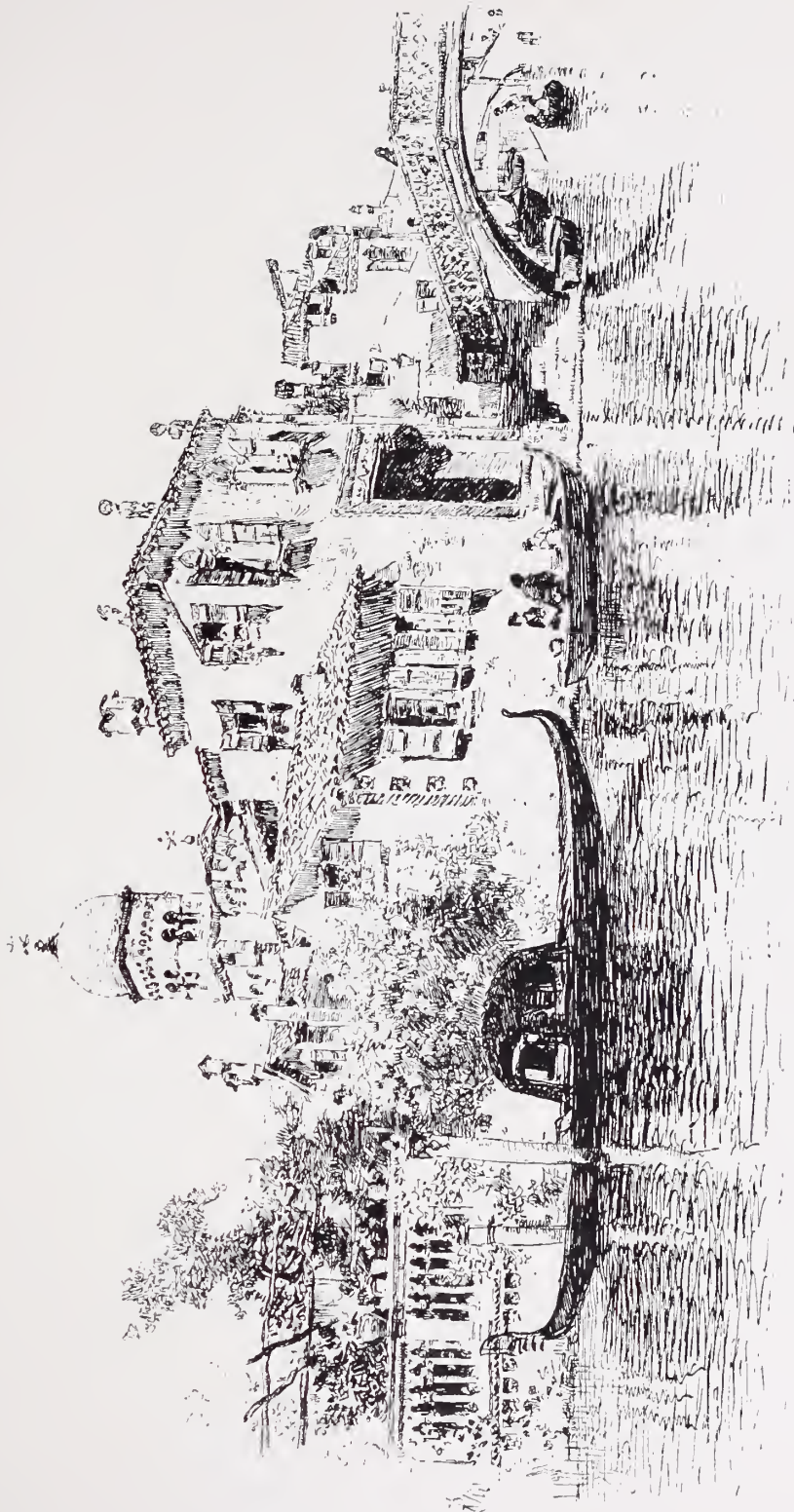
M. PICO

STUDY, VENICE.
Original drawing executed for this book.

the little tower, the fact of sunshine is not more evident than the actual position of the sun directly behind the spectator, shown by the direction of every line which goes to make up a shadow. Notice how he has concentrated his only pure black in the two open windows near the centre of the drawing ; and yet, he has relieved this black by bits of pure white, in one window by the flowers trained across it, in the other by the charmingly-placed patches of sunlight just behind the half-closed shutter and on the rich decorations which he has indicated and which we know so well on many Venetian windows. Notice too the light, giving such value to the darks on both sides of it, which shows through the crack between the window-frame and the shutter ; see how the light and shade are managed on the little shrine and on the wall and window under it, and the way in which the light on one wall is carried into the shadow on the other by the arrangement of the foliage. Everything is toned up from these two blacks ; there is not another pure black of importance in any part of the drawing. The effect is thus concentrated and your eye attracted, as he meant it should be, to the very centre of the composition. You should also study the manner in which he works out to the edges of the drawing, leading you into it by the most delicate and graceful lines. His architecture is only hinted and suggested, but so thoroughly does he know his Venice that an architect could work from his suggestions, while for an artist they are simply perfect of their kind ; the capitals, the decorated mouldings running around the buildings, the under side of the cornice, the little shrine, the balcony with its pots and vines and awning, are all well indicated. Bits of these things in nature were of course as dark as his two windows, but he knows, and every one who wishes to make a good drawing should learn, that force must be reserved for one particular point and blacks must not be scattered, if an effective whole is to be produced.

Rico's knowledge of the necessity of concentration is specially notable in the drawing of the Canal with a gondola, in which the inside of the *felze*, or cover of the gondola, is the only pure black ; but it is so skilfully managed with little touches of white, suggestions of the carving, the window on the opposite side and the lamp, that you do not see it is a pure black, for your eye is carried at once to the keynote to the whole picture—the large door which is really not so black as the gondola, but, because there are here no opposing whites, it seems, as Rico intended, much blacker.

In all his drawings Rico invariably breaks his long straight lines ; in each, however, in a different manner. The long mouldings in the little tower are broken by shadows and by foliage ; in the corner of St. Mark's, pigeons not only add grace, but take away from the monotony which would otherwise, unavoidably, be too prominent in this part of the drawing, and even the water-spout helps to serve the same purpose. In the Canal, the



From *La Ilustración Española y Americana*.

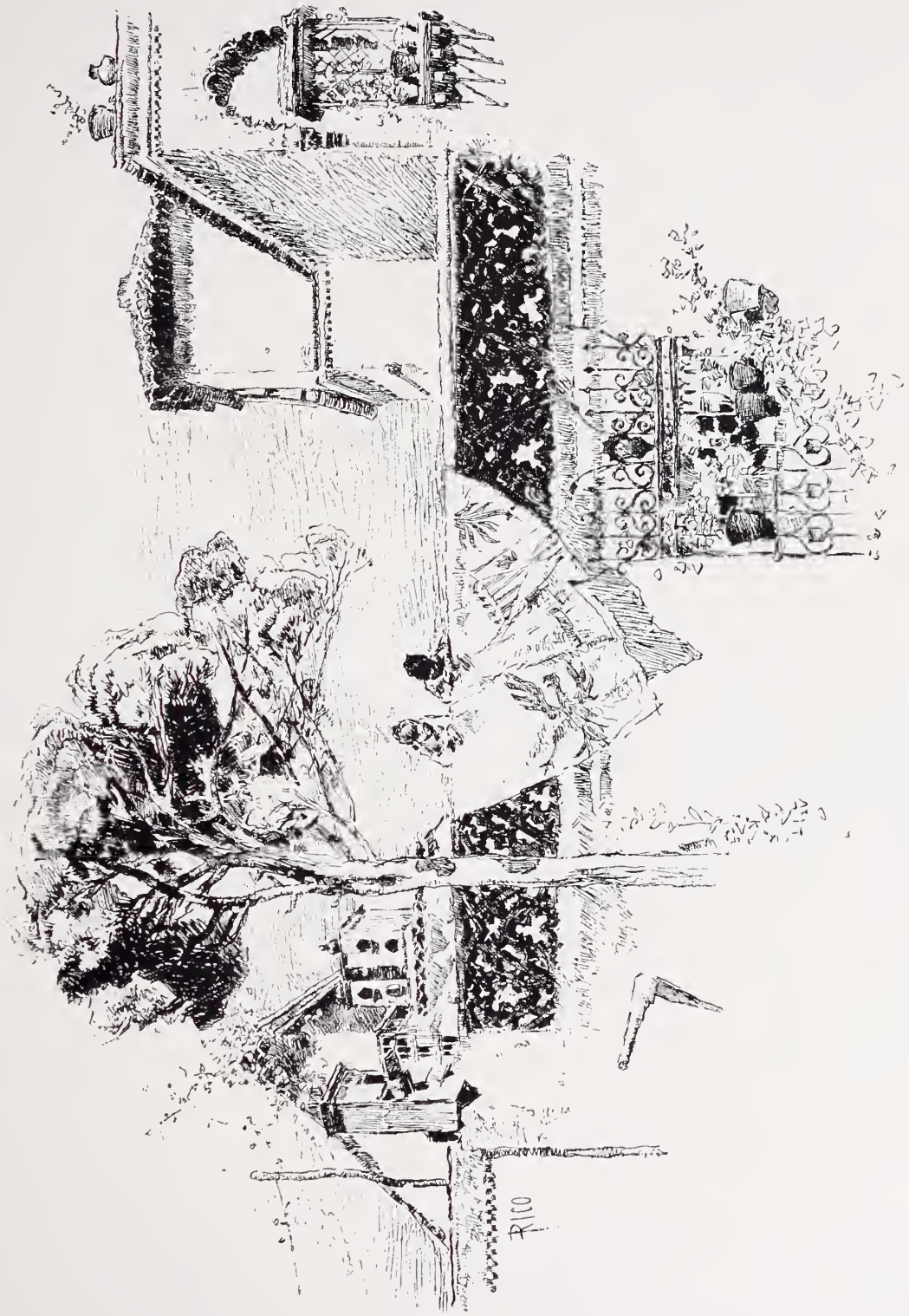
gondolas, sandolas, and other boats carry out the straight lines and break them at the same time, while the suggestion of foliage and the balustrade are done as no one ever did them before Rico ; in the Reminiscence of Seville, the carved balcony, beautiful in itself, would become monotonous were it not relieved by the drapery thrown over it, by the keynote of black supplied in the head of the leaning figure, and by the stone pine farther along. Note how thoroughly the effect of a glittering hot wall is given by the shadow of one drain-pipe, and how rightly the grille with the flower-pots leads into the drawing.

The amount of expression Rico gets in his rendering of reflections in water, always drawn in a very simple manner, is wonderful. There is absolutely no black in them, except where, as in the Canal, I think it is the result of bad reproduction. And yet the suggestion of the effect of a Venetian Canal is right. Here is a point I wish to note : these drawings are not intended to be pictures or records of transient effects ; they are line drawings made in brilliant sunshine. Do not try to imitate them in countries where the effects they give do not exist.

As to the reproduction, the blocks are as good as I can get them and give an excellent idea of the drawings. There is a certain rottenness about some of the lines which is not in the originals, but their relative value is almost right. The lines which appear very fine are really so, and were drawn either with a very fine pen or the back of the pen Rico was using. The drawings are scarcely reduced. They were made in bluish-black ink on white smooth Whatman paper, and, as far as I can make out, with very little pencil work, though I have seen Rico making very elaborate pencil drawings to be inked over. He, however, is a master and can do what he wishes ; but for the student it would be very foolish to attempt such drawings without preliminary pencil work—even with it, he can hardly hope for such results. I know of no better models than these, but it must be remembered that in process blocks many of the blacks come from the filling up in the printing, and that all lines thicken somewhat in reproduction.

To realise the great development of pen drawing it is only necessary to place the drawings of Rico by the side of Braun's reproductions of Canaletto's pen work. Rico's are as much in advance of Canaletto's as his were of the drawings of every one of his predecessors. Both artists are true ; but Rico shows how much more we have learned to express by pen drawing.

The drawing of the corner of St. Mark's has been very well reproduced by Waterlow and Sons. It was a difficult piece of work, but they have succeeded in keeping the character of the original.



From *La Ilustración Española y Americana*.



E. TITO

TITO is one of Rico's cleverest pupils. He has the power of seeing things for himself, and though he works in Venice, where Rico draws and paints, he chooses different subjects, and his figures are drawn much larger and made more important than Rico's. Looking at this drawing, though one sees at once whence its inspiration is derived, it is also evident that, though Tito works out his drawings in the manner of his master, his subjects are all his own.



A. CASANOVA Y ESTORACH

CASANOVA is one of those men who seem to be always amusing themselves with their drawings and experimenting, making a dainty suggestion in one place or elaborately working out a figure in another, jotting down notes or trying a pen in the most fascinating manner on the margin of the paper, and always wandering about over the drawing just for pleasure. But if the student should endeavour to imitate this freedom and to wander in this way before he has gone through the necessary training, his results will probably not be so satisfactory to himself or to the public. For Casanova has told me it takes him a long time to make a drawing, and I can well believe it.

The large process of the monks is from one of his pictures, and the smaller is apparently made for his own enjoyment. One can say really very little about the way such work is done, but I should imagine it was taken up and worked on, a little here and a little there, just when Casanova was in the humour, part of it done with a fine pen, part with a quill, part with his fingers; in fact it is doubtless all experimenting, but the experimenting of a man who is almost certain of the results he will obtain.

I do not publish his drawings so much as examples of pen work to be studied, since it would be almost impossible even to copy him, but rather to show the command over the pen of one of the most accomplished of the modern school of Spaniards—men who have something to say and who say it in a fashion of their own.

Casanova is not an illustrator but a painter who cares very little about the reproduction of his drawings. He knows that no process save photogravure is yet able to render them,



for the fineness of his lines and the greyness of his ink make it impossible at the present time to reproduce his work and print it with type. But it is the work of just such experimenters which advances the technique of the art and its reproduction. Had it not been for Meissonier we probably never should have had good facsimile wood-engraving. Vierge no doubt has done more than any one else to develop process. Casanova is one

after whom wood-engravers and process-workers struggle in vain, but this struggle in the end will perfect wood-engraving and process, until we have reproductions which will be as good as photogravures and yet may be printed with type. The art workmen who look ahead are those who are really of service in the world, the workmen, that is, who understand the methods of the past and can make use of their valuable qualities, but who at the same time live in the present and make improvements.



B. Galifore has carried out the Casanova tradition and improved on it ; there is a feeling of largeness about his work that is very interesting.

THE LATER SPANIARDS AND ITALIANS

THERE is very little to add on the subject of Spanish and Italian pen work. No new men of great ability have appeared since this book was first published ; while some of the elder workers are dead or have stopped drawing with a pen.

This method of expression, which was genuine and spontaneous with Fortuny, Casanova, Rico, and Vierge, apparently was but a fad and a fashion with their followers, successors, and imitators ; while even the masters themselves, like Rico and Casanova, have virtually ceased to produce black and white work, or, like Vierge, rarely make pen drawings any longer. Vierge, it is true, may, at any moment, return to the medium in which he achieved his greatest success, but at present he seems to work less with the pen than in wash. I made the statement, in my comments on the drawings of Vierge in Mr. T. Fisher Unwin's edition of *Pablo*, that he habitually used a glass pen. I find, upon further inquiry, that he did not make the designs for *Pablo* with that uncanny instrument, and that he only used glass pens until he broke the batch with which he was supplied, and never replaced them. Still, when I first met him, he was using these pens, and seemed to like them.

One cause for the decline of pen drawing in Spain and Italy is the revival of wood-engraving in those countries, where it is almost universally used to-day in the illustrated papers. Methods in art are a fashion. Pen drawing was the fashion ten years ago. Though the men who started it were genuine enough in their love for it, the art was encouraged by editors mainly because of its cheapness in comparison with engraving which, as an art and a business, was seriously, from the financial standpoint, injured ; but of late engravers have taken, after the fashion of Mr. T. Cole, to photographing pictures, for which, of course, they pay the artist little or nothing, on to the block, cutting them, and thus there is even less expense to the publisher than is incurred by commissioning an artist to make a drawing in pen and ink, and getting a photo-engraver to reproduce it. I have found but one Rico in the Spanish papers lately, and that was engraved on wood. This renaissance of wood-engraving has been fatal to pen drawing and mechanical reproduction in Spain and Italy.

For it is the rarest thing to find an editor intelligent enough to appreciate two opposing forms of expression at the same moment ; especially when, as in this case, the proprietor's pocket is involved, the result is the survival of the cheapest. That the wood-engraving is good is a mere detail, only it proves



that Spanish artists still care for good art. Pen drawing, I believe, will be revived again in the countries which have produced so much good work, so many good men, and have so greatly influenced the world.

Jose M. Marques' "Hebrew type" retains much of the Fortuny or the Fabrès style of short broken lines in the background ; but there is more modelling in the arm and face—and successful reproduction of it too—than in the earlier work. The rendering of texture in the drapery is better than Fabrès, there is less attempt at cleverness, and more success altogether. The example shows that along the same lines of cleverness and brilliancy of handling set up by the Spaniards, we are advancing.

How great the change in rendering landscape has been since the ten short years of Rico's brilliant period must be evident from these two "studies from nature" by Fontanesi. Instead of suggesting colour by contrast by white paper, it is suggested here completely by tone, and about as truly as in a reproductive etching, certainly quite as

elaborately. In the first, there is sunlight, though not much of it. The cows are well enough drawn, the girl is commonplace ; but the change in style from the Rico—the individuality, a very good thing—will be observed. Even more strongly, will this desire to break away from the Spanish masters of sunlight be seen in the first of these studies, which might have been made at Fontainebleau,—possibly it was,—but had Rico drawn it, we still would have seen the sunlight of the South as in a well-known design in the first volume of *La Vie Moderne*, of the Porte Guillaume at Chartres. One would never imagine that Rico's subject had been found near Paris, but rather in the south of Spain. And, on the contrary, if Fontanesi's work was done in the south of Spain, it was certainly



produced under the direct influence of the Barbizon school, and is hence much worse ; for even if Rico's drawing of Chartres was mannered, it was himself, and not the result of a fashion. But fashion rules all but the artist, and he is a rare being. Still the drawing is graceful, light, and breezy, and worth study.





That another and a freer style has been introduced into Spanish work is shown by this study by Gallegas. It is more of a sketch, and yet there is in the shadows more attempt at modelling, and more true rendering by the engraver of this attempt than formerly. The play of light on the old flute-player's head and shoulders is excellent.

Aranda and, I believe, Simonetti still carry on the Fortuny tradition; but they

have not produced enough work, or rather illustrated—so far as I have seen—important enough books to give them the standing they probably deserve. When the modern Spanish or Italian painter takes up a pen, even if he be as individual in paint as Segantini, he becomes absolutely commonplace. But as modern wood-engraving is the thing in Spain and Italy today, as mysticism is in France, and sham mediævalism is in England and America, independent and original men, working in any save the style of the moment, are not much in evidence. So, unknowingly, I may have been unjust; I may have omitted some Spaniards and Italians whose work I should only be too glad to include.



PEN DRAWING IN FRANCE

PEN DRAWING IN FRANCE

IT used to be the fashion to speak of French drawings as tricky. I am not quite sure what this may mean, but I am certain that in French, as in Spanish design, dull mechanical work was done away with, and brilliant handling took its place. To France we owe altogether the idea of getting great artists to put good work, their best work, into book illustration : that is, the plan of getting good men to draw on the wood for the engraver ; but after these drawings were put upon the blocks they had to be cut. And to England and Bewick belongs the art of wood-engraving. In 1830 France possessed great, if not her greatest artists, England her best wood-engravers ; and it was the international artistic union of the two countries about 1835, which enabled French publishers to issue a series of books, that in some ways have never been equalled since. Cumer's edition of *Paul et Virginie* and *La Chaumière Indienne* illustrated by Huet, Jacque, Isabey, Johannot, and, above all, Meissonier ; engraved mainly by Andrews Williams, C. and J. Thompson, and Orrin Smith, though Best, Brévière, Lavoignat, and Leveillé among others worked on it, as an example of united work by many hands has never been surpassed in any country. And though Meissonier's *Contes Rémois* and Menzel's *Frederick* are greater works, they are but the outcome of Cumer's *Paul et Virginie*, and would never have been undertaken without his incentive. He owes, it is true, his inspiration to Johannot's *Roi de Bohème*, to Gigoux's *Gil Blas*, and the other illustrated works which immediately preceded it, but the *Paul et Virginie* is as great an advance upon these books as they were upon those which preceded them, the work of the printers of Lyons. It is from the French books of 1835 that modern illustration springs. Bewick, Clennell, and the Thompsons invented wood-engraving ; Meissonier, Jacque, Gigoux, and T. Johannot drawing for the engraver ; and it was this

union of artists who could draw, and engravers who could engrave, that made the French book of 1835 to 1845 possible. Although Menzel was quick to perceive the possibilities of the art, he owed his inspiration to France, and his first work was engraved by Frenchmen; and although England contributed the engravers, the really great English illustrated books did not appear till after those of France, but when they did appear, in landscape work at least, they equalled, if they did not surpass, the French. While I believe that the *Penny Magazine* was almost the first illustrated journal issued,¹ it did not by any means, in artistic excellence, approach *Le Magazin Pittoresque*, which contains Meissonier's *Deux Jouers*, engraved by Lavoignat, a block which for drawing and engraving it would be hard to improve upon to-day. At the same time that the great Spaniards were beginning to be famous, Detaille and De Neuville appeared in France, to carry on the work of illustration. They studied under Meissonier, and in De Neuville's *Coups de Fusil* one notes the influence of *Les Contes Rémois*.

Even before Meissonier, Paul Huet had already given signs of the coming change. But his drawings were not really appreciated until after his death, when they were looked upon as revelations and purchased by the State. Rousseau, when he took a pen, was too careless, or I suppose some would say too old-masterish, to care about line, but he managed his blacks effectively in his wood interiors. Millet, too, worked with a pen, especially a quill, not exactly as the old men did, but still with simplicity, making a few lines tell a whole story. Doré, of course, produced hundreds and probably thousands of pen drawings; but I suppose it is now almost universally admitted that his facility killed his art, as it eventually killed him. Not only this, but the greater part of his work, was done for the engraver.

Looking at great men like Meissonier, Menzel, and Vierge, one is struck by the fact that their original work is expressed by pen drawing. With the majority of Frenchmen, pen drawing has been the means of giving the public an artistic rendering of their pictures in black and white. It has also been used in this way in England, but, as a rule, in anything but an artistic manner. De Neuville and Detaille and hundreds of others drew in pen and ink with the adjunct of wash, not that the pen was to them of any special importance; it simply happened to be the medium that was the fashion. Their sketches were really a working-out of the old projects' and intentions' scheme. With the introduction of photo-

¹ Commenced in 1832. The *Olio* of the same date was also good.

engraving, the publication of *L'Art* and the *Salon* Catalogues, and the coming of the Spaniards, the latest change in favour of process began in France. The Frenchmen, luckily, were able to adapt their style to the new requirements.

In De Neuville's well-known drawings of war subjects, as in Meissonier's work, there is the most careful modelling, obtained by simple and direct means, and the utmost refinement. Mr. Hamerton devotes much space to justly praising his *Coups de Fusil*, published by Charpentier, but to praise De Neuville and to omit Detaille is to slight an artist who is no less brilliant as a pen draughtsman. And to write of these two men and omit Jeannot was an inexcusable oversight.

In my estimation Jeannot is the leading French pen draughtsman. He has of course painted, but he is more of a pen draughtsman than a painter, and therefore should be here ranked above these two better-known men who, owing to the magnificent series of photogravure reproductions of their paintings published by Goupil, have acquired a widespread popularity. Jeannot has devoted himself almost exclusively to illustrating the magazines, and showing the French life of to-day. I hardly know where or when he began to draw, but the first numbers of *La Vie Moderne* are filled with examples of his work. Exactly the same can be said of Adrien Marie and Renouard, who are known in England through the *Graphic*. Indeed, the *Graphic*, as it admits, is at the present moment very much dependent on the drawings of these men. Of late most of the work of Renouard, however, is in chalk and pencil. Mars also has done much for English papers, with his rendering of life on the sea-shore, and his charming children and their fashion-plate mothers.

At one time, in almost every number of *La Vie Moderne*, was to be seen work which, though the artists' names might be unknown to us outside of France, was clever and marked with originality. The same can be said of an innumerable host in *Paris Illustré*, *Le Petit Journal pour Rire*, *La Vie Parisienne*, *L'Illustration*, *Le Monde Illustré*, *Revue Illustrée*, *Le Courrier Français*; or if you look any week in books which bear the little card *Vient de Paraître*, you will probably find in their pages some exquisite little gem by a man you never heard of before. Almost every French pen draughtsman has made the books and papers of the day—whether big or little, comic or serious, important or frivolous—beautiful and worthy of study. The early volumes of *La Vie Moderne* and *L'Art* are the best masters that any pen draughtsman could have.

It would really be much easier to name the French artists who cannot

draw with a pen than those who can. However, among the better-known draughtsmen I might mention Duez, whose brilliant sketches transfer scenes from the theatre to the pages of the theatrical papers; Jean Béraud, who makes wonderful interiors with effects of light and shade; Maurice Leloir, who has given us a new Sterne; Auguste Lançon, whose drawings of animals have an enormous amount of strength and vigour; Lucien Gautier, who can make a bronze statuette or a marble group with the sunlight glowing on it and its soft reflected shadows, real for us in *L'Art*; Bracquemond, the etcher, whose head and tail pieces are charming, while his little sketches are as wonderful as Japanese work; Ringel, the modeller, who seems able to do anything, and whose drawings after his own plaques are the most clever that have ever been made; H. Scott, who was a delightful architectural draughtsman; E. Adan, who renders his own pictures charmingly; Rochegrosse, Mme. Lemaire, Edmond Yon, Robida, who is very popular both as a caricaturist and an artistic traveller; Brunet-Debaines, who was one of the first to show Englishmen what pen drawing for process-reproduction should be; Habert-Dys, who draws an initial or the border of a page with most effective brilliancy by means of almost pure blacks and whites; graceful swallows flit about chimney-pot initials, Japanese dolls tumble all around the text, perfect oriental feeling pervades his head and tail pieces, and all his work is suffused with his own personality.

There is one Frenchman who stands apart from all these men, and who is the landscape pen draughtsman of France. This is Maxime Lalanne, who has recently died full of honours, if not of years. Without his beautiful drawings Havard's *Hollande* would be veritably dead as the cities of the Zuyder Zee. His bird's-eye views have made them live again. For quick, bright, strong, incisive work, for getting at the essence of a thing with sharp, short, brilliant strokes, perhaps no one can equal him. The only possible drawback to his work is that there is too much Lalanne in it. He knew, if anything, too well what he was going to do. He can hardly be called mannered, because a mannered man usually cares nothing for nature with its variety and subtlety, while Lalanne really did care and makes you feel that he cared. I may perhaps best explain what I mean by saying that Rico in his work seems to ask, "Is this the way a tree or a bit of water ought to look? I think it is"; while Lalanne in his is more positive: "This is the way the tree or bit of water looks; I know it," he seems to say. He is almost too sure of himself.

In speaking of French pen drawing one cannot help noticing that a

few years ago it was the fashion in Paris to draw with the pen for reproduction—a fashion, as I have said, started by the Spaniards, then living there. The work of the French artists, although not so clever as that of the Spaniards, was almost all good, simple, and careful. But at the same time the leading attraction of the French magazines and journals was the fact that week after week Vierge, his brother or his followers, or other Spaniards and Italians, contributed, as they still continue to do, the most striking drawings. But since the introduction of the Guillaume and Meisenbach processes much of this work has been given up, and only those artists who care for line and the quality to be gotten with a pen still produce pen drawings. What has given that which is known as French art its reputation with art students and art lovers, is the fact that it is not French art at all, but the art of the whole world; for there is not the slightest doubt that the work of the greatest artists of the day is to be seen at one time or another in Paris, which has therefore become the art metropolis. The *Salon* is really the broadest and most varied exhibition in the world, and far less French than the Royal Academy is English.

Almost every French pen draughtsman to whom I have referred is a well-known painter. If you take up to-day a *Salon* Catalogue,¹ you find it full of charming pen drawing reproductions, pictures in themselves. Of these I have given several as examples. Indeed, the list of the greatest pen draughtsmen is, as I said of the Spaniards, the list of the great painters. The fashion of illustrating catalogues commenced, I believe, in France, and grew and developed there under the care of *L'Art*, *Le Gazette des Beaux Arts*, and the publishers of the *Salon* Catalogue, until its influence has made itself felt, even in England, though here very little of the French feeling has been retained. The French work is done for the sake of the drawing; the English catalogue is but an inartistic reading book for the artless. There have been some exceptions. Some good drawings have been made for English catalogues, just as of late years the *Salon* Catalogues have been given over to less able draughtsmen, for this reason: at the present moment many of the best-known artists are having their paintings reproduced by a mechanical tone process. In some ways this is unfortunate for pen drawing; in others it is fortunate, since it helps to confine pen drawing to its proper sphere, which is not the reproduction of tone,

¹ I want to make an exception of the Catalogue for 1887, which is very bad. Some of the drawings may have been good, but over them has been put a grey tone which gives them a uniform cheap look, and, in nearly every case,

ruins them. The Catalogue for 1888 is not very much better. The most artistic cheap French Catalogue published, as far as I know, is that of the *Société d'Aquarellistes*. Now (1893) the *Salon* Catalogue is beneath contempt.

but of line only. The publication of *L'Art* and these catalogues not only created a school of French pen draughtsmen, whose sole work it was to reproduce other men's art, but, so powerful was its influence, that it produced a few English artists, who for a time did very fine work of the same kind, but of them I shall speak in the English Chapter. It is owing to the same influence that the finest catalogues ever issued have been published in America, and that in that country catalogue-making and advertising have become a fine art.

If the healthy black and white art, which is the art of the nineteenth century, is put into advertisements, catalogues, the daily and weekly papers, journals and magazines, and the people really appreciate, understand, and care for it, as they do in France, Germany, and America, I believe it is doing just as much good as pictures buried away in churches, which they look and wonder at through the eyes of a guide-book or of a religious art teacher, and the beauties of which seeing, they do not perceive, and the meaning of which hearing, they do not understand.

My many sins of omission and commission I hope may be, to some extent, overlooked, in this edition. Among the new illustrations will be found the work of the comic, humorous, and *fin de siècle* people, as well as those who are in the full swing of the latest movement, the mysticists, the symbolists, the disciples of the Rose ✠ Croix.

NOTE.—That there are no examples of the work of Louis Legrand, Lautrec, Ibels, and a few others is not my fault; in seeking to procure them, it was my mistake and misfortune not to trust to myself, but to rely upon friendly promises of assistance which came to nothing.

PEN DRAWING IN FRANCE

ILLUSTRATIONS

J. L. E. MEISSONIER

THOUGH Meissonier and Menzel were born about the same time, there is no doubt that Meissonier was the first of modern illustrators, that is the first of moderns to make complete pictures on



the wood in line, which were cut in facsimile, either by the Englishmen who, following Charles Thompson, went to France, or by the Frenchmen like Brévière and Lavoignat who studied with them. The most important book produced about 1835 was Cumer's edition of *Paul et Virginie* and *La Chaumière Indienne* issued together, with more than one hundred drawings by Meissonier, although it also contained many notable designs by Paul Huet, Isabey, Jacque, and others. At the same time Meissonier was contributing work to *Le Magazin Pittoresque*, and a little later *Les Deux Joueurs* appeared in that journal; this drawing even to-day in many ways is an excellent example of drawing and engraving, as may be seen from the electrotype here printed.

From the *Paul et Virginie* there is no doubt that Menzel obtained his knowledge of the possibilities of wood-engraving. But to Meissonier and the Romanticists must be given the credit of inventing modern illustration,



and to the English engravers the credit of cutting their drawings, as nearly as they could, not to look like steel engravings which were the fashion, but like the designs made on the blocks by the artists. Meissonier's most important work, however, was not done until 1858, when his illustrations



to *Les Contes Rémois* appeared, engraved by Lavoignat and Leveillé. This book has never yet been surpassed, it is the perfection of drawing and engraving on wood, and considering, that save the others to which he had contributed, some years earlier, nothing approaching it had been done, Meissonier must be acknowledged to be the inventor of modern design as

Bewick is the inventor of modern wood-engraving. These drawings from



the *Contes Rémois* are the best things that Meissonier ever produced ; and in refinement and careful study no one has yet improved on them. How



much better they were than the engravings we shall never know. But the engravings from them are to-day the standard which one should follow for the decoration of the printed page. Naturally they are somewhat lost here, as they were specially intended for a much smaller page.



EDOUARD DETAILLE

NOTHING has been more of a surprise to me in preparing this book than to find how comparatively few pure pen drawings have been made by two men so well known for black and white work as De Neuville and Detaille. I have not forgotten that I have said I care little whether a drawing is pure pen work or not, and there are many drawings in the book where

wash is used with the pen work. Nothing, however, but a pure pen drawing can be reproduced with so little labour and without hand work. These two men studied under Meissonier before the coming of process, and they drew on the wood; therefore, though their work was well reproduced, it made very little difference whether there was a wash in it or not. During the last twenty years, in which their reputation has been made, and De Neuville unfortunately has died, though they have done a vast amount of work for reproduction—in fact, almost all their work was intended for this purpose,—it has been for reproduction by photogravure, either in colour or in black and white, from their paintings and not from their line drawings.

The accompanying drawing by Detaille is a sketch of the principal figure in the picture called *L'Alerte*, and though it was exhibited, as are hundreds of his and De Neuville's drawings, it is nothing more than a sketch of projects and intentions, and no better than many of the old men could have done it. The drawing itself is good, and the action and movement of the man and horse are very well expressed. But it is filled with careless blots and smudges. It is the sketch of a master, primarily done for his own use, though he is willing to show it. A glance at the work of Jeannot or Haug and Lüders will show that Detaille's drawing is a work for study, theirs are works for exhibition. Having followed the methods of fifteen or twenty years ago, and having met with success in other ways, he has never paid the necessary attention to the essentially modern illustrative methods. From his standpoint there is no reason why he should. He paints for reproduction, and in the reproductions published by Goupil, from the cheapest to the most expensive, his work is rendered very well. No one to-day knows more about painting for reproduction than Detaille. He is one of the men who have given up pen drawing because their wash drawings can be mechanically engraved equally well. In his great work, *L'Armée Française*, there are scarcely any pen drawings at all.

E. DANTAN

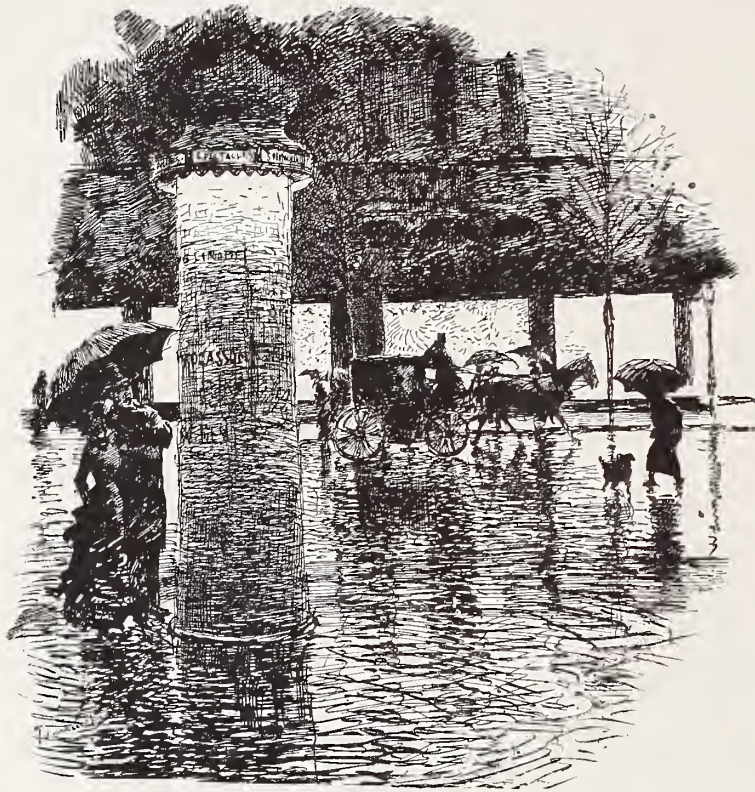
THIS drawing shows a consummate mastery of technique in a man who has given the world very little pen drawing—at least very little that I have been able to find. Of course in the original picture the greatest cleverness was manifested in the scheme of light, the posing of the figures, and the arrangement of the different parts. But to suggest this cleverness in pen and ink without over-elaboration is quite as wonderful. The reserving of blacks here, as in all other good drawings, will be noted. But the great feature is the rendering of the greys, and especially the flesh tints of the model in the foreground. You feel instinctively the difference between the relief on which the sculptor is working, the little coloured figure, the model herself, and the cloth which carries the light from the relief down her arms on to the box where she is sitting. All of this is produced by the most simple means, and yet the different surfaces are perfectly suggested. It cannot be said there is any great cleverness in the handling; the drawing itself in places might be much better. The model's hands and one of the sculptor's are probably not up to those in the picture. But this drawing should be studied mainly for its suggestion of colour, and for the very careful and, at the same time, very artistic manner in which Yves and Barret have engraved it. The skilful use of cross-hatching has contributed in many places to the successful rendering of the character of the different surfaces. And yet in some of the most difficult passages, notably in the model herself, there is none of this hand work; the whole effect is entirely due to the artist. But right alongside the model, look at the delicate way in which Dantan's name is engraved. It might be remarked that this is too trivial to notice; but it is such apparent trivialities that make the difference between good and bad work.

The outlines of the figure on the relief are somewhat rough and hard. I think they should have been cut down and thus softened. The hardness is probably due to a defect in the block. As it is, the outlines catch one's eye unpleasantly. As to the rendering of the canvases in high light above the relief, the plaques and reliefs on the wall which runs at right angles to it, at the left hand of the drawing, I think the surfaces and the colour and texture suggested are worked out, though unobtrusively, as well as the principal motive in the picture. But every part of this drawing is worthy of the most careful and thorough study.

Dantan assures me that the drawing is his own work, and, as I have said, it is simply wonderful that a man who has shown so little pen work should get such perfect results. I have no doubt that he is responsible in a great measure for the careful engraving, and therefore it is almost presumptuous of me to offer any criticism upon it. This drawing is but another proof of what I have asserted: if an artist can reproduce his own picture in pen and ink artistically, he produces not only a valuable record but a new work of art. It is to this drawing, as much as to the picture itself, that Dantan owes his fame.¹

¹ For work of this class Emile Adan's *Ferryman's Daughter* and *Autumn* should be seen.





P. G. JEANNIOT

JEANNIOT'S work comes perfectly well by process. By the simplest means he obtains the most satisfactory results. Take this little drawing of the boulevards at night with a *kiosque*; the effect of the light which comes from it, the light of the shop

windows, and their reflections on the wet asphalt, are given as well as if the drawing was made in wash. There is no over-elaboration and unnecessary work. The tones are suggested in a remarkable manner. Of course they are all wrong, but they give the right effect. In fact, the little drawing which heads this page should be carefully studied; it is easy to see that there are too many black splotches which may have been greys in the original, but have, through careless reproduction, come as blacks in the block.

Then take the drawing of the soldiers drilling. Randolph Caldecott never did a better dog than the one standing in the foreground looking at the officer, while the recruit close by is simply the thing itself. Look at the character in the awkward squad, in all the spectators, in the officers. The houses in the background, however, are careless. They might have been suggested much more artistically with very little more work. But the figures are altogether delightful in their suggestion of character, and every line shows careful thought.

Jeanniot has illustrated an almost endless succession of books and papers, *La Vie Moderne*, *La Revue Illustrée*, etc. etc. The book by which his work has been made most widely known is, of course, the Dentu edition of *Tartarin de Tarascon*, which contains a vast number of pen drawings.



T. G. Smith



MADELEINE LEMAIRE

I AM not yet sure whether I should have selected this charming figure of a flower-girl, or one of Madame Lemaire's studies of flowers, which she renders with more colour and less work than even Alfred Parsons, though I cannot think she gives as much attention to the delicacy of each individual form and the expression of its growth. But there is no doubt whatever to her right to a place as a figure draughtswoman. There is a refinement of drawing and rendering of colour in a simple unaffected manner in her work, which is delightful. Madame Lemaire's designs are only notes of her pictures, but notes of a most artistic sort. The principal qualities to be studied in her work are the simplicity of line and the grace of handling.

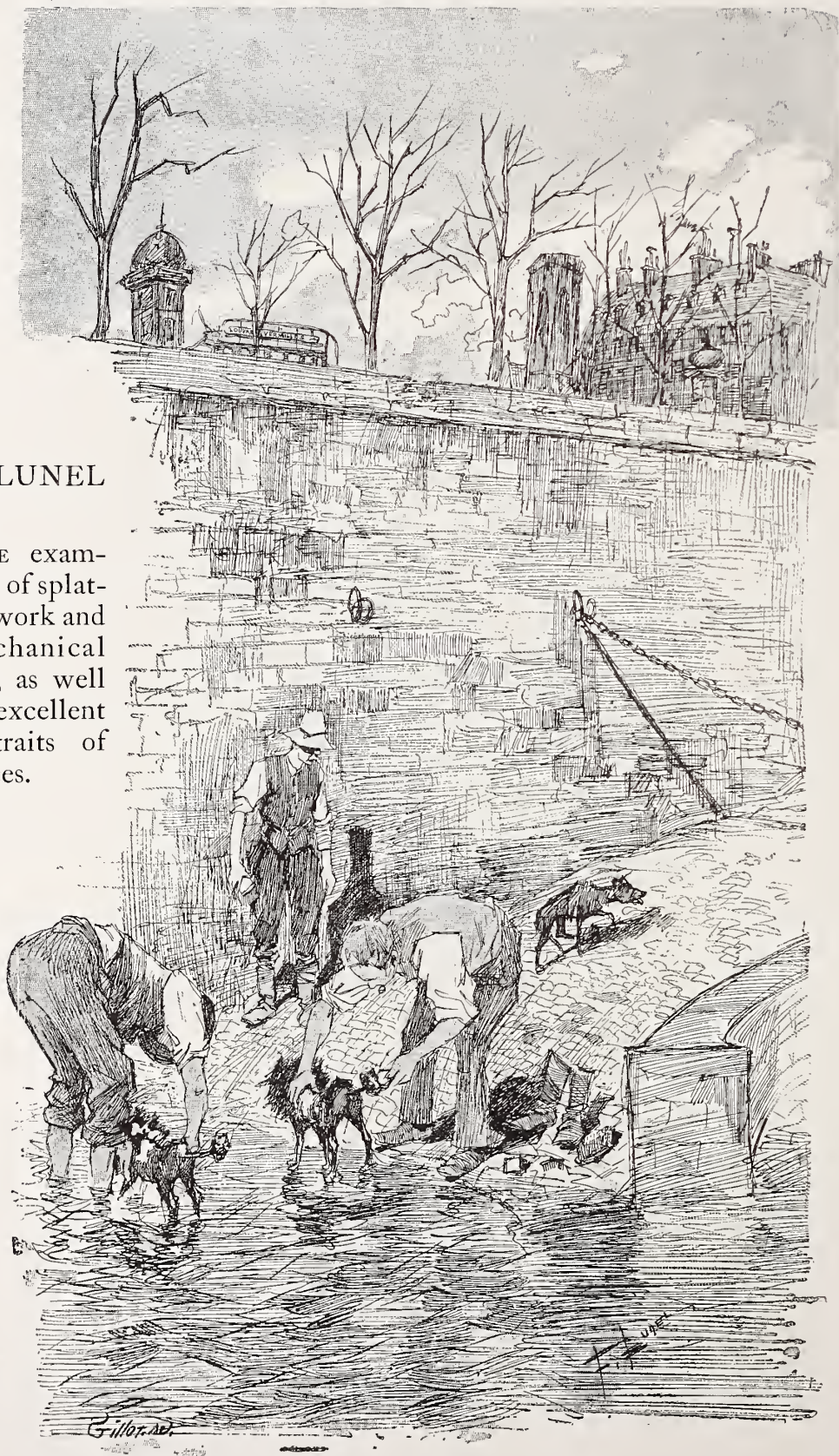


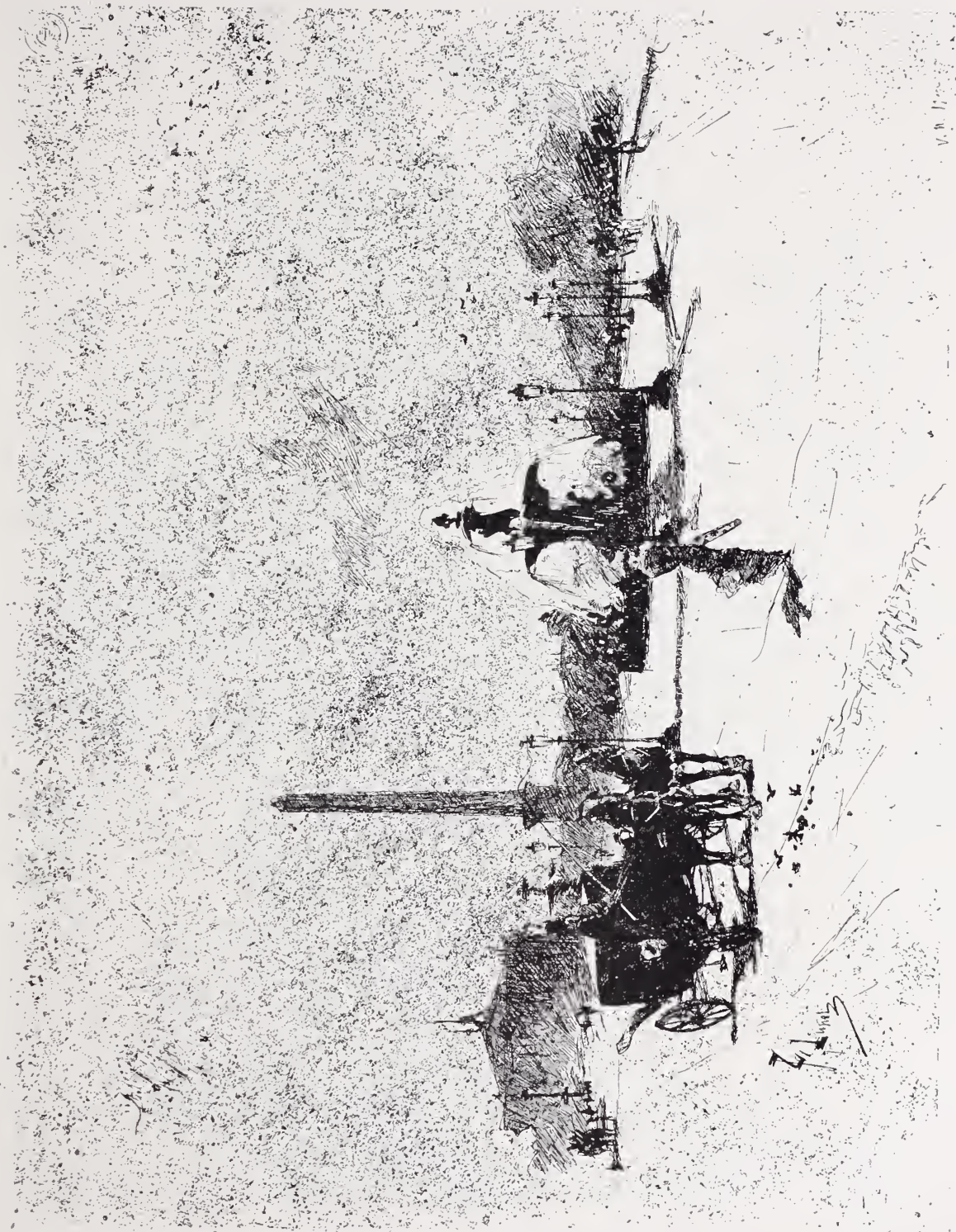
V. A.
POIRSON

GOOD clean line work, simply and directly employed, excepting in the trees, which are niggled. Poirson is a follower of Vierge, but an intelligent one; he uses his blacks rightly. There is a little mechanically produced tint on the figures.

F. LUNEL

FINE examples of splat-ter work and mechanical tint, as well as excellent portraits of places.

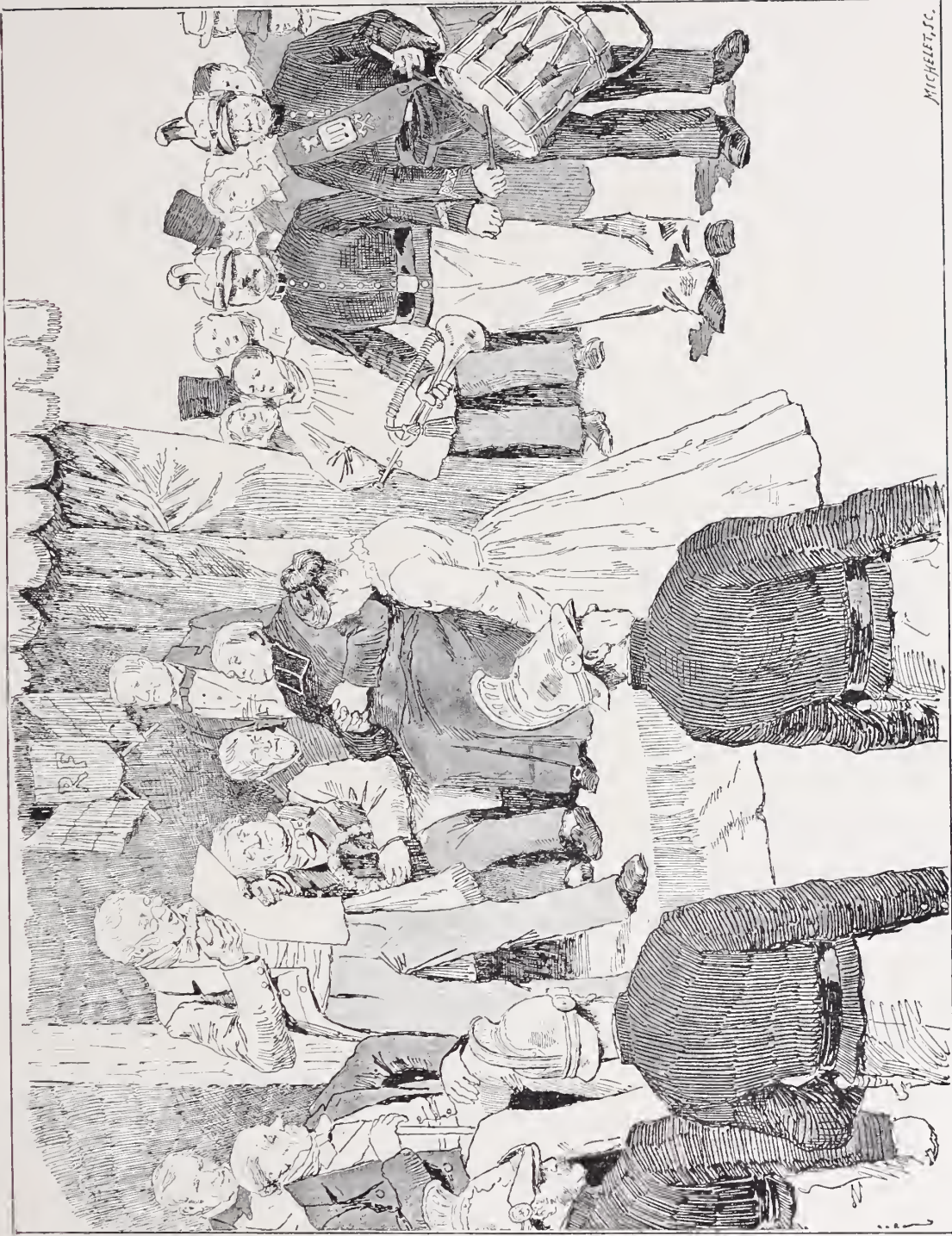






E. DUEZ

It is rare indeed to find a drawing done with absolute freedom which comes perfectly by process, yet this study by Duez done years ago in *Paris Illustré* does so. It is but a proof that if one has the illustrative sense and the ability, one may work in almost any fashion, and yet get an excellent result.



HENRI PILLE

A CLEVER and amusing character sketch in a French provincial town, burlesqued somewhat, and full of carelessness in drawing, but fuller of action and observation.

J. L. FORAIN

DECORATED, sent on a special mission with Paul Bourget to America, written about by Daudet, Forain may certainly be said to have arrived. How much of all this is due to his subjects, how much to the legend which goes with them, how much to his skating on the thinnest of thin ice, which bends and cracks almost to the suppression of the papers in which his illustrations appear, is not my affair. All I am concerned with is how much art there is in his power of omitting lines, in his concentration of effect, in his ability, as Daudet has said, *de résumer, dans un geste, et dans une phrase, à la française, vingt pages*, not only of criticism, but an epoch of fashions, morals, and immorality.

His simplicity of line and his power of expression with that simple line are wonderful. Still at present I feel that he has carried the simplicity of the Japanese, from whom all this is derived, too far. His line at times has become really meaningless and without beauty: not that it ever had much of the latter quality. But, while one may love the line, equally simple, of Hokusai, one is bored with that of Forain, though one wonders at the result he gets with his apparently clumsy method. Forain deliberately ignores all flexibility of line; each seems put down with an unyielding point, and yet the result is amazing. He uses much wash, chalk, or crayon in his work, which comes well enough by process, even in the daily papers. I have preferred to show one of his important drawings, exquisitely engraved by Florian, in which Forain has used all sorts of mediums; and yet one can note perfectly the pen, the wash, and the chalk, so well has the engraver preserved each characteristic. Forain has illustrated much for *Gil Blas*, *L'Echo de Paris*, *Figaro*, *The New York Herald*, *Le Courrier Français*, and other papers. Volumes of his designs have been printed, among which are *Album de Forain*, *La Comédie Parisienne*, *Les temps difficiles*, *Nous, Vous, Eux*, etc.

Though he is a master of design as well as of execution, he is a delusion and a snare to any one not so brilliant as himself; and any one as clever would be but another Forain, and one is enough. His carelessness is, however, as easy to imitate as his excellence is difficult, and his imitators are numberless.



MAXIME LALANNE

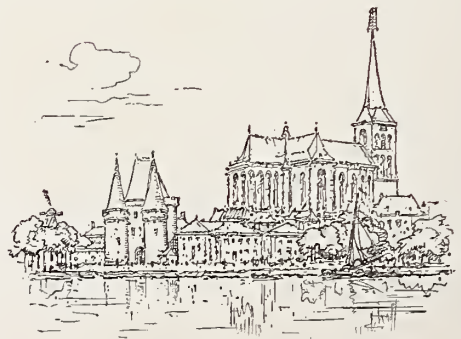
To my mind, at least, Lalanne was one of the most exquisite and refined illustrators of architecture who ever lived. His ability to express a great



building, a vast town, or a delicate little landscape, has never been equalled, I think, by anybody but Whistler. To a certain extent he was mannered; so was Rembrandt; Whistler is the only man I know of who is not. The three little drawings which I have given show Lalanne's style very well.

I do not know what was the size of the originals; in Havard's *Hollande* the illustrations are reproduced in many different sizes, but I think the small ones like these are the most successful. The student will find the book extremely useful.

Lalanne probably acquired his refinement of handling in the production of his innumerable delicate etchings. It is scarcely necessary to analyse his drawings here, as I have considered one of them in an earlier chapter, and all are characterised by the same simplicity and refinement of expression, the same directness of execution.



There is in them great knowledge of architecture, but this knowledge is not aggressive. The *Portfolio* contained many examples of Lalanne's work, among others sketches in Rouen and illustrations for Mr. Hamerton's *Paris*. His etching of Richmond and the Thames, which appeared in the *Portfolio*,

is the most exquisite example of his work I have seen in any English periodical. Nearly the same results could be obtained with pen and ink.

The books which Lalanne illustrated are numberless. He did a great deal for Quantin, I believe. His work can be found in back numbers of *L'Art* and nearly all the French magazines and periodicals, for he was a most prolific draughtsman. But perhaps the best, certainly the most complete, example of his work is Havard's *Hollande*.



ULYSSE BUTIN

IT may be wondered why I give so much space to a drawing which is apparently crude and very like the projects and intentions of the old men. Simply to show the difference. The old work either is in pure outline, or if modelling is attempted, it is done in the most conventional manner. Here you have no outline, but, on the contrary, a masterly sketch in which the suggestion of modelling and the feeling for light and shade are remarkable in their strength and character. Notice how the figure of the girl is suggested under her dress, and the simple yet excellent rendering of her hair, and the difference between her face and that of the man sleeping beside her. Of course this is rough work if you like, and the reproduction is less than the size of the original drawing. But though the work is put in strongly and boldly, it is not done carelessly, and it is most interesting to see the way in which a man like Butin works. Note, too, that none of the lines are done with unnecessary coarseness in hopes that they will reduce into the proper relations with other light ones, but all are drawn apparently with a big quill pen. As I have said, I show this drawing more to mark the contrast between modern sketching of projects and intentions and old work of the same sort. It was published in *L'Art*.



2. 11



DRAWINGS OF SCULPTURE

IN looking over the catalogues of different art exhibitions, which are perhaps the only places where are to be found pen drawings of sculpture with any pretence to artistic rendering, one is struck by one of two facts. Either the sculptors have not made the drawings themselves, or else they have produced slight and trivial renderings of their own often very beautiful work. The chief cause for this is that many sculptors out of France, singular as it may seem, cannot draw; that is, they cannot make a drawing of any artistic value. Of course in Paris this is not so often the case. A man who has gone



through the *Beaux-Arts* is almost always able to draw. But in other countries it is the exception when the sculptor can. And again, it is extremely difficult to give with a pen, either with simple lines or complicated drawing, the real feeling of marble, terra-cotta, or bronze.

The consequence is that the majority of French sculptors, when they wish an artistic rendering in pen and ink of their work, not infrequently employ one of the three draughtsmen whose work I have here given to do it for them. Let us take the large drawing by St. Elme Gautier, after the high relief by Mercié, over one of the doorways of the Louvre. Mercié is a painter as well as a sculptor, his painting often being seen in the *Salon*, and he realises the difficulty of giving with pen and ink the effect of a newly-modelled relief which has none of the marks of time, or the interesting smudges and breaks and fractures which save the artist much work and lend charm to the results. But from new work you have to draw sharply and cleanly, depending upon nothing but your ability to draw correctly, taking the utmost care with every line, and yet avoiding that liny mechanical look which you will find at once in your drawing unless you are very skilful. One cannot call this drawing of Gautier's very artistic, but it is a clean, sharp rendering of the subject, and as such is a good study.

Contrast it for a moment with these heads of angels by Marie Weber. She has got all the modelling and the effect of the surfaces and the rendering of light and shade without a single outline, though Gautier's work is almost altogether outline. But a drawing like this could not be made unless the draughtsman was quite Gautier's equal. Notice how, though she indicates the lights and shades and the darks in the mouths, she has concentrated her blacks on the base on which the heads stand. And yet you will find little blacks all over the drawing, which is one of the most delightfully artistic renderings of sculpture I have ever seen. Other of Marie Weber's drawings are to be found in *L'Art*, but none that are as fine as this one.

Half-way between Gautier's and Marie Weber's work comes this drawing of Teucer by L. Gaucherel, which is an excellent combination of their two methods—of Gautier's firm bold outline in the light part of the figure, and of Weber's delicate modelling in the shadows. The effect has been obtained without a single pure black, just as, of course, there was no black in the figure itself.

Lastly, the head of De Lesseps by Ringel is an example of the work of a man who can model as well as he can draw, and draw as well as he can etch. Not only have his series of medallions of contemporary Frenchmen been most original in their conception and true in their execution, but the drawings are in no way inferior, and made a profound sensation a few years ago upon their publication in *L'Art*. They are drawn on the *Papier Gillot*, and the cross-hatch, the double tone which increases the light, can be seen all over the side of the face, while the pure whites are obtained in the manner



M.W.

I have described in another chapter. It is, of course, quite possible that some of my critics will remark that this is not a pen drawing at all. I am quite well aware of this. There may not be a single pen line in it, though I think there is pen work in the hair. The darks are put in with a crayon. But as I wish to give an example of pen work on this tinted paper, even though it consists of only a few lines, and as this is one of the finest examples to be had, I think it best to give it, since I am sure it will be useful to students. By means of this tinted paper one can get nearer to the effect of a relief or an entire figure than can be done in any other way, except by wood-engraving, or by direct process from the relief or statue itself without the intervention of any engraver.

Among Americans, Blum, Wyatt Eaton, Kenyon Cox, and Brennan, by a process of his own, which I believe did not turn out very successfully, have made some interesting drawings of sculpture which may be seen in the *Century*. But by process or wood-blocks from the statue or relief itself a more telling result may be had, because sculpture depends not on lines but on surfaces, and by translation into line it loses enormously.



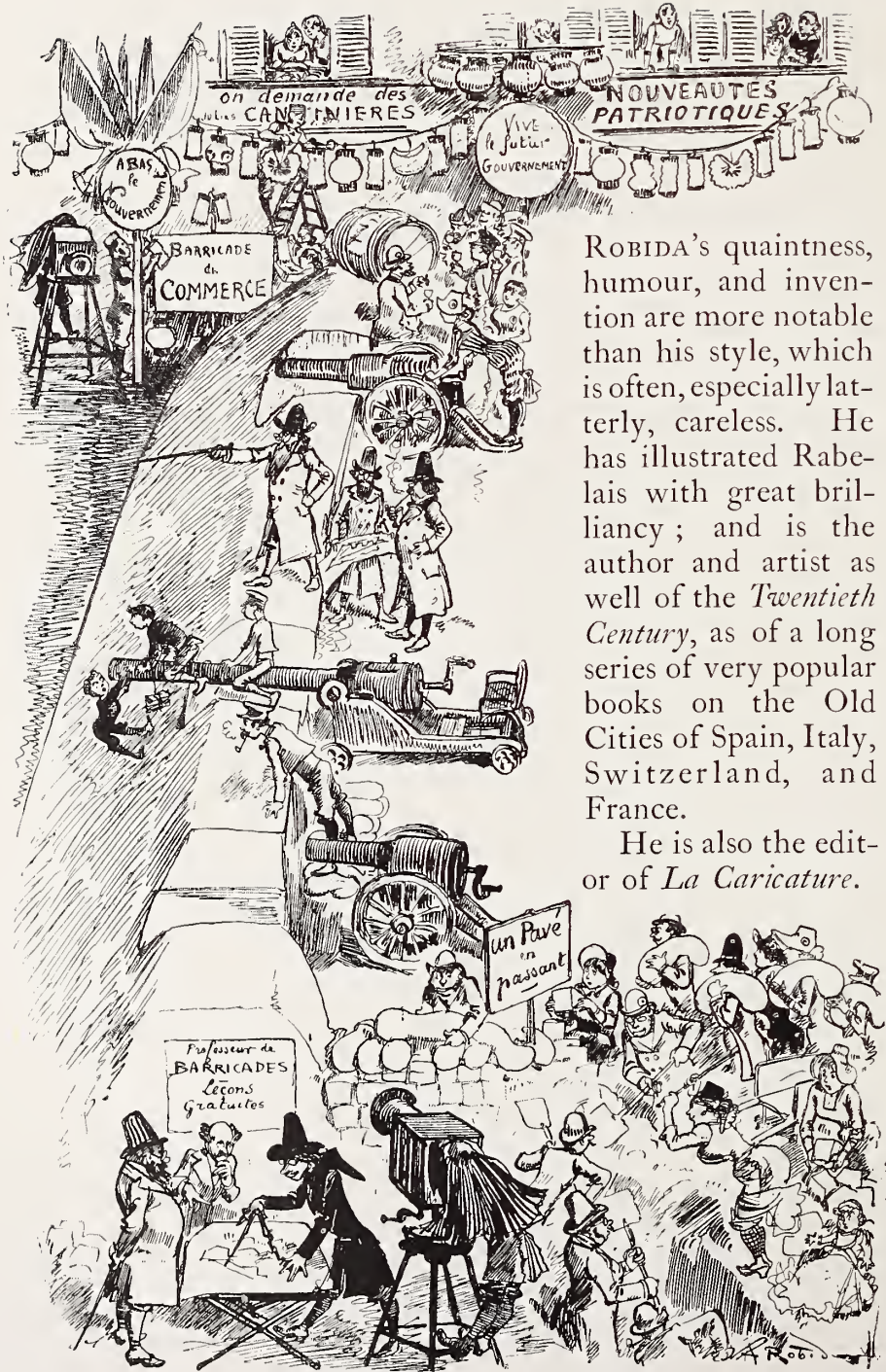
RINGEL SC

MBCCC
LXXXIII

FERDINAND DE LESSEPS
1889
PARIS

RINGEL-DILLZACH-SC & DEL
MBCCCLXXXIII

A. ROBIDA



ROBIDA'S quaintness, humour, and invention are more notable than his style, which is often, especially latterly, careless. He has illustrated Rabelais with great brilliancy; and is the author and artist as well of the *Twentieth Century*, as of a long series of very popular books on the Old Cities of Spain, Italy, Switzerland, and France.

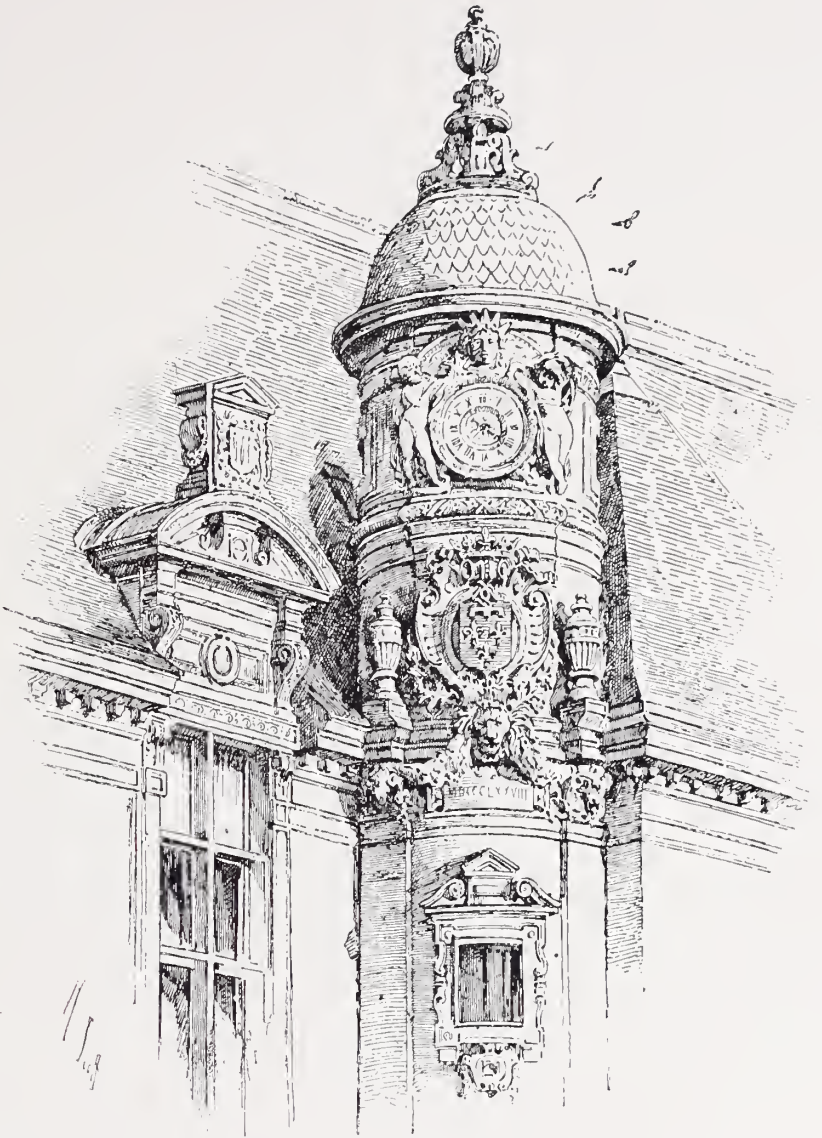
He is also the editor of *La Caricature*.

H. SCOTT

I do not know if this artist was a Frenchman. But he lived in France, and his work always appeared in French periodicals. I presume, therefore, he is one of the many Frenchmen of English or foreign parentage, among whom one at once recalls men, at any rate with English names, like Alfred Stevens, Albert Lynch, and many another. However, nowadays the only artists living in a foreign country, who think it worth while to maintain and even assert their nationality, are Americans, owing to the duty

of fifteen per cent with which a beneficent government has seen fit to tax the works of art of all who are not fortunate enough to be citizens of my great and glorious country.

Scott devoted himself to the picturesque rendering of architecture. He is not a master by any means, but he has done more of this work than any one else in France. Looking at his drawing, I should say most undoubtedly he was educated as an architect. In the headpiece, at Chantilly, the drawing of the flat mansard roof is absolutely expressionless and without character. It is impossible to tell whether it is of slate, shingle, or stone; I suppose it is slate, the material of which all French roofs are built. But there is no reason why a man should make a long series of parallel lines when a few, drawn with discretion, would have shown the material much



more plainly. The drawing, or at least the reproduction, contains a great number of blacks, thus scattering his effects; but its chief merit is its expression of details which are very well rendered.

The large drawing of Pierrefonds is far more of a picture. The scraggy grape vine in the foreground is atrocious and meaningless. But the light is excellently carried up the long street leading to the *château*; the *château* itself is very well drawn, though there is but little light and shade in it, and some careless cross-hatching on the towers. The masses of trees are very wire-worky. Taken altogether, however, as an impressive representation of a vast building dominating a small town, the effect is extremely well given. Scott has shown everything, from the sally-port to the tops of the towers, from the great mansard-roofed *mairie* standing among trees on the left to the little working-men's cottages on the right, with great intelligence. The roofs in all his buildings, save in the mansard of the *mairie*—and it might be better—neither represent light or shade nor their materials. A simple reference to the Rico or Blum drawing will show what I mean. The long straggling lines on the left of the *château*, though they lead into the wood and hill-side beyond, are confusing. But with the exception of these details, and especially of the foliage, the mechanical treatment of which is to be avoided, I think the drawing an excellent model for study. It is not given with the cleverness of Rico's work, an intelligent cleverness which very few draughtsmen may hope to attain. But this style is one that can be acquired and is very well adapted to northern countries, as there is no attempt to render the brilliant glittering sunshine of the south.





MARS

MARS is evidently—I may use the term correctly in this case—a *nom de plume*.¹ But here I care little for the draughtsman's personality, or sex either for that matter. I am not even sure if Mars is a man or a woman. But I am sure that as a caricaturist, rendering his drawings with an artistic feeling far beyond any mere artless or slovenly caricaturing, as an illustrator of fashion magazines, as a delineator of French *high life*, or as one who produces charming children's books, Mars stands alone, and his work is recognisable anywhere. But there is frequently so much carelessness and so much caricature in his drawings, which are intended to be serious, that it is really difficult to find a good example of his work, though it appears every week in the French papers.

However, a drawing like this of *Pierrot blanc et Pierrette noir* shows the character of one side of his work—the only side I find worth considering seriously—as well as it could be shown. There is nothing remarkable about the drawing; it is most probably all *chic*; but it is filled with graceful lines, and is specially characteristic as an example of his delightful use of pure blacks and whites. It may look as if it were very simple to silhouette a figure in either pure black or white, but it is really very difficult to do it and still give any effect of roundness. It is this which Mars can do so well. Of course several of the Germans—Schlittgen and Marold—and Birch in America also draw in this way, but no one does it with the grace and charm of Mars. On one side it is only a step from his drawing to the German silhouette work, and on the other to the pure outline work of Caran D'Ache. These drawings are nearly always printed with a wash of colour.

¹ His real name is Bonvoisin; and he is, according to Louis Morin's *French Illustrators*, very much of a man.



A. LANÇON

LANÇON's drawing of cats is no doubt masterly. But in his pen drawings there is very little or no attempt to render the texture of the fur ; it is the modelling, the pose, the expression he has been trying for, and to me the work, especially the side view of a cat, looks almost as if it were drawn from a bronze of Barye's. This may have been the case. But what I wish to call special attention to is the fact that these drawings are made with the double-line pen of which I have spoken, and you will see all through them the three lines made at one stroke. Of this I speak at length in the Chapter on Materials. The two drawings are a practical example of the working of the double-line pen, and as such are here given rather than as examples of handling.



A. LALAUZE

THIS little sketch by Lalauze shows that the clumsy lines without feeling or character, used so much by many English and American illustrators, can be avoided, and graceful sympathetic lines substituted for them. This want of grace of line tells greatly in pen drawing. The excuse for the liny line work of many illustrators is that it reproduces better, but I am sure Lalauze's and Louis Leloir's drawings prove the contrary. Even Maurice Leloir's Sterne drawings are to me unpleasantly liny ; the lines are aggressive all through them. In this connection I must insist that only too often English and American photo-engravers are but mechanical middlemen, who in many cases do not pretend to do their own work, while, in others, they are so utterly ignorant of art they make no pretence to artistic reproduction. When the reproduction becomes in the least difficult, they assure you that it is quite impossible. The desire to produce really artistic work they do not understand. But I hope this book may serve to show most conclusively what may be done with process.

There is a considerable amount of chalk work in Lalauze's drawing. As I have not seen the original I cannot say whether the pen work was done over the chalk, the chalk being used for an outline sketch ; but I think it more probable the chalk was worked in with the pen to remove the liny effect and to strengthen the pen work.

Lalauze's etchings, especially his refined little illustrations in numberless books, are perfectly well known.

NOTE.—I have lately seen this drawing also attributed to Louis Leloir.

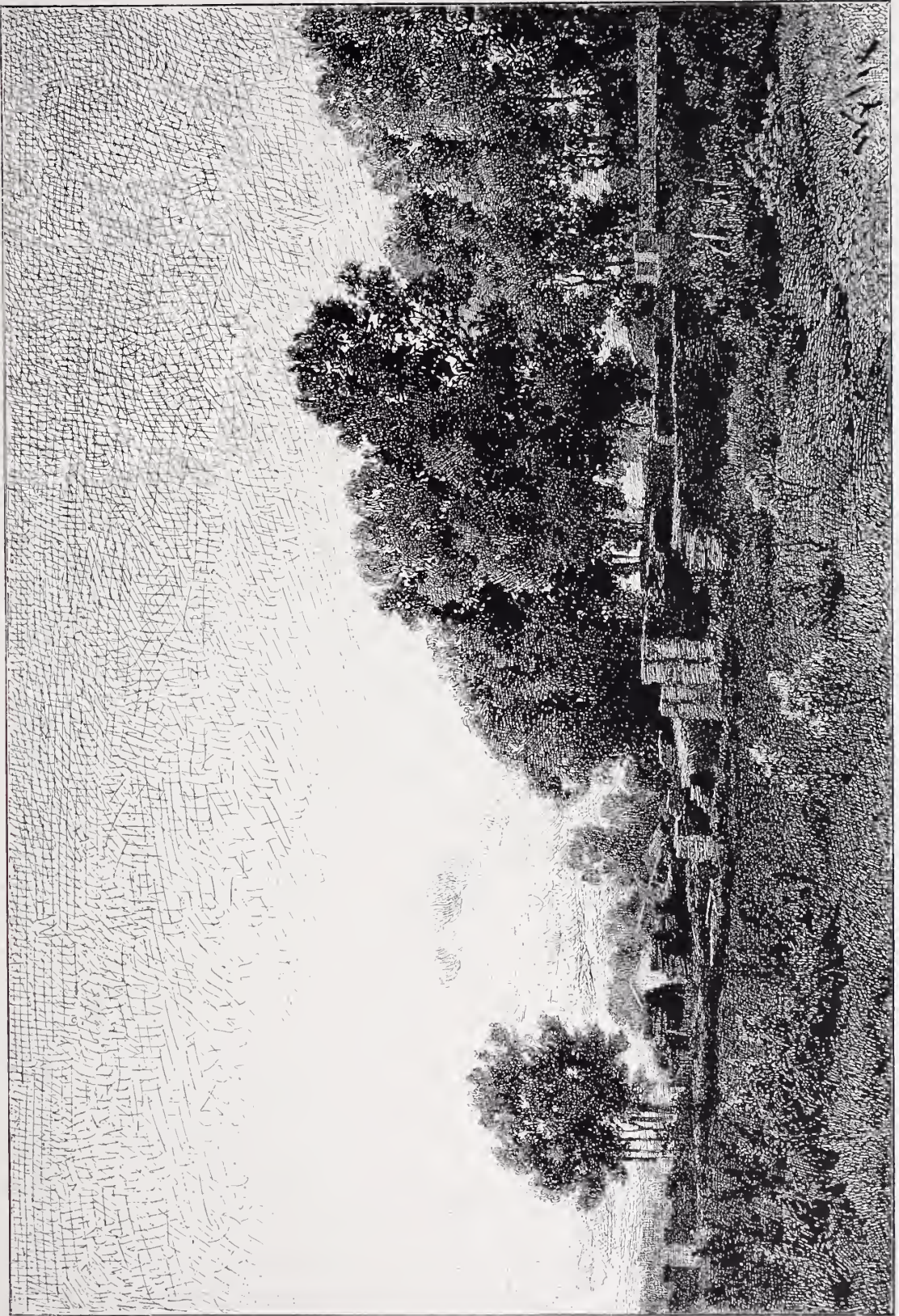


M. DE WYLIE

THE Wylie here represented I know nothing about, except that he has an English name and is mentioned in the *Salon* Catalogue as M. de Wylie.

His drawing of twilight is one of the most complete renderings in pen and ink of tone-work I have ever seen. Pen and ink, of course I maintain, is, like etching, the shorthand of art. But when a man can work out a drawing of this kind, and give the most difficult effect of twilight even with elaboration, there is no reason why he should not do so. This, however, is the only successful example of complete tonality in pen and ink that I know. The wire-work sky is very bad, and though the artist has given the right effect in it, the work is aggressive; the means and not the result first strike your eye, and this in any case is wrong. But the masses of the trees and the distance could not be given better in any other medium. There is an enormous amount of work in the rich foreground, and in some of the deep shadows under the trees; the solid masses of black are disposed with the greatest knowledge, and, unlike the sky, this part of the drawing does not show the means employed, and the lines are not aggressive. Had the sky been made twice as low in tone and the block hand-worked, it would have been better as a whole. But there is very little, if any, hand-work in the block.

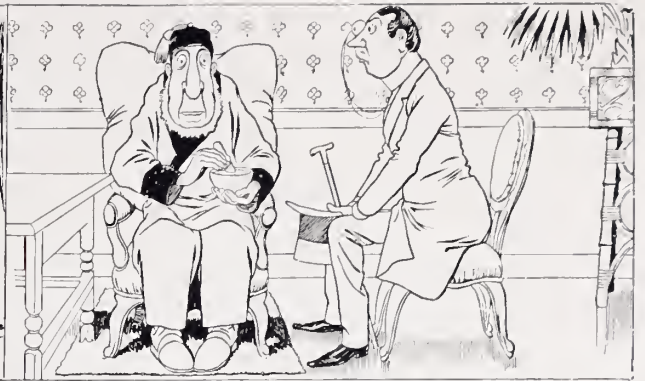
The drawing is a wonderful example of the rendering of colour by black and white, and an especially good study of tree masses. It was published in *La Vie Moderne*. Some of Félix Buhot's drawings from pictures in *L'Art* approach, but I do not know any that equal it.



CARAN D'ACHE

CARAN D'ACHE, whose real name is Emmanuel Poirié, is to-day probably the most appreciated living caricaturist. His work contains all the essentials of caricature. His drawings amuse the whole world. No one but a blind man would refuse to laugh at them. They are composed with the fewest possible lines and these are arranged by a masterly technician. It is true the drawings are commonly printed with a flat colour wash, or else in silhouette, but he does not depend on this wash to hide imperfections of drawing. And in addition to its other qualities nearly all his work possesses that local colour, that quality of ridiculing notoriety to which the English caricaturist makes everything else subordinate, with the result that in English, or in fact Anglo-Saxon caricature, unless you happen to know the person or the subject caricatured, you can scarcely ever appreciate the humour. Caran D'Ache first came into public notice through the shadow pictures of the *Chat Noir*, every one of which had a double meaning of the strongest kind. These were silhouettes, and it is strange that silhouette work so well adapted to pen drawing has been used so little. Since then he has continued to produce either these silhouettes or caricatures in black or white or colour in the pages of *Figaro*, *L'Illustration*, and *La Revue Illustrée*, and he is now devoting himself more or less to illustrating books, among which are the *Comédie du Jour*, *Comédie de Notre Temps*, and *Les Courses dans L'Antiquité*. The idea in this book is perfectly absurd, and the combination of the Parisians of to-day going to *Les Courses* and the Elgin marbles running a race is simply side-splitting, especially when it is worked out technically so well. There is no doubt that we outsiders miss half the point, but nobody can fail to roar while admiring the cleverness of *Station de Centaures de la Compagnie Générale*; the *Heureux Père, Heureuse Mère*; *Il y a du tirage*; *Mlle. Phryné*; *Déjeuner du Favori*; *L'Arrivée*, which is a masterpiece; *La Mère des Gracches*, with all the little Gracchi in Cab No. 1482; the arrangement of the De Lesseps family of which he never tires; and *Le Mail du Prince Apollo*, where Apollo drives a four-in-hand, while President Carnot, as Jupiter with the thunderbolts under his arm, is trying to control the *Char de L'État*. The book is filled with this absurd combination of Greek art and modern French life, but it must be seen to be appreciated. It is published by Plon, Nourrit, and Company. His latest works are *Carnet de Chèques*, and *The Discovery of Russia*.

I must refer every one to the *Figaro Illustré* for Christmas 1888. This holiday number contained what I think is Caran D'Ache's greatest work, *comment on fait un chef-d'œuvre*. This series is one of his most celebrated productions. The nephew and his uncle, the recovery of the uncle and the collapse of the nephew are inimitable.





A. WILLETTE

ILLUSTRATOR, editor, poet, politician,—in at least one of these *rôles* Willette is almost always in evidence in Paris.

Whether he resurrected Pierrot to found *Le Pierrot* his paper, or whether *Le Pierrot* is but what it seems to be, the refuge for his creations, I do not know. Willette, while he has employed almost all sorts of methods and illustrated almost all the papers of Paris, as well as decorated the hoardings of the capital with his designs, still seems best when he is inventing new adventures for his favourite character, and showing us these adventures by means of pen and ink. Simplicity is his dominant note. Usually there is only the black cap of Pierrot, all the rest is white, as simple as possible. The Pierrette is equally graceful. Through all his work you see this bright joyousness, suggestion, and fun.



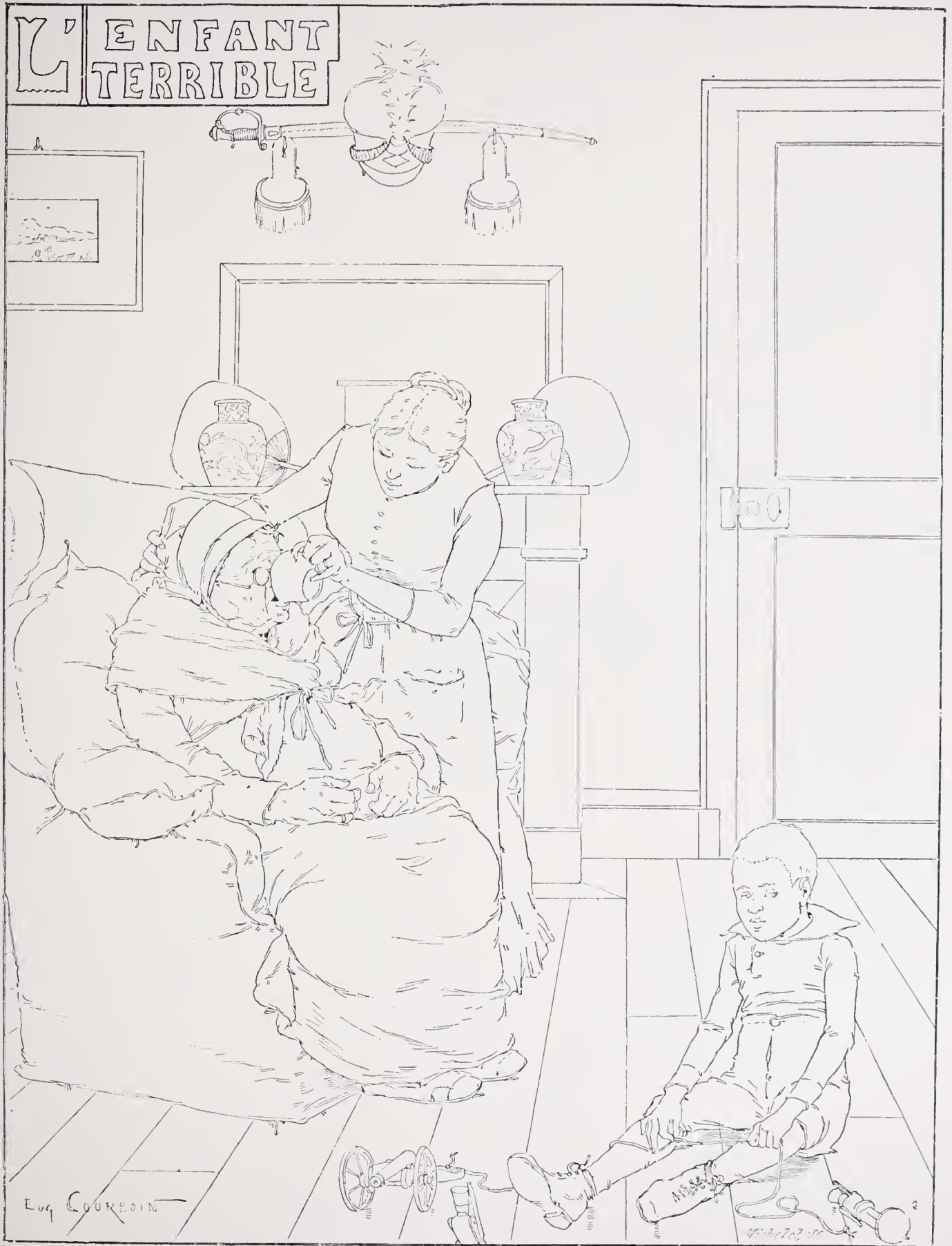
A. F. GOURGET

If fashion-plate draughtsmen would only study renderings of costume like this, something interesting might be made of a neglected opportunity.

EUGENE COURBOIN

COURBOIN seems to me a master of simple direct line. This drawing is but the skeleton (the key block) for a colour print, and yet it is quite as complete, and, I think, even more expressive without the colour than with it. The three characters are as finely rendered as they could be, though it is usually well to get more variety and quality into the pen line. In this case, where it is only intended as a guide, Courboin has rightly kept the line very simple. Michelet has excellently reproduced these single lines, which are most difficult to etch singly and print with the original delicacy.

L'ENFANT TERRIBLE



Eug. COURBOIN

MARTIN-CARLOS SCHWABE OR CARLOZ SCHWABE

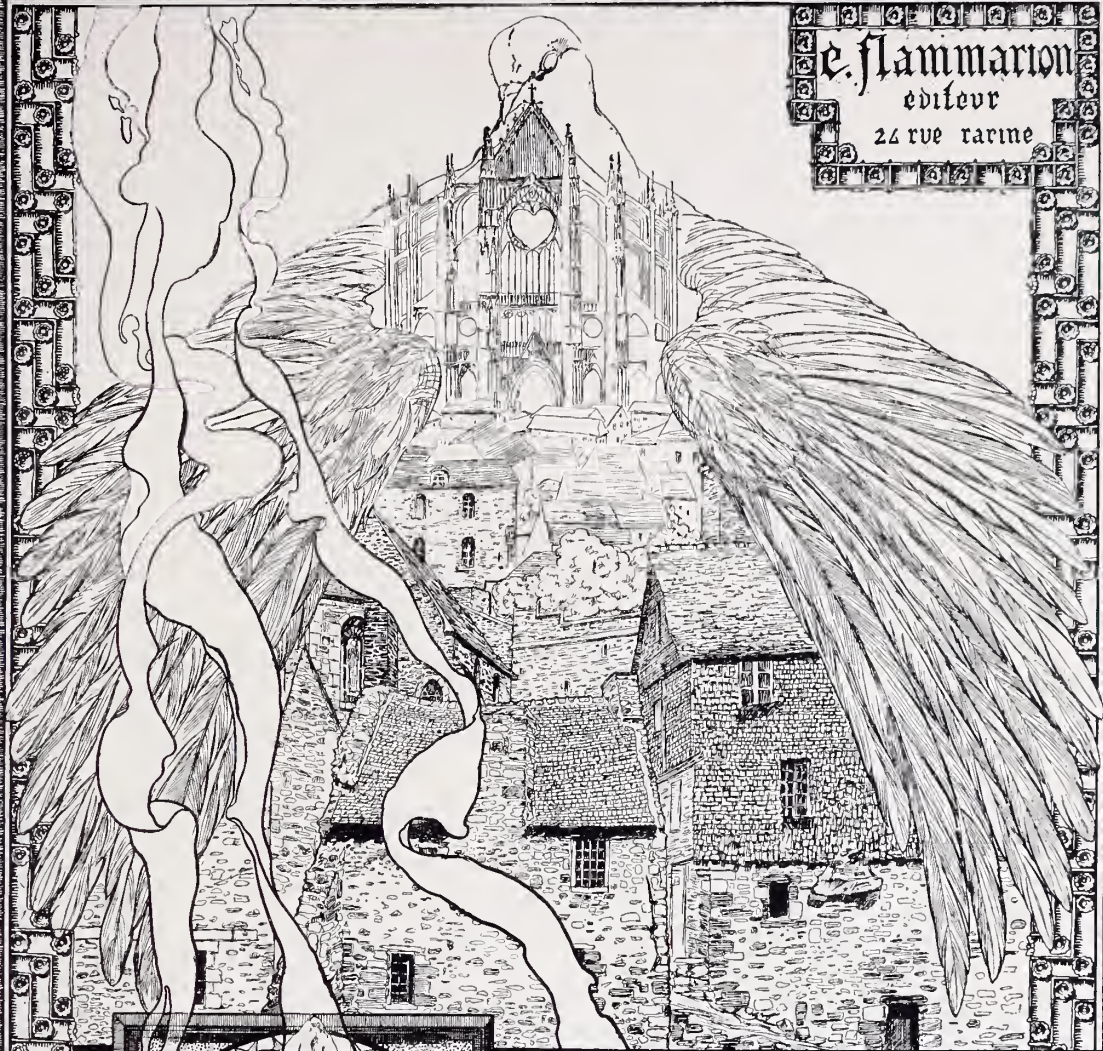
OF all the modern men, Carlos Schwabe has "pushed" symbolism the farthest, and the most seriously. He has probably had as much, or more, to do with the present craze, or fad for mysticism, as suggested by religious or profane motives, as any one else; and he has expressed his ideas with such seriousness of design and composition, such perfection of technique, that he has, within the last few years, won for himself a place as a leading draughtsman, designer, and illustrator, not so much because of his subjects as because of the brilliantly successful way in which he has carried out his ideas and schemes. He is a man who realises that he can take advantage of the modern developments of printing and process, and yet, at the same time, fill his work with all the decorative feeling of the Middle Ages. He is on the same intelligent level in this matter as F. Sandys, Max Klinger, and Howard Pyle.

The drawings that I have chosen are taken from *l'Évangile de l'Enfance*, published in the *Revue Illustrée* for 1890, and *Le Rêve* by Zola, and though, like almost all his work, intended to be printed with flat washes of colour upon them, they are so well drawn that the mere key block is as interesting as the final tinted print.

Schwabe, with the three other men whom I have named, realises that mysticism and symbolism are not an excuse for, or means of, hiding bad drawing, careless design, imperfect or untrained pen work; and that a man must know the drawings of the fifteenth century as well as the imperfect woodcuts from them; and that, finally, he must be an intelligent illustrator and not an affected *poseur*, and be up in all the modern requirements and possibilities of reproduction and printing. He may introduce a modern element into the most archaic subject without its seeming out of place, just as the old men did, provided he does it seriously and knowingly, and not with the object of impressing the unintelligent.

In these drawings Schwabe has made the shepherds into real characters. He has worked out the details of their costumes in a decorative yet realistic fashion. Decoration is not confused with modelling, and shadows are not mixed up hopelessly with patterns. Not only are the draperies of his angels

e. flammariou
editeur
24 rue raine



Le Veve
par
Emile Kola



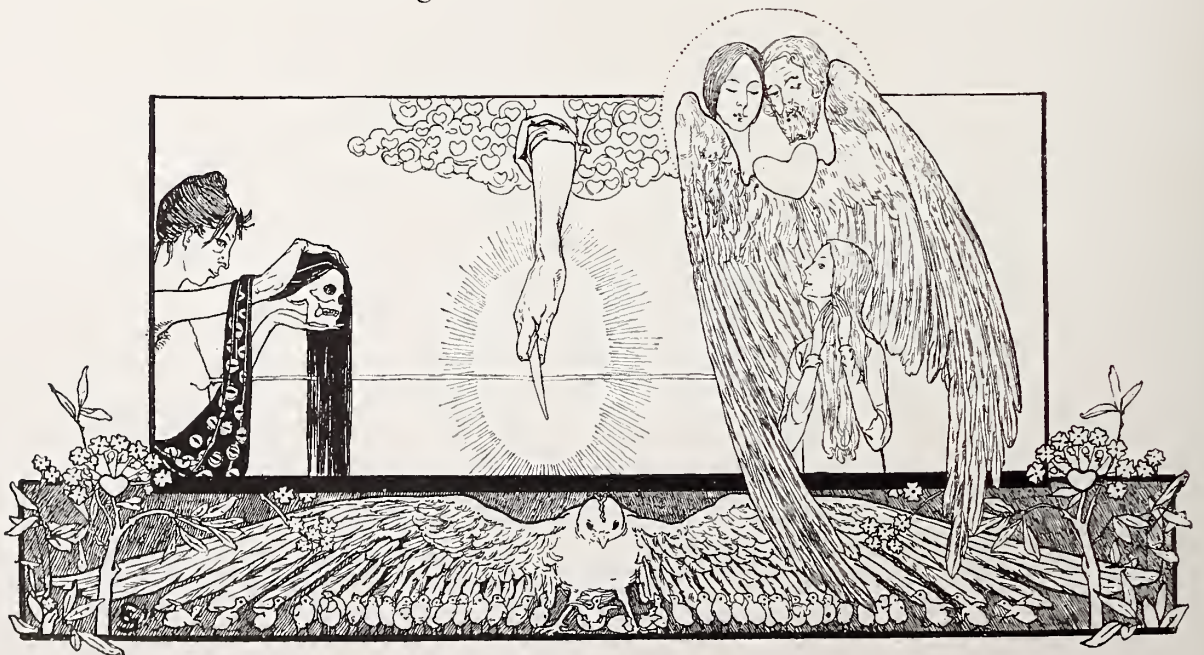
CARLOZZY SCHWABE





and saints big, simple, and massive, falling in noble lines, but there are figures underneath,—and not a lay figure or clothes horse. Beauty and refinement are in the faces, which are so charmingly and simply rendered; while the study of the ruinous old shed in *La Nativité*, and the village street have been doubtless done from nature. Nor has he been satisfied with the conventional hands bestowing their blessing, or cut-out stars singing together; while all around one may see in its proper place some symbol or suggestion like the crude cross in the half-timbered work, or the chalice in the roof. Then, too, how noble and dignified are the figures in *L'Etoile des Bergers*, how simple the landscape, how well the grassy, weedy foreground is suggested.

Schwabe's most important work is Zola's *Réve*, published by Flammarion in 1892, in which some of his best work will be found. The cover is charming, and contains, not only that amazing combination of decoration in the passion-flowers, but of realism in the rendering of Beauvais Cathedral, as well as the germ of much English work, which has been praised for its originality. He has made, too, some most interesting experiments in reproducing wash and chalk work. Most of the drawings were made in colour, and the head and tail pieces are full of invention as well as brilliantly carried out. Schwabe allied himself for some years with the members of the Rose Croix, and for a year or so was the real backbone of the brilliant, self-advertising band which included Aman-Jean, Atalaya, Béthune, Grasset, Khnopff, Martin, Point, Léon, Toorop, and Vallotin. Latterly, he has shown many of his drawings, notably the designs for *Le Réve*, at the Champ de Mars. Some of these have been purchased by the State for the Luxembourg.





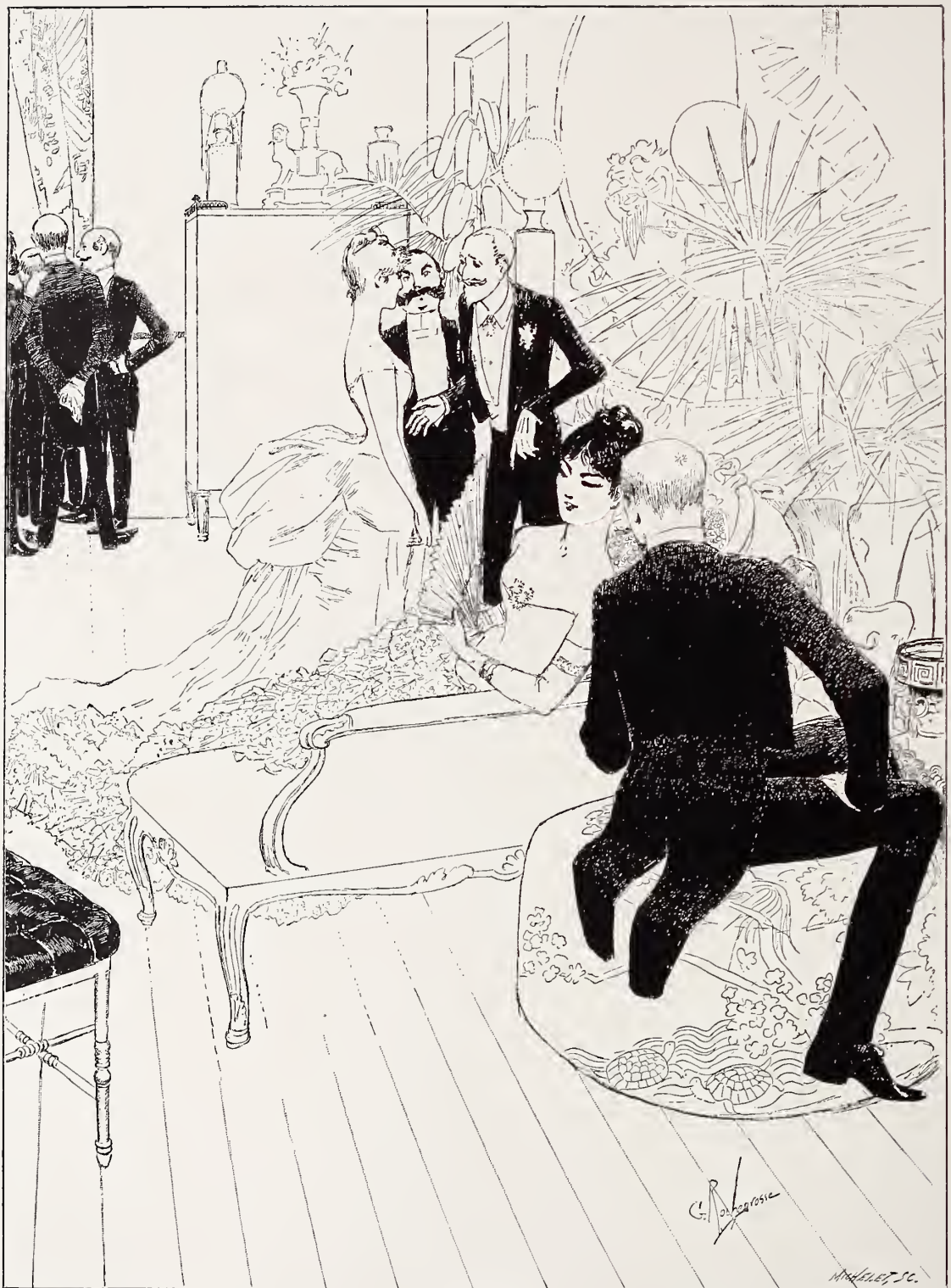
E. GRASSET

ILLUSTRATOR, decorator, architect, designer, Grasset has done notable work in all these fields. But above all, he is an illustrator. His earliest and most important book is *Les Quatre fils d'Aymon*, produced by Gillot about 1881; he has also illustrated Victor Hugo, Flaubert, and Paul Arène. These two drawings are intended for posters, in the designing of which he rivals Chéret, Lautrec, and Auriol. Examples of his decoration will



be found in the chapter on that subject. The large drawing, "Duel Judiciaire," is not only one of the most horribly dramatic designs of modern times, but an excellent example of good, direct, outline work, accented with touches of black in the right place; the tree drawing is weak, but all else is good. This is the key block for a colour print. But it comes very well without the colour.





GEORGES ROCHEGROSSE

AN excellent example of simple black and white line. Yet the men all have character, the women beauty ; there is a feeling of lamp-light though there is no effect of it. A most distinguished and very interesting drawing.



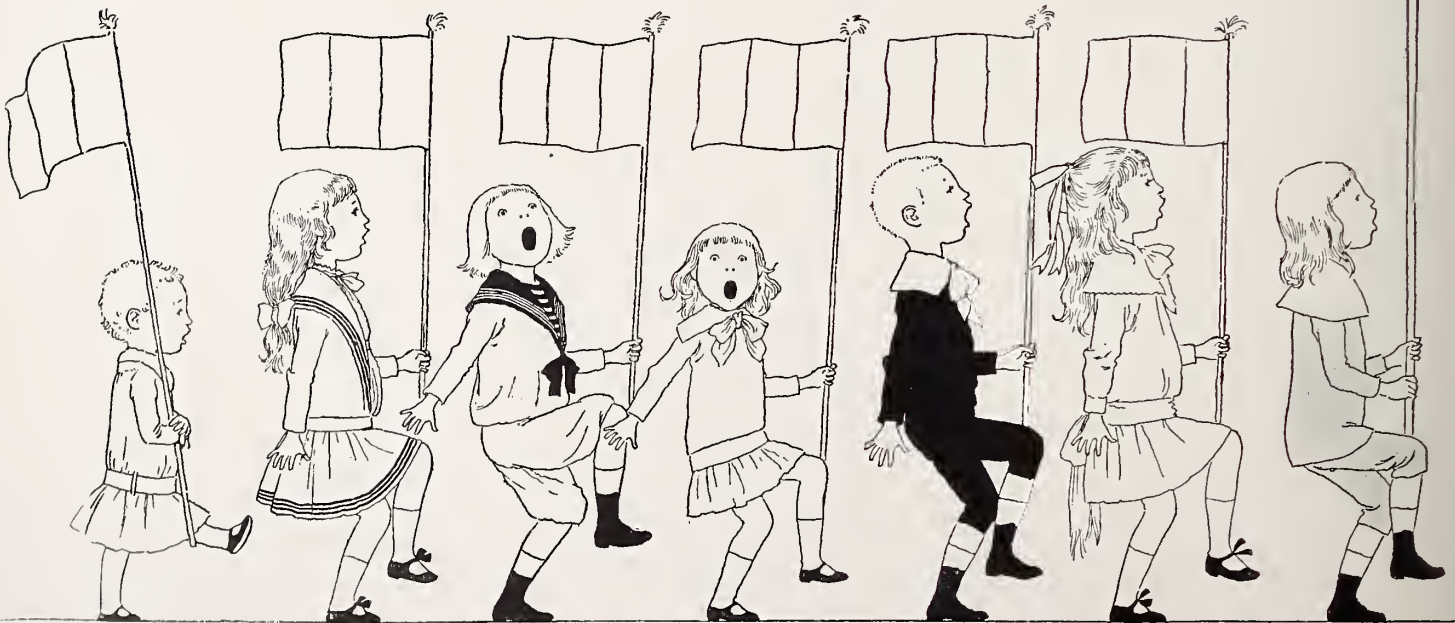
M. DE MYRBACH

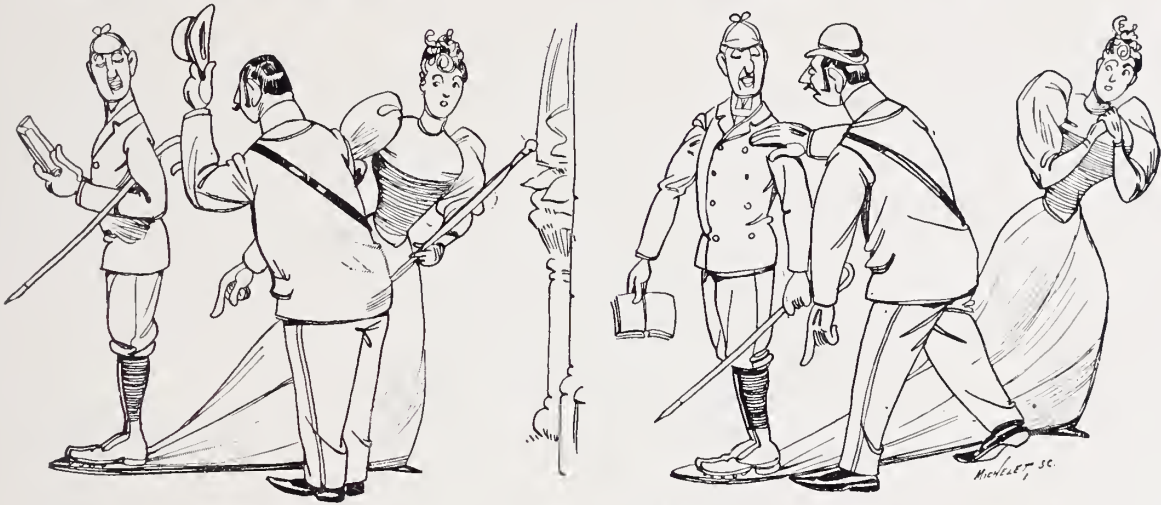
AN intelligent direct rendering of a Paris *fête*, done with the right feeling of an artistic reporter, everything is put down simply and well. And the story is told in the fewest possible lines.



BOUTET DE MONVEL

THE delineator of child-life; never have children been better observed, more intelligently studied; nor their gestures, clumsy and graceful, more simply and directly noted. He is always decorative, and there is not a line in his drawings without meaning. He has contributed much to *St. Nicholas*, and his best-known books are *Chansons et rondes pour les petits enfants*, *Chansons de France pour les petits français*, and *Nos enfants*.





GODEFROY.

This artist is quite as amusing if not so realistic as Caran D'Ache. His style is different and quite as original; therefore he deserves a place.



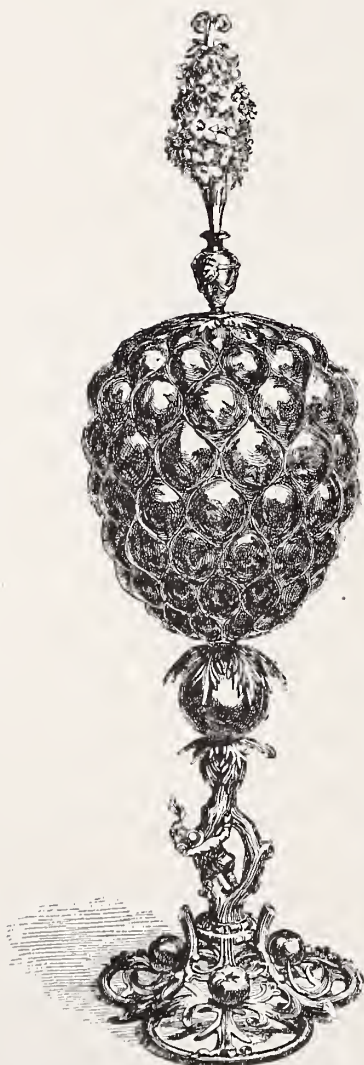
W. J. Mumford, 1880.



JULES JACQUEMART

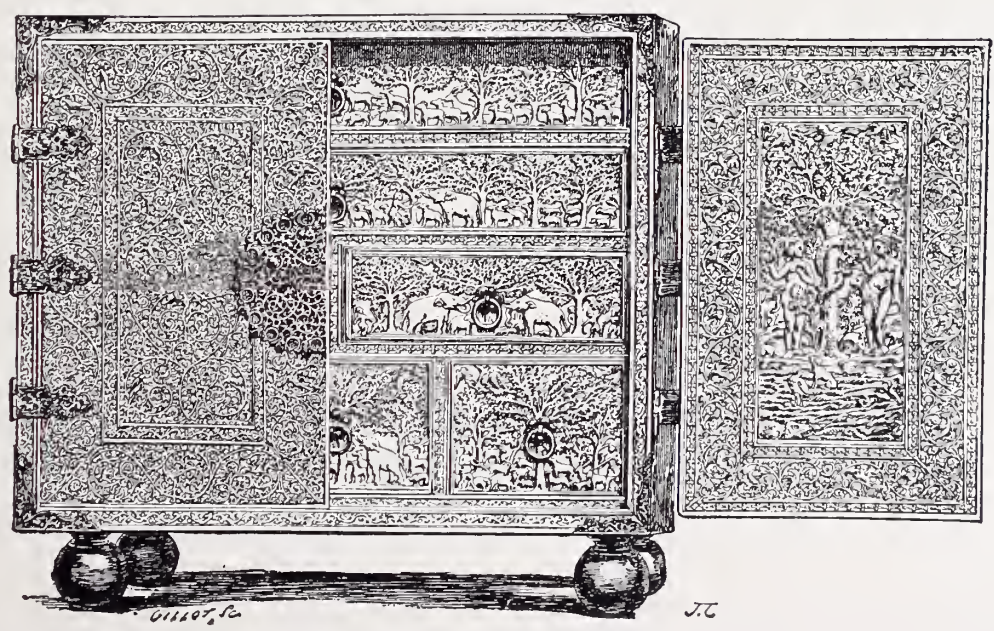
ONE of the most curious facts in the history of process reproduction is that some of the earliest blocks were almost as good as any made to-day. These engravings by Gillot were done before 1879; and though more difficult subjects can be reproduced, I doubt if better blocks could be produced by Gillot to-day. There are two reasons for this: the perfect adaptability of these designs to process, and the pleasure the engraver must have taken in bringing out the first important book illustrated by process.

Jacquemart is best known by his etchings, mainly of *bric-à-brac*, but the drawings in *L'Histoire de Mobilier* from which all these engravings are taken seem to me equally good. There is the same serious and successful rendering of materials, the same study of the play of light on polished surfaces, the same delight in the accurate drawing of complicated forms, and an even more careful putting down of the right line in the right place, if this is possible. Note the large sideboard; not only can one feel the coloured marble top, the metal decoration, but also the actual cabinetmaker's work. And there is not a line too much or too little in the whole design; every line, too, shows the construction, and yet all is in perfect light and shade. The same is true of the richly-upholstered chair; the detail is as accurate as in a photograph, or, indeed, much more so, and as free as possible. Then note the complete change in the handling of the carved cabinet.



The metal feeling of the helmet with the play of light on the raised surfaces, and the sparkle and glitter on the vase.

And this sort of work did not exhaust Jacquemart's abilities; his rendering of landscape was masterly in pen and ink. No matter what the subject, his illustrations were as serious as his paintings; and he was a big enough artist to recognise that with a simple medium one can produce great art; that illustration is as important as any other branch of art, and that a pen drawing is quite as interesting if well done as a painting in oil.



LOUIS MORIN



PROPERLY speaking the design at the bottom of the page is not a drawing at all, but one of the shadow pictures shown at the Chat Noir. No doubt the original was made with pen or brush and ink; but these shadow pictures were, I believe, cut out of tin.

But this making of the picture by cutting out the whites, that is, leaving the whites to produce it,—a silhouette in white and not in black, is most interesting, and might be usefully employed by many draughtsmen in many ways.

Louis Morin is an author as well as artist, and has illustrated many books of his own. Among them are *Jeannik*, *le Cabaret du Puits sans Vin*, *Les Amours de Gilles*, *Vieille Idylle*, and in these books and *Les Bohémiens* of Félicien Champsaur he is as graceful as Watteau and as delicate as Vierge, and yet he is himself.

He also wrote *French Illustrators for Scribner's*.





HENRI RIVIÈRE

RIVIÈRE'S silhouettes for the Chat Noir are amazing, the reproduction even seems the size of life, and all the figures are in motion. I have never seen such a feeling of movement given in any form of art. There are others of armies on the march by himself, Pille, Morin, and Caran D'Ache, which fairly frighten one with their sense of irresistible onward rush; you feel, as in this one, that you are in the presence of a vast multitude, you really hear the sound of their foot-falls. Nothing more impressive has been done in art.



FELIX VALLOTIN

THIS is not a pen drawing at all but a woodcut. Vallotín is endeavouring to resurrect the art of wood-cutting, and this is an example of his method of work drawn and cut by himself. He also works out his designs in lithography, and nothing could possibly be easier to reproduce by process. In every case I imagine a pen drawing is first made on paper, the block or stone. This is then cut, etched, or processed.

In his arrangements of blacks and whites he is most masterly; in his suggestion of retreating or advancing masses, too, he is very fine. Note the three mourners in the centre; you feel the character and shape of each, and yet they are rendered by a single black mass. The way the whites, too, cut into the blacks is skilfully managed. Vallotín's work is published by Joly on the Quai St. Michel, Paris, and each design is usually sold separately.

H. GERBAULT

AN interesting example of silhouetting, both in black and white, against the grey-tint background. The figures are exceedingly well drawn, and the faces are charmingly indicated in the simplest manner. A very notable drawing—theatrical, but full of suggestions.





J. B. COROT

THOUGH Corot died before process was perfected, so great is this perfection to-day, that his drawing comes perfectly by it, even if the artist had no thought of reproduction in his mind, no knowledge of its requirements.



P. Puvis de Chavannes -

P. PUVIS DE CHAVANNES

A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS MASTER'S SIMPLE PRIMITIVE STYLE.



J. BASTIEN LEPAGE.—A drawing on *papier Gillot*, grained, scratch paper, showing much skilful work on the part of the artist with knife, crayon, pen, and wash; much intelligent work by the photo-engraver in reproducing the quality and feeling of the drawing.



SURAND

M. SURAND has in this design very successfully employed lithographic crayon or chalk to produce his general tone, leaving his masses of figures and sky white, then working in his detail with pen. There is no reason why, on roughish paper, this method should not be used; for the results, as in this case, may be striking.



PAUL
RENOUARD

AN illustrator who treats as many subjects as Renouard is forced to, must express himself in different fashions. His use of pure line and complicated chalk and grained paper effects are absolutely different. The design on this page is pure pen work, the other mainly chalk.







LOUIS LELOIR

THIS Leloir must not be confounded with Maurice Leloir, the illustrator of Sterne. This drawing is a most refined rendering of character. The face has been put in so well for reproduction that the printed result is more successful than any work I know of. And yet it is one of the very few drawings by Louis Leloir that I have seen. Of course it is nothing more, perhaps, than a sketch for a picture, but when a man can make such a sketch he is a great master of pen drawing. The face and hands cannot be too thoroughly and carefully studied.



E. MARTY.—This effect, a very successful experiment, has been obtained by making a uniform tint all over the grained paper with chalk and pen, and then scratching out the drawing.



M. RENOIR.—A curious example of what an artistic result can, in the hands of a clever man, be made with an absolutely uninteresting and clumsy line. It is, however, a difficult game to play, and is usually a failure.



STEINLEN

THIS artist has devoted himself almost altogether to Montmartre and Belleville in Paris. He has shown how much pathos and dramatic feeling there is to be obtained from the not very pleasant people of those quarters, yet he has done it most artistically, and mainly in pen and ink. Some of his drawings in pen and chalk, printed in *Gil Blas Illustré* in two colours, are historic compositions, a proof that a tragedy can be rendered just as well by the simplest medium as the most complicated.



GERMAN WORK

GERMAN WORK

IN Germany the greatest pen draughtsman is Adolf Menzel, who, in point of age at least, takes precedence of almost all the modern men. Like Meissonier, Fortuny, and Rico, he cut himself loose from academical methods and traditions, and like them he had his eyes opened to see in what a valley of dry bones he had been walking by going straight to nature, though, at the same time, he may be said to be a direct descendant of Holbein and Chodowiecki. Not only German pen draughtsmen, but some of the most brilliant Americans, Englishmen, and Frenchmen owe much to the study of his work.

A very old man—he was born in 1815—Menzel still lives and illustrates. His most famous illustrations are in the *Life and Works of Frederick the Great*, *Germania*, and *La Cruche Cassée*. The drawings for the *Life*, made on the wood, were given to the best Parisian engravers, who were, at this date, 1839, engaged upon those amazing illustrated books, which are the real triumphs of French drawing, engraving, and printing. Cumer's edition of *Paul et Virginie* and *La Chaumière Indienne* had just appeared; and there is no doubt at all, as Menzel sent, or at any rate confided *à des graveurs parisiens* these drawings, that he was, like all the world, tremendously impressed with the French books, in great part engraved by Englishmen, after the designs of Gigoux, Jacque, Johannot, Huet, Isabey, and, greatest of all, Meissonier; to whom must be given the title, first of modern illustrators. But Menzel himself was far from being satisfied with the results, for the reason that these engravers reproduced everything in a mannered fashion, giving their idea and not the artist's of the original work. This utter subjection of the artist to a mechanical and inartistic engraver is what ruined the work of many clever young Englishmen twenty years ago. The preposterous notion of getting

the engraver's and not the artist's lines, although it must have been disheartening to the latter, had at least the good effect of developing wood-engraving, and photographic reproduction, all over the world.

Menzel was so discouraged at the results obtained by the French engravers that the greater number of his drawings were afterwards given to Germans whom he directed, who were artists enough to know that they were nothing more than machines gifted with human intelligence and artistic sensibility, that they should devote the whole of their skill, under the artist's direction, to the absolute subjection of themselves, in order that they might perfectly reproduce his work. Even the best results of this perfect subjection, as exemplified in America by men like Cole, Whitney, Collins, Gamm, and Juengling, or Brévière, Leveillé, and Lavoignat in France, in facsimile line-work, are no better, save in that they are works of art, than those of a photographic process when assisted by an engraver of less ability, but still a clever man. Moreover, the saving of time by these mechanical processes is enormous. Among the engravers who worked for Menzel on the *Life of Frederick the Great* were Bentworth, Unzelmann, and Albert Vogel. Menzel's efforts to have his own work and not the engraver's given, produced not only a resurrection but a revolution in the art of wood-engraving in Germany, and this revolution has spread wherever facsimile wood-engraving is used. It was not invented, however, in Germany, but in England, coming there by way of France. The use of wood-engraving in this manner, though marvellous in the results produced, will soon become a lost art; but, unlike most lost arts, one we can very well dispense with. With the present art of wood-engraving, that is the translation of tone into line as practised by the really great wood-engravers of to-day in Germany, France, and America, I am not concerned. I wish to emphasise the too little known or too much ignored fact, that when we have a process which will give automatically in a few hours exactly the same result the workman obtains after weeks of toilsome and thankless drudgery, there is no reason why we should not use it. I think I am quite right in saying with every artist, excepting probably the reproductive and usually the more or less mechanical and commercial etcher, that I look forward to the day when wood and all other engravings will again hold the place they held in the time of Dürer, though I do not mean that we should blindly follow the mechanical limitations and imperfections, which he so heartily deplored, when all drawings that are not suited to them will be reproduced by some mechanical process. Nobody has felt this more than Menzel, for his first attempt to do without the wood-engraver is shown in his drawing on

stone for the lithographer, either to be directly reproduced, or, later, by photo-lithography. Many French critics have said that the German wood-engravers reproduced his work perfectly. But any one who has had drawings reproduced by wood-engraving knows that it is absolutely impossible for the best wood-engraver to preserve all the feeling of the original drawing, while of course the drawing itself is all cut to pieces, if made on the block.

In his *Frederick the Great*, Menzel, as is the case with all sincere artists, really developed his talent and genius. He began a student, he ended a master. No illustrator ever had a greater opportunity. In the *Works of Frederick the Great* there are over two hundred illustrations by Menzel, engraved by Unzelmann, Hermann Müller, Albert and Otto Vogel, and this work in thirty volumes was published by the Academy of Sciences of Berlin at the command of Frederick William IV. Nearly all the illustrations had to be made of a certain size, rarely more than twelve centimetres, and they were principally head and tail pieces. But into these Menzel has put the greatest black and white German art of the century. For example, each one of his little portraits, so full of character, is taken from an original picture, or the most authentic source. We hear a great deal about painters going to the Holy Land and the East to get the background for a more or less unimportant picture, and how their paint-boxes and canvases go wrong. But who hears of the hundreds and thousands of studies made for his *Frederick the Great* by Menzel in the Berlin National Gallery; or, for that matter, of the thousands of miles travelled, and the difficulties overcome by the artists of the principal illustrated magazines of the day? Their object is the result which they get, and not the belauding of themselves.

Almost every one who has had royalty for a patron has enjoyed great liberality in some ways, but in others has had to endure almost as great disadvantages. For many years Menzel's work was lost in the thirty volumes of the official edition. This work, to which the artist gave six years of his life, and which he filled with his imagination and knowledge, remained almost unknown to the world at large. Fortunately the Museum at Berlin at length issued a special edition of Menzel's drawings. Now his work is almost as well known in France as in Germany, an exhibition of it having been held in Paris. Master of his art, he recognises the fact that Germany is not the country for brilliancy of effects, and he aims above all at perfection of modelling and the expression of detail.

Dietz, to say nothing of a whole school of followers, is another of the marvellous German draughtsmen. Within the last three or four years,

since the introduction of photo-engraving—and here and elsewhere under this term I of course include photo-lithography—and what is known as the Meisenbach process of reproducing wash drawings, an entire change has been effected, notably in the pages of *Fliegende Blätter*, and in the small illustrated books either published in Munich by the proprietors of that journal, or else illustrated by the artists who work for it. These men, some of whom are not Germans, but Austrians and Hungarians, after studying probably in the Munich Academy, started on the lines laid down by Menzel and Dietz, and have already proved the possibilities of pen drawing in rendering the latest fashion in gowns, and the pictorial quality that lies hidden in a dress coat and a pair of patent-leather pumps. Their work shows the development of a nineteenth century school, whose only point in common with those of other ages is good drawing. There is in it no affectation, or imitation, or endeavours to reproduce bygone methods; but it is a healthy growth brought about by men who feel and know that the work of to-day can, in its own way, equal that of any other time, and it is their aim to show this in a style of their own. Such books as Hackländer's *Trouville*, *Ein Erster und ein Letzter Ball*, *Familien Concert*, *In der Ardennen*, *In Damen coupé*, *Zwischen Zwei Regen*, are, in their turn, like the work of Menzel and Fortuny, influencing the whole world of pen draughtsmen.

I consider the first of these younger men to be H. Schlittgen, an artist whose improvement and march onward are simply marvellous. Instead of improving backward, like so many illustrators, he is going forward with every book. For the pictorial quality of German life in the nineteenth century, one has only to look for his drawings every week in *Fliegende Blätter*. His work is simple, direct, and right to the point, and everything is drawn with a feeling for its artistic effect. Not a line is wasted. In Hackländer's *Humoristische*, there is on page 5 the study of an advocate, which rivals in simplicity, directness, and expression, anything Randolph Caldecott ever did, and the drawing is infinitely better. The drawing on page 9 of a girl is almost perfection in its rendering in blacks and whites of a modern dress, and no one has ever done anything as full of character as his pompous German officers. For expression and colour, combined with the least amount of work, nothing can be found to surpass the drawing on page 19 of *Trouville* of the interior of a railroad carriage.

H. Albrecht's work is almost as good as that of Schlittgen, but he does not use his blacks and whites with the same strength and vigour. This can also be said of F. Bergen, who, to my mind, puts rather too much

work in his drawings. One of the most independent of these Germans, a man who works much more like a Frenchman or an Italian, is Ludwig Marold.

Hermann Lüders and Robert Haug, followers of Lang, the battle painter, do for the German soldier of to-day that which Menzel did for the soldier of Frederick the Great's time, and they have an advantage which Menzel did not enjoy—direct reproduction. Their work is quite equal to and much more varied than anything of De Neuville's and Detaille's. In serious portrait-work, not made for publication, which could only have been reproduced within the last few years, Leibl holds a remarkable place.

The mystic and symbolic movement—the fad of the moment with most—has some genuine exponents in Germany; chief among these is Max Klinger, who, influenced no doubt by Böcklin and possibly by the Pre-Raphaelites, was producing work of this sort long before sham mysticism descended upon France, invaded in a Brummagem fashion the English Art School, and hence became the thing in the United States. There might be made a long list of these German Symbolists headed by Stuck, the true and the false included; and not least in importance must be noted the comic ones, who in their way are as serious as the serious men they burlesque.

Though Germans are traditionally supposed to be somewhat stolid and phlegmatic, there is no doubt that they are the funniest of comic draughtsmen. When the art of a nation is so expressive that one has only to see to understand it, it becomes a universal language. Oberländer's and Busch's drawings at a glance can be understood by the civilised, and, for that matter, probably by the uncivilised world. Like much of Randolph Caldecott's work, there is nothing in Busch's to study for technique. The greater part of it is as slight as the funny and charming sketches Caldecott put in his letters to his friends. Indeed, Busch's work is a perpetual letter to the whole world, which one who runs may read. You cannot look at it without bursting into roars of laughter. The books which appeal to me as much as anything Busch has done, though he has made thousands of drawings, are *Max and Moritz*, in which there is a colour wash over the pen drawing, and *Fiffs der Affe*. Oberländer's drawing, on the contrary, is careful and serious. His work has been, until recently, engraved on wood, but many of these blocks, like the famous Bad Pen and the Doctor, are equal to Menzel at his best. Oberländer and Busch are only two among a hundred comic draughtsmen. Whoever cares for the work of these artists should study not only *Fliegende Blätter*, but the little books

which are continually being published. Among the most brilliant of these men are Hengeler and Meggendorfer.

Englishmen, and especially Americans, congratulate themselves continually on the cleverness of their pen draughtsmen and illustrators. But, as a matter of fact, no cheap book or paper has ever been published in America, or illustrated by English or American artists, that can be compared with the German publications I have just mentioned. The sooner therefore we get to know the work of German pen draughtsmen, carefully studying it and applying it to our own country, or the country where we may happen to be,—though this admission may be very damaging to our own good opinion of our work,—the nearer will our books and papers come to being, what we are pleased to think them, the best illustrated publications in the world. It may be interesting to know that some of those wonderfully illustrated books are published and sold for sixpence, while the most expensive cost the enormous sum of a shilling.

NOTE.—Herr Max Liebermann was good enough to send me an original unpublished drawing, and I was promised another from Herr F. von Uhde, but I regret to say that they came too late to be inserted in this edition.

GERMAN WORK

ILLUSTRATIONS

ADOLF MENZEL

MENZEL'S pen work began, I believe, with his drawings for the lithographer, and though much of his early design on the stone is absolutely of no value to the student, there is at least one book illustrated in this way with a pen and afterwards coloured, I think by hand, which every student should know: this is his *Uniforms of the Army of Frederick the Great*,¹ produced while he was occupied on the *History and the Life and Works of Frederick*, and *Germania*. The drawings, those on pages 157, 158, and 159, are simply studies of costume — indeed, one might say, nothing more than fashion plates which show the cut of the clothes of Frederick's army, but such fashion plates as had never before been done in this world. Instead of the ordinary stupid display of mere costume without the slightest artistic feeling for the subject, every drawing is a portrait of a model, and every one of these models is, not a lay figure to hang clothes on, but a live man. The drawing of the sentinel shows the cut of the front of his coat perfectly, and what more could you want? the make of his gun, the way he carries his accoutrements, and yet, though but a fashion plate, note



¹ Copy in British Museum.

that he is not stupidly standing just to show his coat, but is plainly a



sentinel on duty, yawning with the bored expression a man in his position would probably have. This or another model can be seen in two or more positions simply to show the back or the side of the same uniform, but always the primary idea is character, expression, action, and not the mere perfunctory rendering of a coat. Contrast this bored sentinel with the conceited self-satisfied swaggering trumpeter who, in the original drawing on the stone, will be found talking to two or three of his companions. I should like to have published a complete plate of these uniforms, but the drawings are so large, each figure nearly as tall as the text of this book, that the whole drawing could not have been put on the page without ruinous reduction. Technically, I cannot entirely commend either of these drawings, because the very strong and decided blacks which one finds all over them, in the knee of the sentinel, in his coat and his hat, and in the boots of the trumpeter, were put in to take a colour wash in the book, where they do not tell so strongly as they do here. But nevertheless, much of Menzel's work does show this impatience with the greying of tones, and a desire

to use pure black to get his effect at once and be done with it. If I were merely criticising the drawings from the standpoint of the critic I

would have no right to object to certain technical details in such masterpieces, since the effect is all right. But this slapdash manner of blotting, as in the right boot of the trumpeter—not the clever blotting of the Spaniards and Italians—cannot be commended for the student. With him it would only be carelessness; with a master like Menzel, it is an impatience with details which he knows he can render if he wants to. For a proof of this, look at the coat of the full-dress uniform of Frederick. The gold lace is worked out as carefully as a mechanical



draughtsman would draw the parts of a machine, or a naturalist study the wings of a fly. Note how he has given the set of the coat, the hang of the folds, expressed the colour and sheen of the silk, although the actual colour was put on over it, and do not attempt to say he could not draw detail when he wanted. Why, everything is even measured, and this is only a bit of one of the enormous pages; on the same page there are details of hats and swords and of canes, even down to a measured drawing of the weaving of a sash. But if Menzel were doing these things to-day, I cannot help thinking he would get a better result, for two reasons, though he now uses charcoal or chalk almost altogether: these were drawn on the

stone with lithographic ink which is, first, a tedious and slow process, and secondly, it is almost impossible to print lines as finely as they were made, because, as any one who has tried it knows, lithographic ink blots easily, or



if it does not blot, the result is much thicker and harder and blacker on white paper than the original drawing on the beautifully-toned stone. I really wish to show them as models of expression and good drawing rather than of technique. Personally, I prefer the delicate refinement of Abbey in

this sort of work to the brute strength of Menzel. Both men can draw details ; but Abbey seems to love them ; Menzel, though he never slights or draws them badly, apparently hates to be obliged to do them.

I do not want it to be thought that Menzel did not as a rule draw details. When working for the wood-engraver he used the most marvellous refinement of detail ; when working for himself, as the illustrator of to-day works, he was bold and free as these drawings show.

The half-length portrait is not, as one might imagine, a reduction or a steel engraving, but one of the subjects (Karl von Winterfeldt) in "The Heroes in Peace and War of Frederick II." engraved by E. Kretzschmar ; not only a wonderful drawing, but apparently a magnificent effort of genuine facsimile wood-engraving. The portrait has lost much of its original delicate greyness.

I had hoped to have included some of the small engravings from the designs for *The Works of Frederick the Great*, and show most conclusively that even if Menzel did not invent modern illustration, he has inspired most of the men of to-day. But Menzel tells me that these drawings were made with a hard pencil, and not with a pen, and therefore he does not wish them included.

The study, the thought, the knowledge which have been put into these small blocks are the same that went into his large works in oil, and he is far more successful in black and white as a rule. But unless one feels, like Menzel, that illustration is quite as serious as any other form of art, there is very little use attempting it. Though hacks may flourish, and ignorant editors do their best to debase and prostitute illustration and design, they will have no effect on the work of Menzel and Meissonier, and the knowledge of these two great men must grow and have its true effect.



From *Fliegende Blätter*.

L. MEGGENDORFER

AN excellent burlesque of the Middle Ages, brought up to date and aptly called the triumph of the Renaissance; it is a triumph of fun.



W. DIETZ

THE late Munich professor made any number of illustrations for *Fliegende Blätter*. The design at the top of this page shows how well he was able to carry out the feeling of the old Dutchmen with a handling all his own, though it suggests both Menzel and Vierge. Still the barrels in the foreground, the drawing of the grass, and the toned side of the house, might have been much better rendered with no greater work. But the group of little figures is in power and completeness of expression equal to anything in the book. And it is this power of expression, combined with care in the selection of each line, which marks the modern German style of drawing. This thought for line, which interests and fascinates all artists, distinguishes the work of these Germans from the equally simple but utterly careless and thoughtless engraved line of men like Cruikshank, Doyle, Leech, and their English followers.





H. SCHLITTGEN

SCHLITTGEN is the best known of all the German draughtsmen, and these two drawings are fair examples of his style. To the simplicity of character sketching of Haug and Lüders is added the use of pure strong colour, as in the dress of the girl in the foreground of the large drawing. There is very little to say, except that his work is very clever and has influenced the pen draughtsmen of the world. The most superficial glance at it will show where many illustrators of to-day have got their style. Notice the charming grouping of the figures, and the action and movement which pervade the whole drawing and which are given in very few lines. Notice, too, the thoughtful placing of the little blacks and whites, their arrangement against each other so as to tell with the utmost effect. Everything in Schlittgen is studied and thought out in the most careful manner.

The large drawing is from *Trouville*; the smaller one, which shows most perfectly what might be called his serious caricature, is from *Ein Erster und ein Letzter Ball*, and is a wonderful rendering of that wonderful creation, the German officer.

All the Hackländer books, from which these are taken, should be seen and studied; the price of each is a shilling, and they can be obtained at Trübner's in London.



H. Schlichter 1888



L. VON NAGEL

THE many-sidedness of a skilful illustrator is well shown by these two absolutely different drawings.

The grim humour of the Influenza fiend sweeping through a town is only equalled by the amusing character sketching of the German general and his staff. And though quite different in handling, both are very good.



From *Fliegende Blätter*.

ROBERT HAUG AND HERMANN LÜDERS

NONE of the German publications and books, with the exception of *Fliegende Blätter* and the little volumes, I have mentioned, illustrated by the artists of that paper, have a very wide circulation among English-speaking people.



While nearly every German city of any importance possesses an art academy, one at least having a world-wide reputation, it is rather strange that a greater number of really good pen drawings are not seen. Though probably there are innumerable Germans who do very good work with a pen, the fact remains that but very few seem to care to, or do, get their work published. I do not know if in Germany there exists a prejudice against the employment of a new man, as I regret to say there does in certain quarters in England. However that may be, only the work of the men here represented is seen to any great extent, and, interesting as it would be to discover work done by the artist for study or practice, it is the object of this book to show the work of men well known as illustrators.

As I have said, Hermann Lüders and Robert Haug are two most notable followers of Menzel, and in the two small drawings here given—all their drawings I know are small—can be seen most clearly their style of work, which is very similar, and which consists of the greatest expression

of character given in the fewest possible lines. Contrast the light dapper officer in Lüders's drawing of a review, in *Ein Soldatenleben*, with the heavy files which are passing. Although the drawing is almost in outline, you can see the different quality of the cloth in the officer's and in the privates' uniforms, and every soldier's face has a character of its own, although it may be given in only two lines. Notice the curve shown in the feet of the advancing file—the curve which is always seen in any column of marching men. To me, at least, the portraits of the Emperor, the Crown Prince, and Von Moltke, are quite as complete and satisfactory as any elaborate work in oil, and this small drawing contains as much character and as much feeling for the artistic quality of line as any etching that was ever produced. I know, of course, there would be more refinement in the etched line, but these two drawings in their way are perfect.

The drawing by Haug of the cavalry passing is from *Ein Schloss in den Ardennen*, and of it, especially of his drawing of horses, exactly the same things may be said as of Lüders's work. Both of these books—and it may here be noted that *Ein Soldatenleben* is written as well as illustrated by Hermann Lüders—should be known and studied, as well as Vierge's *Pablo de Ségovie* and Abbey's and Parsons' *Old Songs*, by all who wish for style and care for the best results in pen drawing. These drawings were reproduced in Vienna.





From *Fliegende Blätter*.

A. OBERLÄNDER

OBERLÄNDER is always called a caricaturist, and he is a caricaturist in the true sense of the word, for he shows in his drawings the humorous side of his subject without aggressive exaggeration, and in a manner which interests artists as well as people who have no knowledge of art. The caricaturist who merely puts a little head, a big nose, or long legs to a figure, without drawing it in a good technical style, and expects people to laugh at it, although he may appeal to a vast inartistic public for a moment, because this abomination somewhat suggests a notoriety or celebrity, cannot permanently attract those who really care for art work. Can anything be more wearisome than to go through either one of the histories of caricature or a file of the political comic papers? You turn over page after page only to find the stupid portrayal of forgotten men and unremembered and trivial events. Without the legend accompanying them they are unintelligible, and nearly always the events which led to the publication of the picture are forgotten and all interest in the subject has ceased. The man who puts down such trivialities and the public who appreciate them are not much above the schoolboy who scrawls the effigy of his schoolmaster on a back fence. I do not mean to say for a moment that all caricatures should be as elaborate as this example of Oberländer's work. He and many another man can tell a story in half a dozen artistically disposed lines. But a caricaturist who can work out a drawing, and yet keep in it the comic and amusing element, possesses a power given to few.

I care not for a minute if this is a portrait of a doctor in Berlin or Munich, or only of a model. The subject is of absolutely no importance,



but the way in which it is worked out is of the greatest value to artists. I am very sorry that the drawing has been engraved on wood; though it has been very well cut by Roth, in all of the darker parts the pen quality is lost in the wood-engraved line. But as the drawing was most likely made on the block—at least I have never been able to find out anything about the original—this was all I could give. However, what remains of it, to my mind, reaches the high-water mark of caricature.

Any number of Oberländer's drawings can be found in the German papers, from which they are often taken by the periodicals of the whole world, as they can be understood by every one without a story to explain them.

Neptune hailing a steamship is a good example of Oberländer's burlesque of the classical subject; it is quite equalled, however, by the drawing of the primitive lover on his way to greet his mistress,—or is it the returning of a devoted or erring husband?



From *Fliegende Blätter*.

ALBERT RICHTER

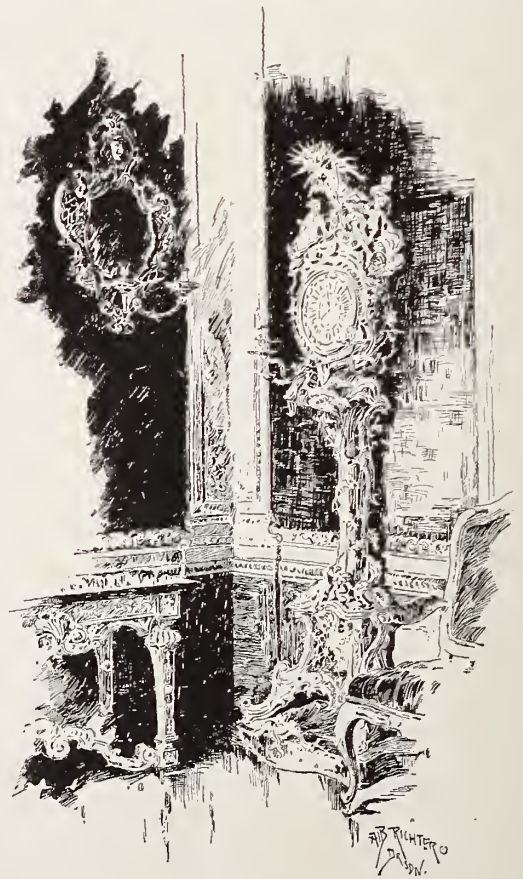
AND

OTHER ARTISTS IN "UNIVERSUM"

WHILE *Fliegende Blätter* and its artists are known everywhere, magazines like *Universum*, *Kunst für Alle*, *Felz zum Meer*, *Daheim*, have little, if any, circulation in English-speaking countries. And moreover, it is only occasionally, for a year or six months at a time, that these magazines rise to the level of originality. It has been less a surprise to find my own work in some of them than to discover good original drawings.

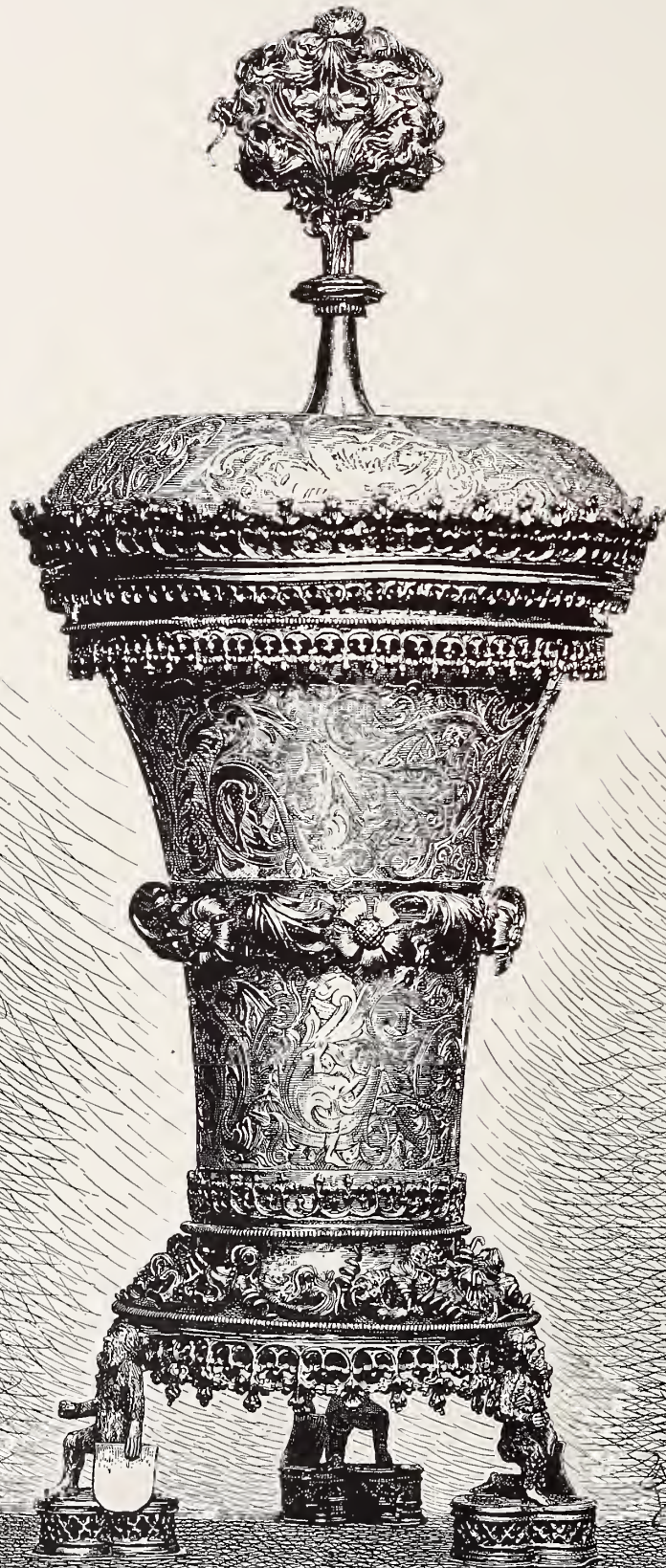
For though they borrow from all sources, they rarely keep up a high standard in work done specially for them. I have already referred to the series of reproductions by Angerer and Göschl after Rembrandt in *Daheim*, where they made an oasis in a desert of commonplaceness; in half a ton of *Felz zum Meer*, there is hardly a notable drawing done by a German in pen and ink; but in *Universum*, at times straight away for a year, one will find a number of good drawings, and then the magazine will degenerate,

only to be revived again. All through it, however, there is good decorative work by E. Unger, two of whose very characteristic designs I have included in the Chapter on Decoration. There is Scheyner who draws like Haug, and Mandlick who works like Schlittgen. But I think the most original of all the men who have illustrated this magazine is Albert Richter, who draws landscape and



interiors, three of whose drawings are given on these pages. The expression of detail in the carving over the open doorway and in the corner of the room is very well rendered, while the bit of a German town is extremely characteristic, the German feeling being well kept. The drawings are very slight, but despite this slightness there is evident a great desire to show with the simplest means the most picturesque aspects of very commonplace subjects. In fact they possess the true illustrative quality.





Meisbach

A. STUCKI

THERE is nothing more difficult to draw with a pen than low relief or decoration, and while Jacquemart,¹ with his books made rare by limited editions, nearly always illustrated with etchings and therefore only for collectors and amateurs, gained a great reputation for himself, this man who can draw just as well and with as much feeling for light and shade and colour and the play of reflections on polished surfaces, in which lay Jacquemart's great strength, is unknown because, though he treats the same objects in the same manner, he draws them with a pen. The sole difference is that he works for the people, and Jacquemart, though himself an artistic man, catered to the collector who is usually unable to appreciate his work technically. The chasing and the roundness and the metallic feeling of this cup or chalice could not be better rendered by any other medium. Lately, notably in the *Century* and *Harper's*, there have been published drawings by Will H. Drake and Otto Bacher which are as good as this.²

¹ See French Chapter for Jacquemart.

² See American Chapter.



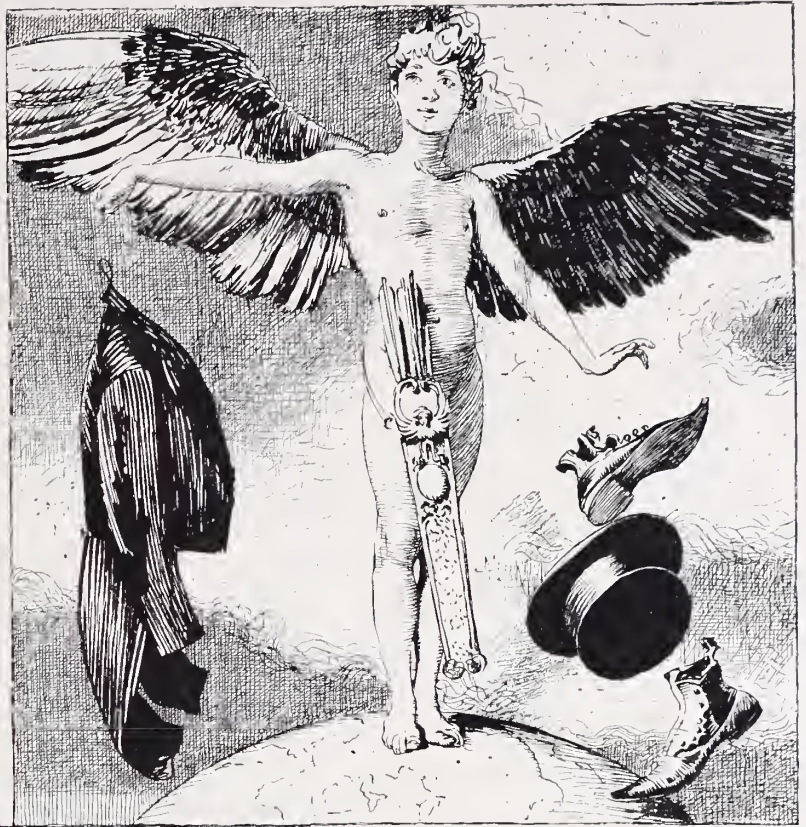
LUDWIG MAROLD

MAROLD's work possesses more of the cleverness of half a dozen Italians, though it is not an imitation of any one of them, than that of any other German I know. The drawing in the hands of the three girls is very careless; but the simplicity of the work combined with the strong bits of colour and the character in the faces makes a whole which is very pleasing and interesting, and which certainly has a style of its own.

FRANZ STUCK

STUCK is one of the most brilliant of that coming band of German mystics and symbolists, which includes such men as their master Arnold Böcklin, Max Klinger, Wilhelm Trübner, Hans Thoma. They are many-sided, like Sandys alone, among Englishmen. And like him they value good drawing equally with mysticism and romance.

Stuck began as a comic draughtsman and designer of menu and show cards, went on to *Fliegende Blätter*, where his designs for the months made a great sensation. The December is one of them; but



From *Fliegende Blätter*.



From *Fliegende Blätter*.

his most powerful design for that paper is probably his "Death of the Emperor William"—a great composition, finely and originally handled, which I am glad to have the chance to reproduce. Now his work is more in colour and in the round. Centaurs and fauns are his delight, and he loves to show the bright, gay, joyous human life they led, especially the fun they had. And all through *Fliegende Blätter* it is the pranks and scrapes of Love that he draws. But there is no end to his quaint, horrible, grave, and gay inventions, and it is a pleasure to turn to such bright, good, new work.



From *Fliegende Blätter*.

F. STUCK

His line is clean and simple, though in the background of the Germany there is a dragged painty effect, obtained, I should think, with a half-dry brush or pen. This centaur driven by the Puck is done with a brush, and the background is all wash, but that, now almost any work can be reproduced, does not exclude it from this book. The way in which each line is used to express modelling and action should be noted quite as much as the energy of the man-beast or abandon of the little imp.



MAX KLINGER

THOUGH a younger man than Arnold Böcklin, Max Klinger may be almost ranked with him. Dr. Singer of the Dresden Museum has, at Klinger's request, lent me this drawing, which Klinger considers a good example of his work. I am sorry that it is not more characteristic of his serious work, where great beauty of line and perfect handling are employed in his renderings of romantic or classic subjects.

Klinger's pen drawings are usually studies for his etchings, and these pen drawings are carried out in a most masterly fashion.

Here, however, the humour of the German mystic asserts itself in a most amusing fashion. The contrast between the ape-like half-blind old person and the almost Pre-Raphaelite female is good ; why they both worship before the decapitated heads I do not know ; it may be, however, that the top hat is their shrine. The drawing is a burlesque of a function held in Berlin, but it is quite too local to be intelligible. There is but one example of Klinger's etched work that I have seen in England, his edition of *The Golden Ass of Apuleius* in the South Kensington Art Library, and in that book the etchings have lost much of the freedom of his pen work ; but in the Print Rooms of Berlin and Dresden, especially the latter, his finest work, both in drawing and etching, is to be found. Although his subjects are almost invariably those of Holbein, he brings his work up to date. One has always haunted me—a dance of death. A railway train is rushing rapidly toward you ; the engine and carriages are most carefully studied, the rails and the smoke make marvellous lines, the landscape is sombre, and, right in the foreground, Death has fastened himself to the rail,—in a moment there will be a terrible accident. The idea is as old as the world, the conception and execution the work of a man of to-day. These drawings are, luckily, almost all owned by the great galleries of Germany, as well as the portfolios of etchings, published in very limited editions, made from them.



بیت الحرف

Line Liebe

D. Minger
Rad Opto

Berlin 1887



A. HENGELER

THE German serial comic illustration is usually more elaborately worked out than the French, though the change from one scene to the next is often much more abrupt. In the "Uncle and his Nephew," by Caran D'Ache, the changes are gradual, subtle, almost imperceptible; or else, as in "Our Cat takes Rat Poison" by Frost, the story becomes a romance in many chapters. But in Hengeler's "Fire in the Village" we have the

perfectly-told short story. There is a fire; a little smoke floats over the church steeple, the ladder has been put up, the brave fireman mounts, the admiration of his fellow-townsmen. The chief, who is not a superstitious man, rushes under the ladder to beg his captain to command the firemen to pump. Then, as the hoseman mounts higher, they do pump. That is all; but how completely and perfectly it is told. Without a word of explanation it will be universally understood: that is the art of comic illustration.



WILHELM LEIBL

I HAVE never seen the drawing from which this block was made. But I have seen several pen studies by this artist ; and, though in many ways unsatisfactory as the reproductions are, in fact impossible as the originals are to reproduce, they are of such distinction and individuality that they demand a place as the work of a master.

All Leibl's pen drawings that I have seen were made on white or tinted paper with very grey ink, reinforced with washes of the same, or intenser tones. Consequently, when these are reproduced by process, a great and unavoidable change takes place. First, they become very much darker all over, as it is impossible with black printing ink to render the delicate grey of the paper ; then the grey ink work becomes much darker, because the grey tone of the paper is under it, and it is impossible to retain the silvery quality of the ink in any reproduction, though lately I have seen some marvellous blocks after M. Sainton's silver points by the Swan Electric Company, printed in the *Studio* for 15th November 1893. The look of Leibl's work is best kept, I imagine, on the left side of the coat, where the grey watery ink lines may be easily studied,—though they are much darker than in the original,—but in the head they have been lost in the general mass. Still, the drawing of the head is so fine that the modelling is expressed, even though the lines which produced it, in many parts have disappeared. I do not think there is much handwork on this block, which it seems to me has been admirably reproduced by Angerer and Göschl.

This drawing is reproduced by the half-tone process, and the lines come in the tint, and a far truer and simpler effect is thus produced than by any attempt at cleaning up the background and digging out the greys between the lines, while the charcoal or crayon work around the hat is retained. I believe, in very many cases, this half-tone method will supersede the simple line, because the effect is just as true, and a blending, enveloping tone is added, giving a result approaching—with good printing—an etching.

For other experiments in reproducing line drawings by half-tone processes, Hartrick's and Sullivan's drawings in the English chapter should be studied.

Die große runde Brille
Linsenköpfe mit Leder
Fellhaube.

N. Gode 1889



HERMANN VOGEL

AMONG all the foreign black and white men who now produce what is



known as French art, none is more interesting than Hermann Vogel. He worked for some time on *Fliegende Blätter*, and then, like Marold, Rossi, Tofani, Myrbach, and Vierge, found himself in Paris. The effect of



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lighting in the large drawing, "Cortesia," is excellent; so too is the suggestion of colour. One is reminded, it is true, of several other men, but still the whole is most interesting.

The interior of the "Salon" is very good, the grace of the woman, the way the two men stand and sit, and the leaving of the walls white, though they are in shadow, is most cleverly managed. The pictures on them are well suggested and the furniture carefully studied; altogether this is a most simple and satisfactory rendering of a difficult subject. Vogel's many-sidedness, an absolute necessity for an illustrator, is shown in the landscape. There is the most careful feeling for line in the study of the trees, in the wet muddy road, and in the general realism of things; and all his work is done with a frank, painter-like simplicity which makes him a very excellent master to follow.

DUTCH, DANISH, AND OTHER WORK

DUTCH, DANISH, AND OTHER WORK

THERE are probably good pen draughtsmen in Belgium, Austria, and Russia. But the best-known artists of all these countries almost invariably leave their native land to live in Venice with Van Haanen, or in Paris with Jan Van Beers, Munkacsy, and Chelminsky, or in London with Alma Tadema. One feels as if even a country like Austria, where the only large comparative exhibition of black and white illustrative work has ever been held,—most of its examples as shown in the Catalogue, however, were very commonplace,—is out of artistic touch with the rest of Europe. The trouble is that the illustrated books and papers—the exhibition rooms of pen drawing—of these countries do not circulate all over the world, as do those of France, Germany, England, and the United States. Niccolo Masic, a Hungarian, I think, and Répine, a Russian, are men whose pen work stands out in any illustrated catalogue. In Masic's there is a suggestion of Vierge. In Denmark and Holland alone are there to be found original artists, who remain in their own country, and publishers enterprising enough to bring out their drawings in a decent fashion. Denmark possesses in Hans Tegner, who was at work on his marvellous series of drawings for Holberg's *Comedies*, when the first edition of this book was being prepared, a really great artist. In Denmark, too, the silhouettes of Paul Konewka were, so far as I know, first published. In referring to nearly all illustrated catalogues, I also find that the same pictures, which have been the admiration of the *Salon*, travel around with their accompanying reproductions, from one art centre to another. From Holland comes a very fair monthly magazine called *Elzevir*. While H. J. Ické's drawings after the old masters are amazing.

It would be impossible to write of pen drawing in Europe and America without acknowledging the debt which all artists, who have

thought and worked and striven in their art, owe to the Japanese. All know and try to study reverently the sketch-books, the drawings on silk, the prints plain and coloured, all the decorative work of Japanese artists which is so freely and beautifully rendered by the pen, or rather by the brush. Whether these drawings are right according to instantaneous photography is of small importance; they are the most beautiful, the most decorative, the most careful studies of birds and flowers, fish and animals, ever made. I do not even pretend to know the styles, nor would it be worth while to give a catalogue of the names of Japanese artists. But I do know that one can learn more about art, decoration, and beauty from a Japanese sketch-book, which can be bought at Batsford's, High Holborn, for half-a-crown, or at John Wanamaker's, Philadelphia, for fifty cents, than is often to be learned from a whole season of modern European picture-galleries. In making this assertion I am sure I should have the support of men like Habert-Dys, Felix Régamey, Alfred Brennan, Frederick Lungren, and A. Lepère, as well as that of the commissioners, appointed by the Japanese Government, who have just said, in their report, that there is very little to learn in European art to-day. The influence of these Japanese artists is becoming daily more and more apparent. Whistler was possibly the first man to appreciate them, but to-day there is a whole school who are guided by this work, the originals of which they have never seen and the methods of which they but half understand. A few others are studying the matter intelligently and working out interesting results,—Edgar Wilson has probably been one of the most successful.

But unless one can assimilate Japanese methods to one's own requirements, in the manner of Brennan, Lepère, and Edgar Wilson,—that is, unless one can engraft Japanese methods on European subjects,—it is better simply to study their drawings as an old master's pen work might be studied. Otherwise the result would be a medley, neither Japanese nor European, with about the value of a tea-chest made in Birmingham.

I have no intention, however, of attempting a detailed account or analysis of Japanese drawing, for so different is it from European work that it would require a volume apart, and several very able books on Japanese art are to be had.

In the production and reproduction of brush or pen drawings, the Japanese are hundreds of years ahead of us. Their ink is better than any we have, their wood-cutters are far more sympathetic, reverent, and careful than even the facsimile men of America, and their printing is excellent.

DUTCH, DANISH, AND OTHER WORK
ILLUSTRATIONS



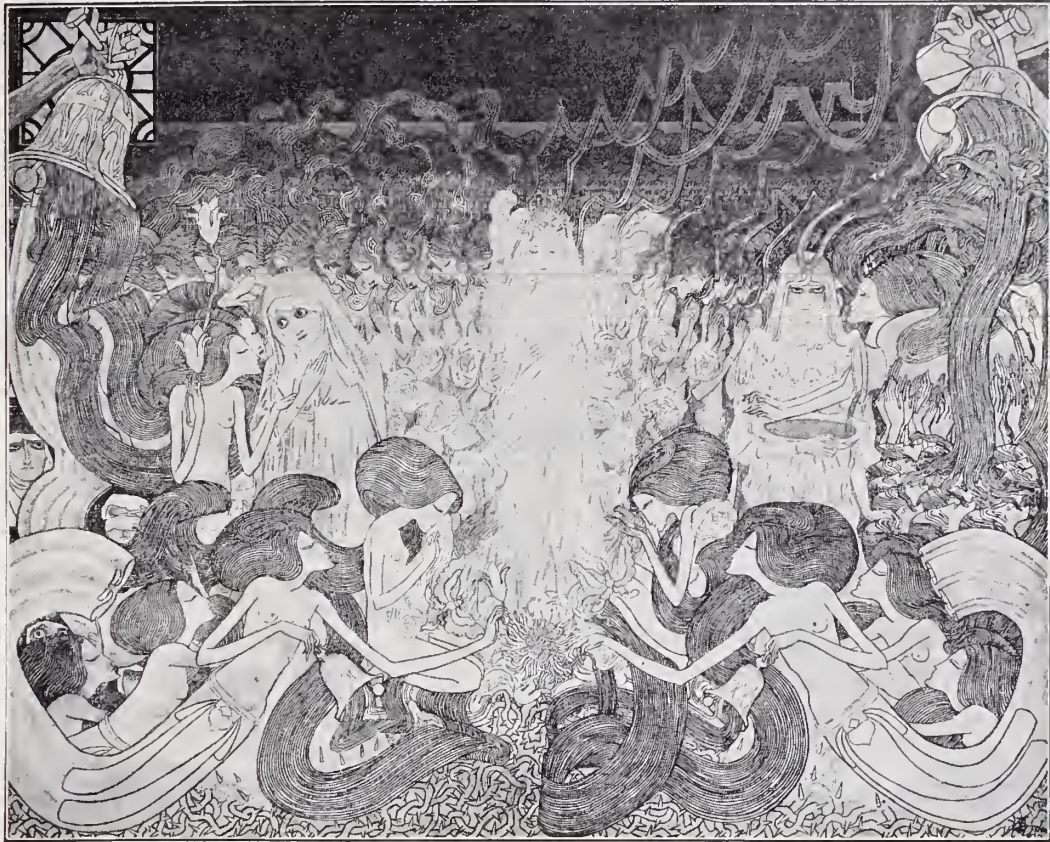
J. HOYNEK VAN PAPENDRECHT

PAPENDRECHT'S work, like that of so many other men to-day, is interesting more from its individuality and freedom than anything else. Even four years ago, when the first edition of this book appeared, it would have been very difficult to have found any one to reproduce the scrawling, though not bad scrawling, free line which is its characteristic; to-day, or even in 1891, this came well enough. His arrangement of white spots is good, but there might have been more care bestowed on the faces without elaborating the work.



P. DE JOSSELIN
DE JONG

THE swing and go of this man's work are remarkable ; and it is very interesting to note how well his freely-put-down lines have come by process, and printed on the steam press. This is a notable example of good reproduction from a perfectly sketchy design.



JAN A. TOOROP

HERR TOOROP is a Dutchman born in Java, hence the curious Eastern feeling in his work, a note which is quite genuine. He is another of the Rose Croix men; and, like the rest of them, his work is distinguished by beauty of line and great care in handling, qualities which would give "The Three Brides" distinction and make the work remarkable without the mysticism, which I do not pretend to understand. This is a very good example of the reproduction of line and wash by the half-tone process.

PAUL KONEWKA

CONSIDERING that Konewka has so beautifully shown the possibilities of the silhouette, it is curious that he has not had an army of imitators; and, save in *Fliegende Blätter*, they have been but comparatively few in number. Still it is not so easy as it looks to space these charming arrangements in black,—and that probably accounts for it.

Konewka has illustrated several books with silhouettes, notably, *Faust*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the *Comedies of Shakespeare*.





HANS TEGNER has with one set of drawings won a leading position as an illustrator. His edition of Holberg's *Comedies* makes him a formidable rival to Menzel, and at times to Abbey. That he has founded his style on these two men is very evident. That in certain ways he has branched out for himself is equally certain. He has not sought, as so many men do, to imitate their masters' tricks and mannerisms, but he has used what he could in their work, and evolved a style of his own. The large interior



F. HENDRIKSEN









full of figures is very reminiscent of Abbey, but it is drawn with a firmer line and more simply; but I think it lacks the grace which the American would have put into it. The two large heads are altogether individual—Tegner's own. Again, in the bedside scene and in the party crossing the fields one feels the influence of Menzel, but it is felt in a right sort of way. The garden and the single figure of an actor are all his own. I have included a large number of Tegner's drawings, not only because he is absolutely unknown to artists in England and America, but because the Jubilee edition of Holberg's *Comedies*, for which these drawings were made, is not very accessible. And the more really good work one can see, like this, the better. There are other phases of his work that I possibly should have shown, but Tegner is so many-sided a man—an indispensable quality for an illustrator—that one would have to include almost every drawing in the book; and this edition of Holberg's is well worth possessing. It was published in 1888 by Bojesen of Copenhagen. Special attention should be devoted to the beauty of the wood-engravings, from the drawings of Tegner, which have been executed by F. Hendriksen and A. Bork.



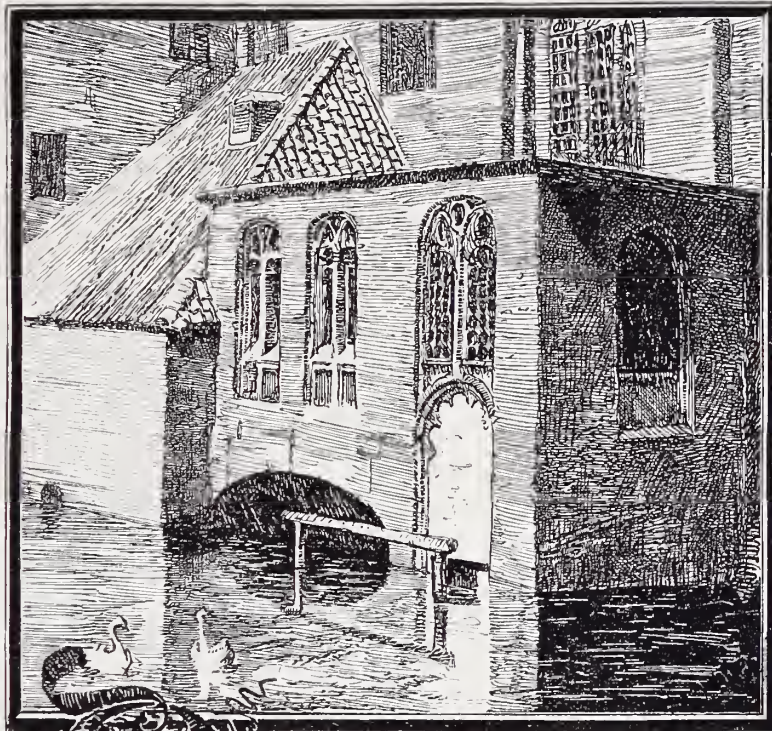
H. J. ICKÉ

THIS artist has devoted himself to the copying of the old Dutchmen in pen and ink, and with this medium he has produced results only equalled by reproductive etchers like William Hole, or wood-engravers like Timothy Cole. Herr Ické's originals are in many cases, until closely examined, quite indistinguishable from etchings, as he makes his drawing upon a tinted ground which gives the effect of a carefully-printed plate. Some artists and critics who have seen his work, condemn it on the ground of excessive cleverness of imitation, but certainly all good etchers are open to the same charge ; while it is far easier to make a drawing on paper like this, than to etch the same subject on copper, although exactly the same lines would be used and they would be put down in the same manner. If this drawing had been reproduced by Amand-Durand in photogravure, I do not believe that any one could have proved that it was not a genuine etching made on a copper plate ; and though Herr Ické has a precedent, and might allege an excuse for this form of swindling, I imagine he is too much of an artist and cares too much for his work to practise it.

The reproduction by Angerer and Göschl of Vienna is also noteworthy. The English firms to whom it was offered refused to attempt it. The Austrians have been marvellously successful.

The drawing was in brown ink upon a brown tone. A block was made of the lines of the drawing first—to get the drawing itself—then another block produced, simply for the colour. These two were printed together, one on top of the other, and a result has been obtained which in the proofs is almost equal to the original drawing, and it reflects great credit upon the skill of the Austrian engraving firm. A block like this requires two printings, a fact which prevents its more general use.





THE ILLUSTRATORS OF
“UDE OG
HJEMME”



MOST of the men who have contributed the drawings to this journal are unknown as illustrators, though several of them are widely known as painters. The paper itself is, I fancy, almost unknown: certainly until this year when I was shown several volumes of it by that profound practical student of all branches of the Graphic Arts, Mr. H. L. Brakstad, I had never heard of it.

Ude og Hjemme (*Far and Near*) was published in Copenhagen by F. Hendriksen who was also, I believe, the editor; while the amazing wood-engravings with which the early years are filled are almost entirely from his hand. F. Hendriksen is such a great wood-engraver, that were it not for the fact that he himself has ceased to strive to rival the perfection of process, I should be tempted to withdraw my claims for mechanical reproduction, at least in part; but as Hendriksen has himself become, I am told, a mechanical engraver, my assertions are, instead of being disproven, strengthened. Never, I think, has there been a wood-engraver who, apparently, so reverently and faithfully followed the lines





drawn by the artist; never certainly has there been a wood-engraver who has given the quality, the original look and feeling of these lines,



whether pencil, pen, or brush, more truly than Hendriksen. His power of rendering the look of a medium is astounding. Many of the drawings, like Tegner's, are of theatrical subjects, and among these one of the most

notable is by Hans Nicolas Hansen, partially done in pencil; possibly more of it was done in this way than is at first apparent; the work is bold, manly, and direct. One is as sure it is a good portrait as that it is a good drawing. The initial is also by Hansen.

A. Edelfeldt's work, especially in colour, is well enough known, and I reproduced one of his drawings in the first edition, but work so distinguished and so full of character as this I had not seen till I came



across the Norwegian magazine. Though for directness it is surpassed by Frants Henningsen's, the sentiment of which is overpowering, and the pathos heartbreaking but genuine; yet I imagine such a real work of art would not find a place in an English or American magazine, it is too real, too well done.

Erik Henningsen's work is more in the nature of study and is not so complete, and at times it is hard and wiry; but there is an immense amount of action and go about it. Much of it, too, is possibly pencil, and in just these points the engraver fails to entirely express the artist.



Though many people draw animals, comparatively few do it well in pen and ink. Madame Ronner and Lambert have used this medium, but I certainly do not care much for their handling of line, however accurate their drawing may be; therefore it is a pleasure to find some one who, like Hermansen, can do it well.

In landscape, too, much good work has been accomplished, and one recalls instantly Frans Thaulow's successes at the Salon in colour. T. Petersen's pen work is excellent if it does recall Abbey and Parsons.

I am not certain that the man's head is by a Scandinavian, I rather think it is the work of Liphardt who drew for *Vie Moderne*. At any rate I think this drawing was once published in that paper. But I am sure it is a wonderful example of Hendriksen's skill as a wood-engraver.

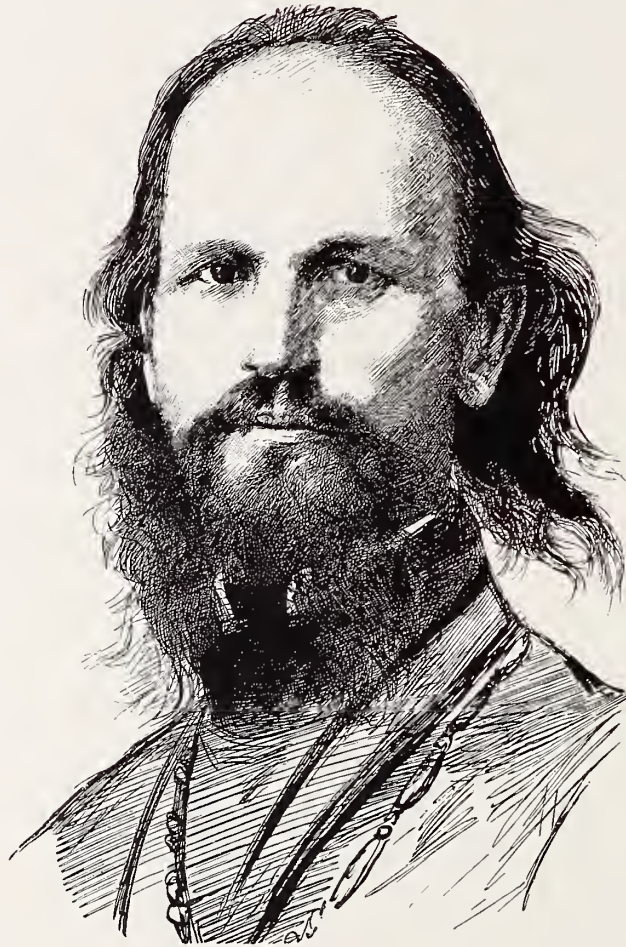
I have no doubt there are many other illustrators in Denmark, Holland, Norway, and Sweden, but I think it something to have merely touched the matter even if better material, which I doubt, exists.



The artists from the North and from Germany are beginning to exert a powerful influence all over the world, and so will the illustrators



once they are known, even if some of them have been influenced by our better men. It is greatly to their credit that they know us,—it is not so commendable on our part never to have seen any of their excellent designs.





ERIK WERENSKIOLD

WERENSKIOLD is a Norwegian who has evidently studied English methods. His work will shortly be better known here, as Mr. H. L. Brakstad is about to bring out a translation of Asbjørnsen's *Folk and Fairy Tales*, which he has illustrated.

PEN DRAWING IN AMERICA

PEN DRAWING IN AMERICA

IF Spain and France were the homes of pen drawing, then certainly America is its adopted country. There the art has been developed altogether within the last fifteen years, more especially within the last ten. At one time American artists imitated the good English pen drawing of some thirty years ago, much of which, as I have said, was executed for the wood-engraver, and was therefore only known to them in the form of engravings. But they ceased to do so as soon as they saw the work of the Continent, which appeared in facsimile reproduction. The principal American illustrators of the day unquestionably owe much to their knowledge and appreciation of continental draughtsmen. Whom they took as models depended much on where they studied. Many adopted, as have Americans following any branch of art, what seemed best to them in each of the different schools. Hence, though like Englishmen they have no national art school comparable with the *Ecole des Beaux-Arts*, nor the standard which such a school supplies, Americans have on the other hand, what Englishmen have not, and, whether rightly or wrongly, rarely seek to cultivate, an eclectic appreciation of good art whenever they see it, no matter whence it comes. Any one, who has been at all out of England, knows how really little good modern art of any foreign school was to be seen in this country, until within the last year or so.

One American has taken Menzel as his model; another Dietz and the artists of *Fliegende Blätter*; a whole school now worships Fortuny, Vierge, Rico, Casanova, and the other Spaniards, reverently but with judgment at the same time; while there are some artists who follow Detaille and De Neuville, intelligently adapting French methods to their own needs. At the moment, mediævalism founded upon Birmingham, and symbolism adapted from the imitators of Burne Jones are the fashion;

while a mania for putting a circle of yellow paint round the head of a model is quite the thing, and is considered to lend an increased value to, and bestow religious significance upon, what would otherwise only be an academy study; the plan works well, but it has been tried before. These men have in turn many imitators who, however, are without knowledge of all the underlying principles of pen drawing. The principal credit for the true development of illustration must be ascribed to the intelligent support which Mr. A. W. Drake, the art editor of the *Century* (then *Scribner's Monthly*), was the first to give to the group of young men who, about this time, returned from a course of several years' study in Munich with the idea of revolutionising art in America—then a not very wonderful thing to do—by converting it to the school of Munich, especially to the school of Dietz. Among the Munich men were William M. Chase, who made some strong figure studies, Walter Shirlaw, who gave some of the most artistic renderings of commonplace things ever produced in America, Frederick Dielman and Henry Muhrman. A little later Reginald Birch returned, and though he was heralded by less blowing of trumpets, he has sustained and improved the reputation he made with his first drawings. One of the latest books he has illustrated, *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, is probably the best thing he has ever done. Every number of *St. Nicholas* is made more interesting by his work. The infection quickly spread to what was then Harper's brilliant shop, working in or for which were such artists as Edwin A. Abbey, Charles S. Reinhart, Howard Pyle, A. B. Frost. The entire revolution was not altogether due to the Munich students. But certainly they, together with the Centennial Exhibition, showed to a vast number of Americans, among others to those artists who had never been abroad, what foreign standards of technique really were. But even long before this, the Harpers had been republishing *Romola* and other stories with their original English illustrations, and this English tradition has been exceedingly well carried out by Alfred Fredericks and W. L. Shepherd in that magazine.

About the same time, or a little later, between 1877 and 1879, Alfred Brennan and Robert Blum began to be known. They commenced to study in Cincinnati to a certain extent under Frank Duveneck and H. F. Farny. The latter is in many ways one of the most original, if erratic, of American artists. He had then already produced some very good pen drawings published in the *Art Review*, and he has added to his reputation by his brilliant studies of Indians published in the *Century* and *Harper's*, and by his illustrations for school-books, of which he has made something artistic.

From Cincinnati, Blum and Brennan went to Philadelphia where, like many another student, they received everything but encouragement to continue in the way they had marked out for themselves. But they found a friend in Stephen J. Ferris, who then, though he did not own originals, had photogravures or reproductions of almost all the drawings of Fortuny, Rico, and Boldini; and through these he introduced them and his son, Gerome Ferris, as he later did me—and for this I can never be thankful enough to him—to an entirely new world. Ferris, Peter and Thomas Moran, J. D. Smillie, and several others, by reproducing the pen drawings and the pictures of the greatest men of the Continent for the art books issued by Gebbie and Barrie, probably did as much to make known the work of European pen draughtsmen to Americans as any one else. However, even in the present state of international copyright, it is not likely that any of these books will be seen in Europe.

Ferris was one of the first artists to practise etching on glass, as it was miscalled—that is, drawing on a sheet of glass coated with collodion, which had been exposed in a camera at a white wall and so turned a dark grey or brown colour, and then varnished; then on this plate a drawing was made with an etching needle, a pen, or any sharp point, and the result was either reproduced by photo-lithography or printed in a photographic printing-press. It was work like this, done about ten or fifteen years ago, which had an enormous influence in developing photo-engraving. Mrs. Elinor Greatorex, in her illustrations of old New York, I believe used the same process. Another man who made many experiments in other ways was B. Day. Brennan, too, continually made discoveries in process work, in which he was aided by the *Century's* Art Department. But without the assistance of Mr. De Vinne, the printer of the *Century*—a man who has devoted his life to artistic printing and succeeded in it—comparatively little advance would have been made. A glance at the magazines of 1876 will prove this.

In New York, Blum and Brennan found instant recognition, and a place for their work both in a sort of memorial to Fortuny and in the *Century* (then *Scribner's*). Here they were joined by F. H. Lungren and Kenyon Cox. From that day to this their work has contributed to maintain the high position which the *Century* and *St. Nicholas* hold among illustrated magazines. Much has been said about their originality. But their real originality consists in their intelligent adaptation of the methods of Fortuny, Rico, and Vierge, of the artists of *Fliegende Blätter*, and of the draughtsmen of Japan, and in their production, under all these many and

opposing influences, of vigorous and charming pictures of their own. Brennan most certainly was and is the master of this school of American pen draughtsmen.

In 1878, I think, Abbey, who was then illustrating Herrick's *Poems*, came to England, and a knowledge of the country and things he had long cared for started him on a brilliant career, and has carried him forward until he is now the greatest English-speaking illustrator the world has ever seen. For grace and refinement he ranks second to no one. In England of the eighteenth century he is as much at home as Austin Dobson. He can reconstruct its old rooms and village streets and fill them anew with beauty and life. In his old furniture and bits of glass and silver ware he rivals in fidelity and execution Jacquemart. And all of his work is in a style that delights the purist. It is simple, honest, and straightforward. So also is the drawing of Reinhart, who, about the same time as Abbey, came abroad again—he having studied before in Germany—and, finding his chance in illustrating a trip to Spain, began an equally brilliant career. His work is always devoted to the things of modern life. He puts Mr. Howells' characters on paper with just that last touch of realism which an illustrator can give better than the author; while he has only lately finished telling the world what he thinks about American sea-shore resorts and the people who go to them. His drawings of France and England, done boldly, directly, and vigorously, are life itself. Nothing better than the work of these two men could be found for Englishmen and Americans to study. One cannot but wish that Abbey too would give us a little more of what is happening about him, instead of occupying himself almost altogether with the people and things of other days. His editions of *She Stoops to Conquer* and Herrick's *Poems* have never been approached in modern times. While the *Comedies of Shakespeare*, now in progress, leave all would-be rivals far behind.

Howard Pyle has expressed in his pen work the quaintness of American life in the colonial period, and, in *Robin Hood*, some beautiful ideas of a country he does not know. His *Pepper and Salt*, *Otto of the Silver Hand*, and other children's books are as beautiful in their old and quaint simplicity. He has revived and portrayed the life of the Middle Ages better than any one else, and still he is at home in a modern ballroom or the backwoods of America.

Harry Fenn has illustrated many books and magazines. He works apparently with equal facility in all sorts of mediums. If he would concentrate his power on something that he made distinctly his own, as

he did with wash in *Picturesque America*, he would hold a very high place as a pen draughtsman. There is no one probably who has such perfect command of his materials, and who, though often doing work which cannot be interesting to him, is always sure of getting striking and, very often, novel and artistic results. His drawings of interiors are models of arrangement and knowledge of details, and very clever as a whole. His work, as well as its reproduction, has vastly improved since he made the illustrations for *Picturesque America*.

A. B. Frost and W. A. Rogers, who can be either funny or serious to good purpose, have produced some of the funniest drawings, which rival those of *Fliegende Blätter* in their technical work and humour—though very different; and, like them, are good because they are understandable in all languages, and need no label to explain them. Of caricatures, pure and simple, are to be mentioned those of Thomas Nast and M. A. Wolf, which, however, have no technical pretensions. The same can be said of those of Mat Morgan, F. Keppler, and a host of other caricaturists. J. A. Mitchell, S. W. Van Schaick, W. H. Hyde, C. J. Taylor, are other comic pen draughtsmen who really are clever. But to mention them all would be to make a catalogue. Among the older men, of course, we have Darley's lithographed outline illustrations to Washington Irving, which I suppose were done with a lithographic pen on stone; but he started and formed his ideas and settled his style long before the time of process. Among the painters is Mr. Wyatt Eaton, who produced the noble head of Lincoln, engraved by Cole, in the *Century*, and the drawings after Olin Warner, also published in the *Century*; while another man who has done a great deal of portrait work in the style of, though not equal to, Desmoulins, is Jacques Reitch.

The only men of any note who have appeared in the last few years are E. W. Kemble, whose delineations of old darkies and the wild west are very lifelike, but often very careless; Frederick Remington, whose drawings of horses in action are wonderfully spirited; and F. Childe Hassam, whose work has certainly a character of its own; while G. D. Gibson has made a name for himself in the United States equal to Du Maurier's here.

Jessie M'Dermott, Alice Barber Stephens, and Katherine Pyle draw well, but have not illustrated other work, or done work of their own to sufficient extent, to be given the place they would otherwise hold. The same may be said of many other men and women—Thulstrup, Graham, Zogbaum, Redwood, for example. But the great bulk of their work is

not done in pen and ink, and they do not seem to care for it more than for other mediums. The drawings of the artists I have mentioned will live long after the present generation.

So much of Alfred Parsons' work is published in America that one has come to think of him as an American. But of his pen drawings I shall speak in the chapter on English work. Frank L. Kirkpatrick makes excellent pen drawings; but, painting almost altogether, one sees comparatively little pen work from him. And this is also to be said of F. S. Church, who is strikingly original in his treatment of birds and animals. L. S. Ipsen,—who, among other things, has recently published some charming decorations, though the figures are not good, for Mrs. Browning's *Poems*,—George Wharton Edwards, and H. L. Bridwell have given a decorative character to many of the books and magazines of America, which places them second only to men like Habert-Dys. W. H. Drake and Otto Bacher render arms and armour and many unpicturesque subjects in an original manner; while Hughson Hawley, F. Du Mond, and Camille Piton have devoted themselves to architecture.

In looking at pen drawing, or rather all illustrative work in America, outside of the *Harper*, *Century*, and *Scribner* publications, *Life* and *Wide Awake*, the process work in *Puck*, and a few of the art periodicals, it seems as if the art editors of the various illustrated papers were trying to see which one could fill his magazine or weekly with the worst and cheapest drawings. One cannot but fear that unless there is another reaction like that which followed the Centennial Exhibition, art in America will fall to a lower level than it has ever held before.

Save in reproduction and printing, little progress has been made in the last few years in America. Scarcely any new men have appeared; but the excellence of work has been maintained by those I have included in this chapter, and a very few younger ones. Despite the attempts to cheapen literature and art which are only too successfully evident on all sides, America set up the standard of good work; may she preserve it!

PEN DRAWING IN AMERICA

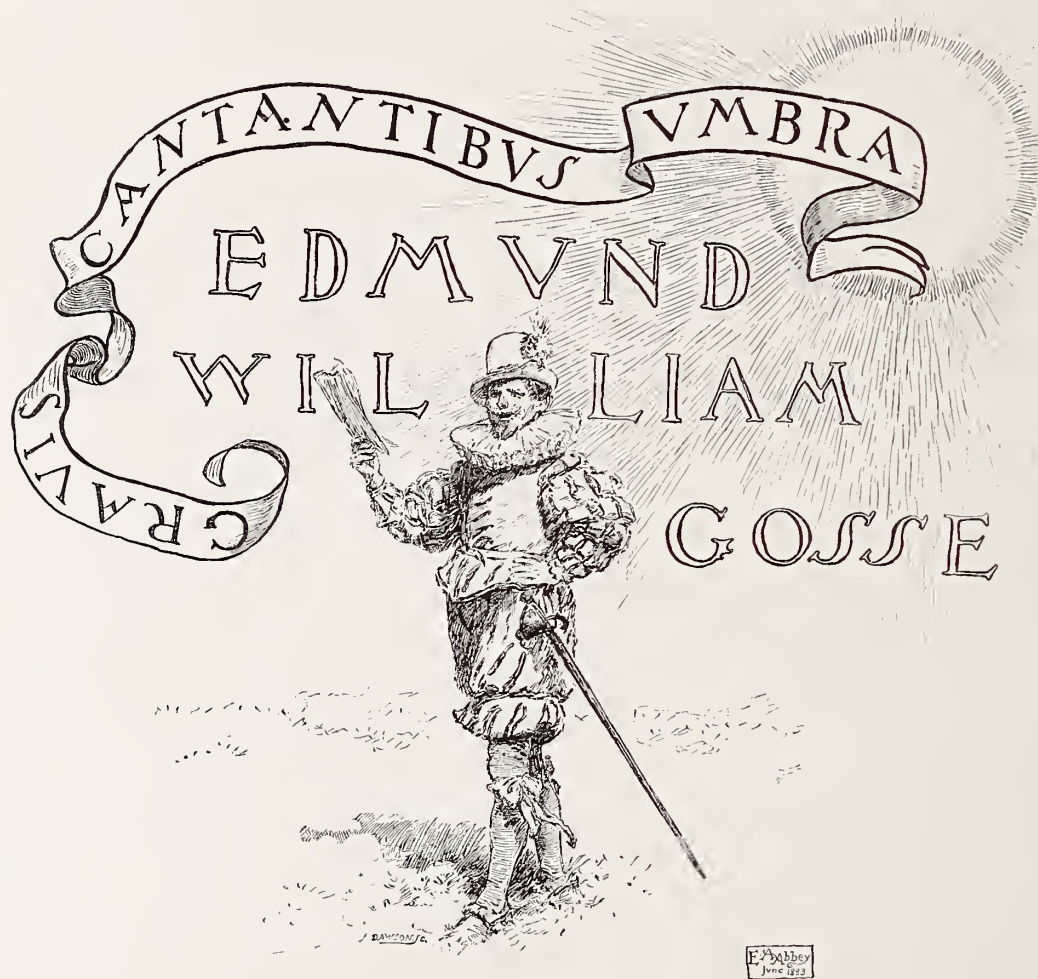
ILLUSTRATIONS

EDWIN A. ABBEY

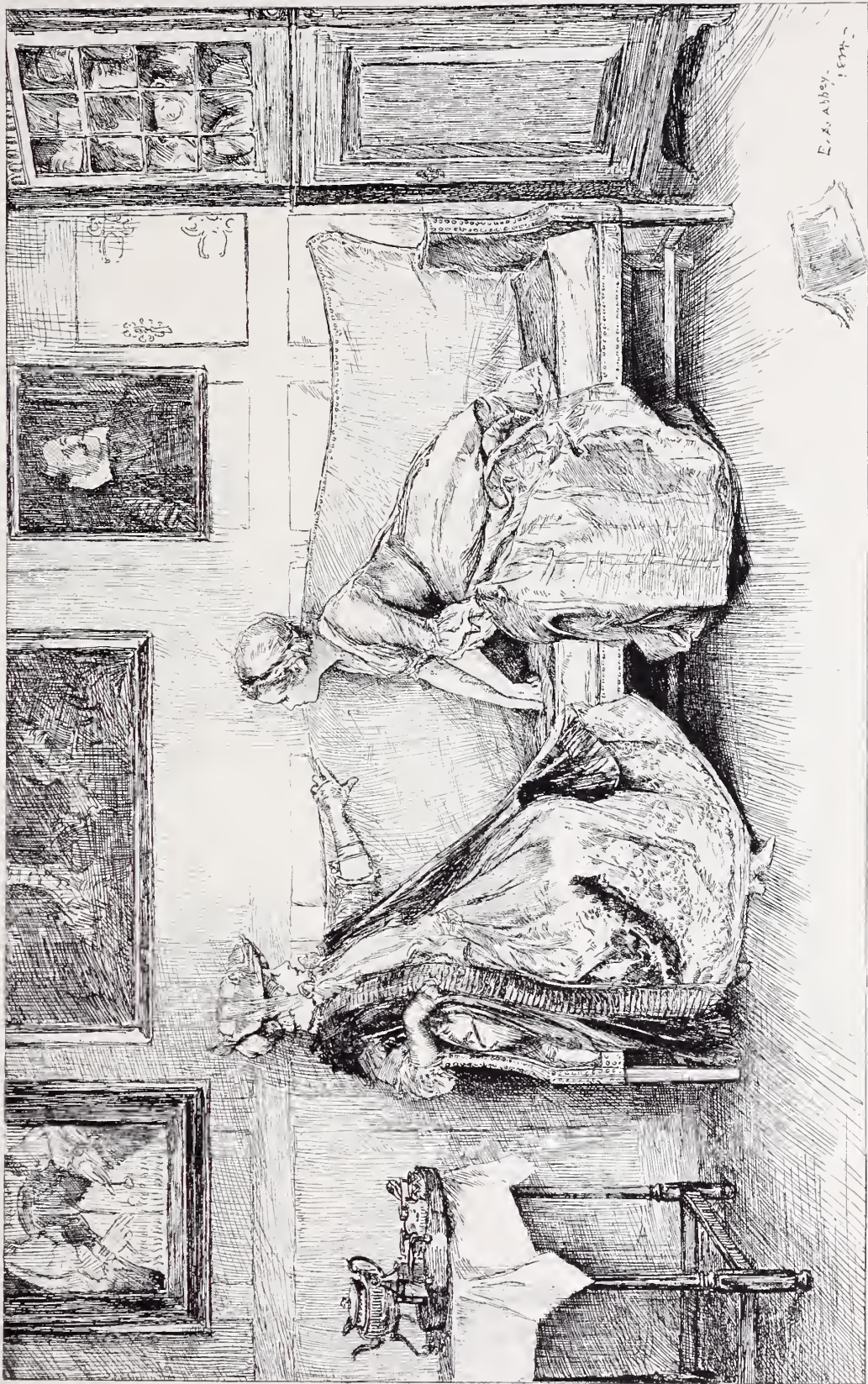
THE fact that I have devoted more space to certain Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Germans, and less to some of the equally well-known and important Englishmen and Americans, deserves, I think, a word of explanation. Too many of Menzel's drawings could not be shown, nor could I give too many of Abbey's. But while it is the duty of every illustrator and every one who cares for illustration to see all the work which Abbey produces—and it can be seen in the pages of *Harper's Monthly*—and while every pen draughtsman should own the charming *Herrick*, the monumental *She Stoops to Conquer*, the lovely *Old Songs*, and the dainty *Quiet Life*, which have been reproduced by the best modern mechanical and wood-engravers and printed in the most careful manner, it is scarcely possible for any one to obtain the original editions of Menzel's work, and in many cases reproductions from these original editions or new editions have never been published. Of the *Uniforms of the Army of Frederick the Great* I know of only one easily accessible copy in England; this one is in the British Museum, but very likely there may be a few more. The case of Rico and Vierge is almost parallel; it is even more difficult to find the drawings of many of the principal Spaniards than those of Menzel.

Abbey began in the wood-engraving office of Van Ingen and Snyder in Philadelphia, and, like so many other illustrators, he learned the mechanical part of his work in the daytime and studied art at night, to a certain extent under Isaac L. Williams and in the Academy of Fine Arts. But he soon went to New York and entered the office of Messrs. Harper and Brothers, where he continued for several years, producing much work in many different mediums for all of Messrs. Harper's periodicals. Though his early work was wanting in the grace and refinement which have now

placed him in a position without a rival among English-speaking draughtsmen, it was always remarkable for its quiet humour and its suggestiveness, while his marvellous mastery of technique was quickly attained. Although he has gained a knowledge of composition, a largeness of feeling, and a



completeness of expression with his years of practice, some of the drawings in the *Herrick* are equal in many ways to his later work. As a whole, however, his last book, the *Old Songs*, is infinitely finer than anything he has yet done. His drawings have become so refined that no engraving can reproduce every line in them. He has selected the two girls on the sofa from *She Stoops to Conquer*, and it is interesting to compare this reproduction, which is probably better than any made from his work, with the block in the magazine and the plate in his book; I think it will at once be seen that it contains more of the feeling of his drawing than either of the others.



E. S. ALBON.
1844.

While the superficial qualities of Abbey's work can be imitated by any one, his rendering of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, which he has reconstructed so wonderfully, will never be approached on the lines he is following. His present position as an illustrator has been attained and maintained simply by treating illustration, as it should be treated, as seriously as any other branch of art. He is remarkable not so much for academic correctness—as is Menzel, for example—but rather for his truth, the beauty of his line and his power of expression. No illustrator has realised more beautiful women or finer swaggering gallants, and no one has placed them in more appropriate surroundings. He makes the figures real for us because all the backgrounds and accessories are taken directly from nature.

Any one can see for one's self how drawing like this is produced ; a more or less rough pencil-sketch is made on a sheet of very thin smooth paper mounted on pasteboard, something like London board, and the completed subject, which he has in his mind before he touches the drawing, gradually grows out of the models he has before him, and nature to which he always refers ; and this is the only way in which great illustration can be and should be produced. The book plate, the drawing for which Mr. Gosse was good enough to lend me, is one of those numberless designs Abbey is for ever making for his friends ; other examples of these charming suggestive conceits may be found in the frontispiece of Mr. Ashby-Sterry's *Lazy Minstrel*, Mr. Austin Dobson's *Sign of the Lyre*, Miss Strettell's *Spanish and Italian Folk-Songs*, in many other books and catalogues of his friends' pictures. In the book plate for Mr. Gosse, the greys all over the drawing are utterly lost ; no process or engraver could render them. But no matter how much is lost, a vast amount of beauty remains. It has already been very well engraved by Mr. J. D. Cooper, but the result is not better than, if as good as, Messrs. Dawson's photo-engraving. I suppose that one might criticise the drawing for the apparent want of the old conventional decorative feeling ; but when so much that is new and good can be found in it, I think one ought rather to rejoice for what we have obtained and not mourn over what has not been given.

NOTE.—After a rather careful examination of the drawings and engravings in the Paris Exhibition of the year (1889), I cannot help being conscious of the fact that I have not given Abbey the place which he really deserves. Meissonier is the founder of modern illustration ; Menzel, Fortuny, Rico, and Vierge have been its most powerful apostles, and among the cleverest men their influence will never grow less. But while Menzel's methods are obsolete, and Vierge's style can only be attempted by the most brilliant, any one can see that a new school is arising, and this is the school of Abbey, who has at the present moment followers in every illustrating country in the world, men who are seeking to carry out his method of brilliant drawing carefully and seriously executed.

American pen drawing, the Exhibition conclusively proves, is the best, and American process reproduction the most sympathetic, and American printing the most careful ; and it is this harmonious co-operation which has enabled Abbey to become not only, as I have written, the greatest English-speaking illustrator, but the greatest living illustrator.

The Chicago Exhibition but confirms this.



REGINALD B. BIRCH

BIRCH is one of those men who have studied abroad, and taken what they have learned to America. Not only does he know how to draw well, but he is familiar with the life of two continents. His drawings in the beginning were Americanised Schlittgens, but, while he is quite as clever as Schlittgen, he possesses, I think, more grace, combined with wider knowledge of character. In the concentration of blacks, the drawing of little Lord Fauntleroy carried off to bed might suggest Vierge, but the footman, the two housemaids, and the merest indication of the house-keeper's cap and one eye are thoroughly English, though the little lord himself is completely American. The handling in this, as in all his work, shows the greatest amount of expression obtained by the simplest and most direct means. He scarcely ever uses models in his final work, but makes his drawings from studies, tracing these on to Bristol board which he thus keeps thoroughly clean ; consequently his work reproduces perfectly well.



H. F. FARNY

FARNY'S drawing is an example of what is known among illustrators as splatter work, which I have described in the Chapter on Technical Suggestions. But it deserves a place far more because of its suggestion of colour and the strong character of the face ; there is a figure, too, wrapped up in the blanket. The decorative manner in which the shield and bow are put in and balance each other is good, and the whole drawing is very well put together. But I wish to call special attention to the way in which the splatter tint is managed. The figure, apparently, was drawn and then covered, probably with a piece of paper to protect it, and the splattering done all over it. Everything outside the frame of the background was then painted with Chinese white and the drawing continued on this ground when dry. The difference in the quality of the lines made on the two grounds can easily be seen in the reproduction, in which the Messrs. Dawson have been very successful in keeping this difference. But in their process they do not seem able to get very fine single lines, such as those in the lower part of the blanket which are rotten, though there is no rottenness in the drawing. The feeling of the drawing, however, has been very well retained.



From Harper's Magazine.—Copyright, 1890, by Harper & Brothers.

HOWARD PYLE

A COMPARISON of these drawings with the block after Dürer will show on what lines pen drawing is advancing.

The most superficial comparison of Pyle's composition and handling with Dürer's proves what a careful student the nineteenth-century American is of the sixteenth-century German. And intelligent study of old work is absolutely necessary. That Pyle should do this in telling and illustrating a mediæval tale, merely proves his ability to saturate himself with the spirit of the age in which the scenes are laid, and to give his work the colour and character of the biggest man of that age. The entire figure of Time, in the drawing from the *Wonder Clock*, is Düreresque. But the figure of the small boy piping, although the lines of shadow are drawn in the manner of the old Germans, is not German at all but nineteenth-century American, and this is true of the tree in blossom and the stony foreground. They are better than anything in Dürer, for the simple reason that we know more about landscape than the Germans of his time. This way of adapting the methods of an earlier generation to our own requirements is exactly what the old men did, and it is only by so doing art advances. Pyle has preserved all that was good in their work, and yet kept pace with modern technical and mechanical developments. The other

drawings are from his colonial sketches and stories, and also there are two decorations from a poem by Mr. Howells. The study of light now seems

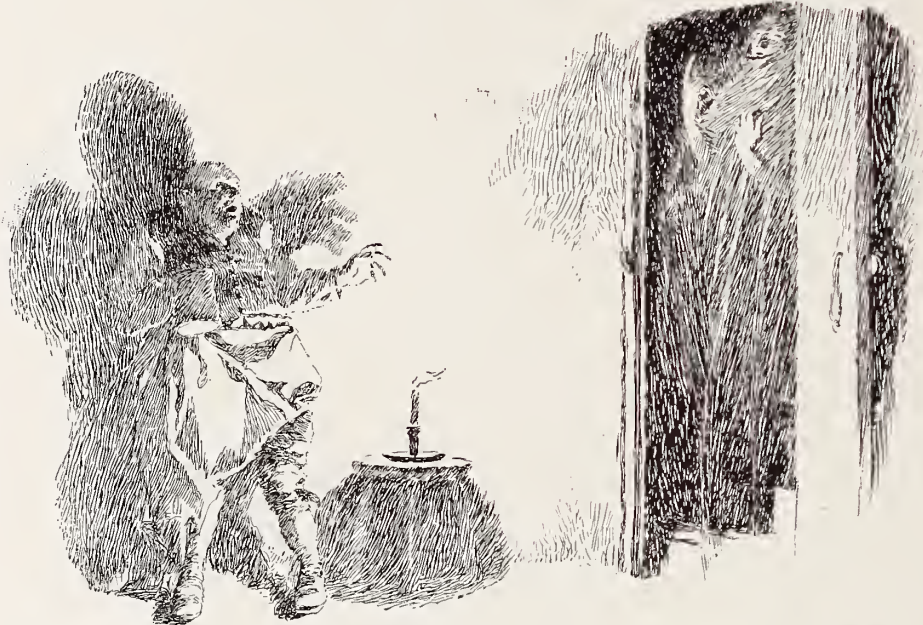


From Pyle's "Wonder Clock."

Copyright, 1887, by Harper & Brothers.

to interest him ; and he adds interest to his subjects by effects always carefully worked out.

Among the books by Howard Pyle which every student should know, are *Robin Hood*, *Pepper and Salt*, *Otto of the Silver Hand*, and the *Wonder*



From Harper's Magazine.

Copyright, 1893, by Harper & Brothers.

Clock. Many of the drawings are wanting to a certain extent in local colour, a want only due to the fact that Pyle has, as far as I am aware,

never visited Europe. But in technique they are far superior to anything that has been done in America, and, I hope it will not be too presumptuous for me to say, therefore to any modern work of this sort. They are carried out with a thoroughness and completeness which give them originality, even though they preserve all the feeling of the old work. They are almost equal as decoration to Abbey's and Parsons' realistic revivals, and would be quite equal to them did Pyle know Europe as well.



From Harper's Magazine

Copyright, 1890, by Harper & Brothers.



From Harper's Magazine.

Copyright, 1886, by Harper & Brothers

C. S. REINHART

IT would be a mere waste of time on my part to try to praise or even to criticise Reinhart at his best. He has been influenced both by Germans and Frenchmen, with whom he has studied and among whom he has lived for years. His drawings are notable for their simplicity, directness, and freedom, often for their grace, and always for their character and expression. There is probably no one else who, with such simple means, could so well show the three American mothers in this drawing. He has concentrated his attention on the faces, but he has not been slovenly in the costumes, while his grouping is extremely pleasing. It is unnecessary to give more examples of a man whose work is so characteristic and well known, and should be studied by all who wish to produce good as well as realistic renderings of the life of to-day. His drawings for the last twenty years have been seen in *Harper's*, where he has shown his ability to work in all sorts of mediums. It is only of late he has in his black and white drawings used a pen to any great extent.

ARTHUR B. FROST, FREDERICK REMINGTON,
E. W. KEMBLE

I GROUP these three men together, for not only is there great similarity in their methods, but they seem to me the most distinctly American illustrators we have. On the one hand, their work does not possess much of that intense brilliancy and cleverness which is so characteristic of the Spaniards ; nor, on the other hand, has it any of the slovenliness which characterises so much English work of exactly the same sort.

In the three drawings you see that models have been used for all the figures, though Remington's has the photographic look which marks all his work. But, as I have said elsewhere, there is no reason why a man should not use photographs, if from them he can get good results.

The style of Frost's work is, I fancy, that which the men of Fred Walker's time would have used, had they been transported to an American town and taken enough interest in it to make a drawing of a subject like that of Frost's. Of course there is an exaggeration in all the figures ; they are not so real as Remington's, but then Frost's indication of the men's clothes is much more true and carefully studied than Remington's, while Kemble, to a great extent, has ignored all details and only attempts the large mass and long folds of the women's simple garments. But in none of them is there any of that everlasting machine-made cross-hatch.

Each of these drawings gives to an American a characteristic rendering of country life : Frost's of the middle states or the northern part of the southern, Kemble's of the extreme south, and Remington's of the far west. All will probably fall under the English critic's ban because they are not pretty or beautiful ; but they are more than this, they are real, and genuine realism was the one quality lacking in the brilliant Englishmen of thirty years ago. In Frost's drawings I do not think there is a line which could be omitted or anything that could be changed to its advantage. In all three, the reserving of blacks is well managed. In Remington's there is a certain scrawl of meaningless lines over the grass which is found in nearly all his work ; the drawing is not so well thought out as Frost's, and it has a mechanical look which is much more evident in this reproduction than



A. B. Frost, J. 1847

Ch



Frederic Remondet 87-

cl



Kemble

ordinarily, because his drawings are usually reduced to a much smaller size. The intelligent critic will of course ask what has become of the cow's other horn. My only answer is that I am sure I do not know. For a man with such a thorough knowledge of animal anatomy this omission is rather curious. His drawing of the men's hands is not as careful as Frost's or Kemble's.

Kemble's drawing contains more of his good qualities and less of his faults than almost any which I have seen. There is a very striking difference in the rendering of the old Congo woman with her brilliant shiny jet-black face—though in the drawing of it, by the way, there is not a bit of black—and the tall statuesque mulatto who stands in front of her; the action of this figure is remarkably fine. Rendering of types is Kemble's strong point, and his weak one is carelessness in detail, a carelessness which at its worst is positively aggressive. The mass of wire-work to the left of the figures is thoroughly bad. It is intended for bushes or grass, but, as line-work, is meaningless. The dress of the old woman is also careless when compared with the delightful drawing in the other woman's gown. The sugar-pans and the brick oven are also careless, and the smoke is really childish. I criticise Kemble because he is such a remarkably clever draughtsman, and yet there would be no use for students to copy imperfections which with him are but the result of carelessness. With far less work he could in these details get a far better effect. Compare the tree trunk in Frost's drawing with the bushes in Kemble's and what I mean will at once be seen.

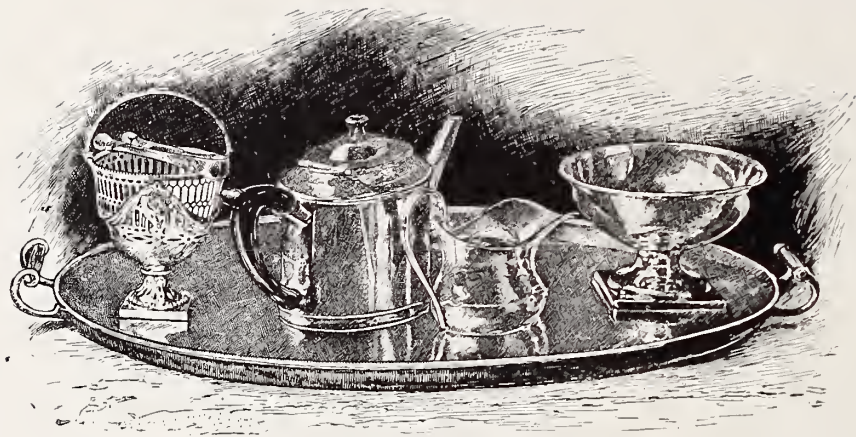
These drawings have been reproduced by Louis Chefdeville, and, like all his reproductions, are in advance of the work of any other reproductive engraver in England. He has not only reproduced the drawings excellently, but he has kept the quality of the line which each man uses. The reason of this is not difficult to find. Mr. Chefdeville is an artist and reproduces drawings in an artistic manner—that is, he seeks to reproduce the character of the draughtsman's work. His rendering of separate lines is infinitely better than that of any other English photo-engraver.



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ARTHUR B. FROST CARICATURES

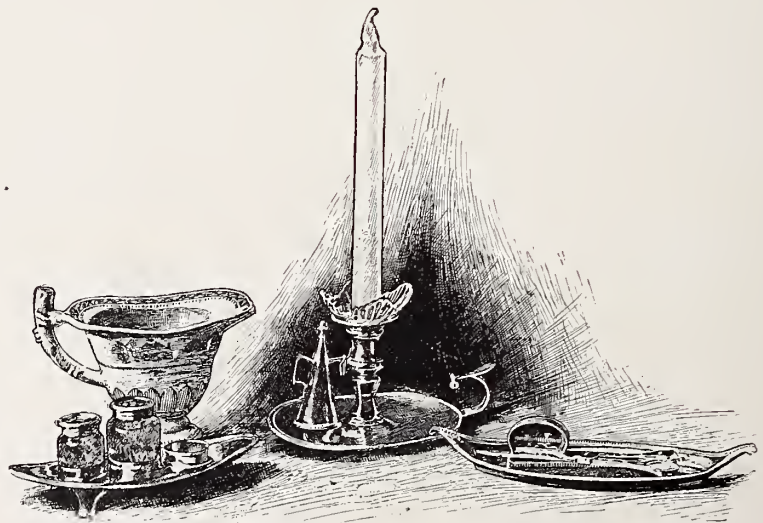
THESE are not models of technique—Caran D'Ache's simple outline is very much better—but the style is good enough for the purpose. They are examples of comic drawings which appeal to the whole world without any label to explain them. The only title ever tagged on to them was *Our Cat Eats Rat Poison*, which to any one with the slightest sense of humour or drawing is all-sufficient.



OTTO H. BACHER AND W. L. DRAKE

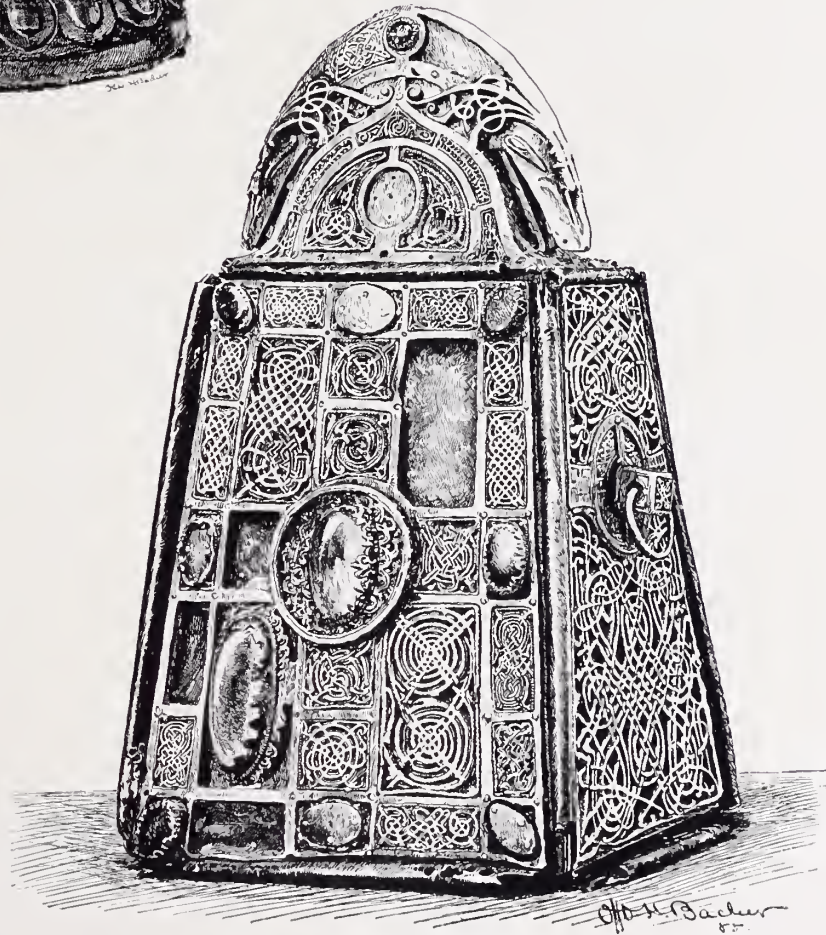
BOTH Drake and Bacher have done good work in other fields than the delineation of still life.

Mr. Drake has made some charming illustrations to Kipling's *Stories of Child Life*; and Mr. Bacher gained his reputation twelve or fifteen years ago by his etchings. But to-day I do not think any artists are doing better work than these two men in rendering the play of light on old silver, on jewelled caskets, on bronzes, and on ivories.



Their drawing is as careful and accurate as Jacquemart's, and the developments of process have given them a chance which the Frenchman

was unable to take advantage of, that of rendering subtle detail and delicate play of light and shade. These drawings are quite equal to Jacquemart's etchings, and one can say nothing better of any one's work than that.





C. DANA GIBSON

DURING the last four or five years only one American, C. D. Gibson, has achieved an international reputation in pen drawing. The reason for this is not difficult to understand. Mr. Gibson has had something to say and he has said it. This expression of his own individuality has won him the right to illustrate serials and complete articles, and unless an illustrator can make an article or a story more interesting and attractive by his drawings, unless he can add a personal note to it, he stands a small chance of success.

Individuality means art, and though one may at times quarrel with Mr. Gibson for repetition, he does not slight his work, but goes on studying, so that one looks forward each month to his drawings with interest. Not only has he countless artless imitators on both sides of the Atlantic, but Fifth Avenue to-day is like an endless procession of Gibsons. Whether Gibson is responsible for this, or whether Fifth Avenue is responsible for Gibson, I do not know. The latter drawing has been partially reproduced by the half-tone process; most of the tone, however, has been cut away.





ALLEN C. REDWOOD

SERIOUS study and careful observation are the dominant characteristics of Mr. Redwood's work. Cleverness he despises, seriousness is his aim. If at times one wishes he had not elaborated to such an extent, one cannot say that this elaboration is wrong. Only occasionally, one feels that he really must have obtained his results long before he thought his work finished.



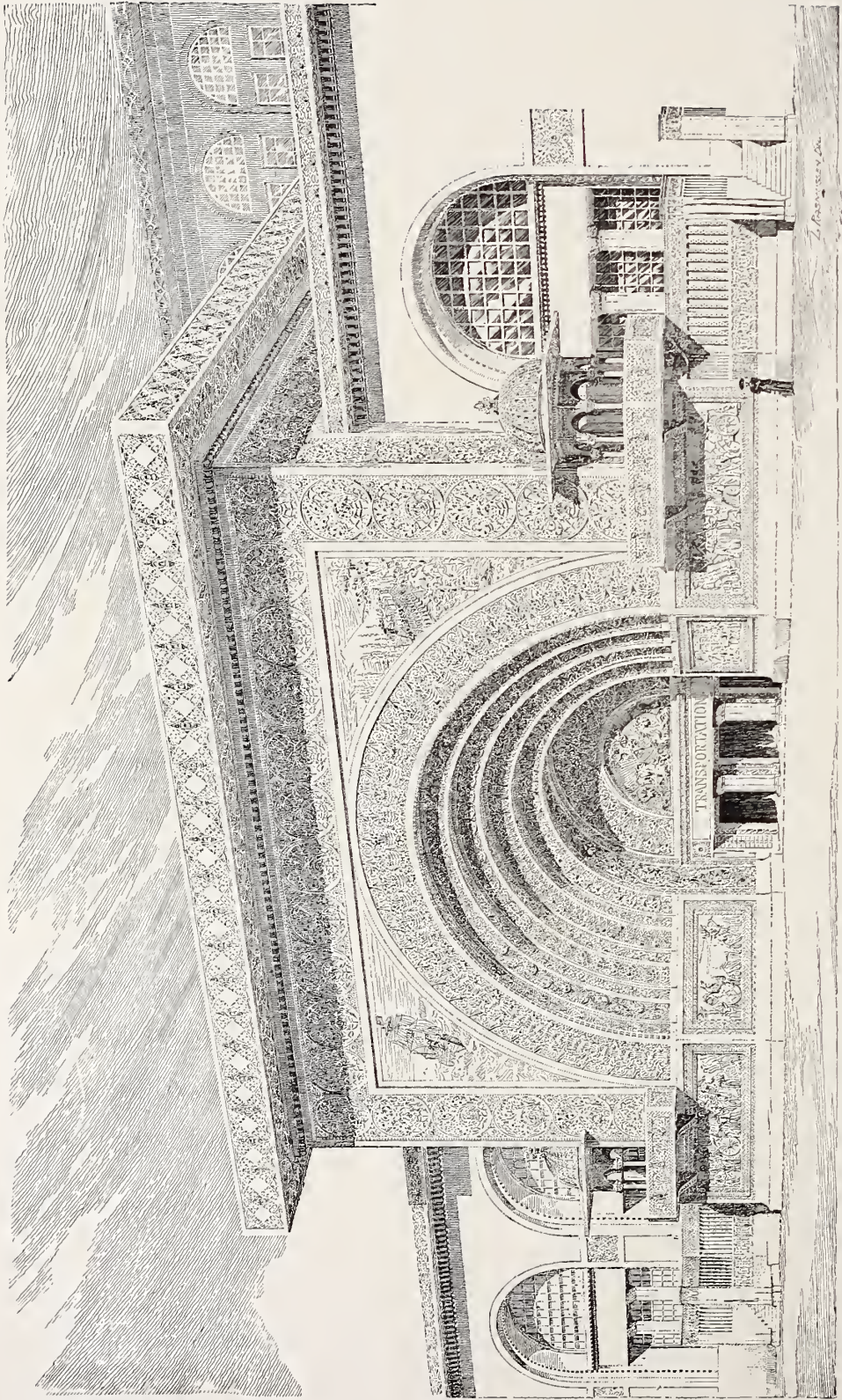
From Harper's Young People.

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ALICE BARBER¹

MISS BARBER'S work is a good example of careful honest drawing without cleverness of handling. She knows how to construct her figures, and she puts them together very well. There is a good colour scheme in her work, and the whole drawing is simple and direct. The only thing to criticise is a cross-hatching in the floor which might be omitted. The figure of the girl against the light thin curtain is specially well drawn. Every one knows how difficult it is to give light clean work with a pen, and in doing this Miss Barber has been very successful. She carries her work out more thoroughly, with a real feeling for line and without over-elaboration, than any American woman I know of.

¹ Alice Barber Stephens.



L. RASMUSSEN

THE amazing care for the rendering of detail shown by some men, who have devoted themselves to the drawing of architecture, has never been more elaborately exhibited than in this drawing of the Golden Doorway at Chicago. And though the whole effect comes near being spoiled by the absolutely uninteresting, unintelligent sky and foreground, the doorway itself is worth looking at, even if one is only lost in astonishment at the labour which goes to make it up.

The effect of light, however, has been well rendered; and the way in which all the detail is expressed by shadows only, is most interesting.

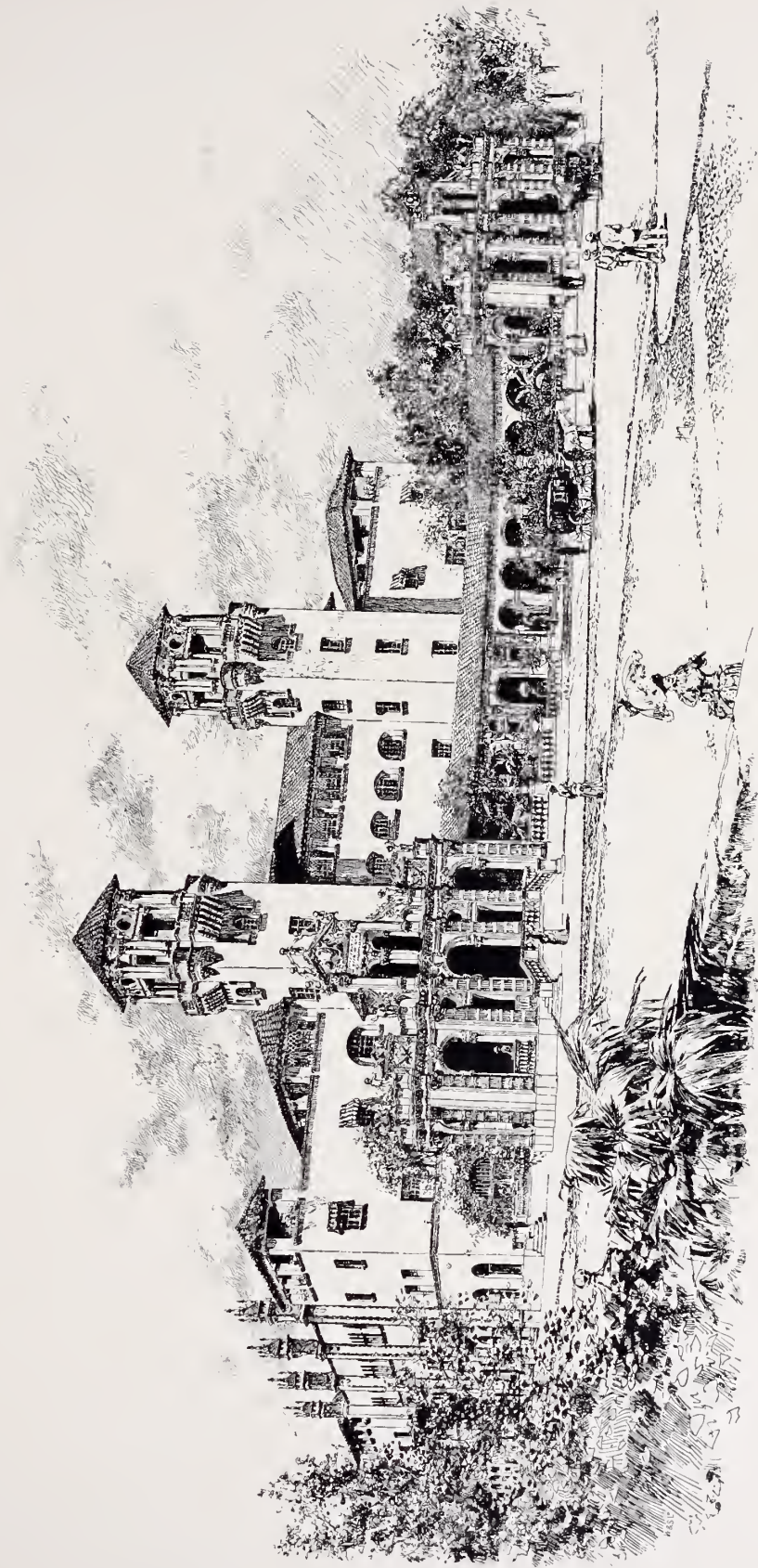


ROBERT BLUM

FORTUNY lived a little too soon for the process work by which many of his followers have profited. Among them all, there has been no more careful and at the same time more brilliant student than Blum. This drawing was done for reproduction, while Fortuny's were not. It therefore possesses many qualities of value to the draughtsman which are absent from the more original work of his master. In almost all Fortuny's work there are smudges and blots, and though these are artistically right, they cannot be depended upon in any process-reproduction. The Fabrès drawing, however, is a most successful exception. Everything in this drawing of Blum's will come as nearly right as photo-engraving and printing can make it. It would be impossible to render the face more delicately than Blum has. Notice how he gets the colour of the hair darker than the face by means of the fine lines under the modelling of it, and how he gets the tone of the face down lower than the cravat and shirt front; and how well the legs are expressed, and every line goes to show the form that is inside the breeches. I cannot help feeling that the boots are somewhat too black, but this black is used to emphasise and bring out the delicate lights all the way from his feet to the under side of his hat. This is a contradiction to my advice not to use too many blacks; but at the same time it is a proof of my assertion that a man who is a master of his art can do what he chooses. The lines which surround the drawing and which in most men's hands would be a meaningless affectation of Fortuny's searching for his forms and modelling, although they are with Blum to a certain extent an affectation,—and I doubt if he would use them to-day,—serve to bring the drawing out of the paper and to connect the black of the coat with the white of the paper without producing a hard crude line around it. Take these apparently careless lines away and you will at once discover that the drawing becomes hard and loses much in refinement. And just here I want to express another opinion. This drawing may have been made from Joe Jefferson on the stage, or studied in the studio, or done from a photograph. The fact that one

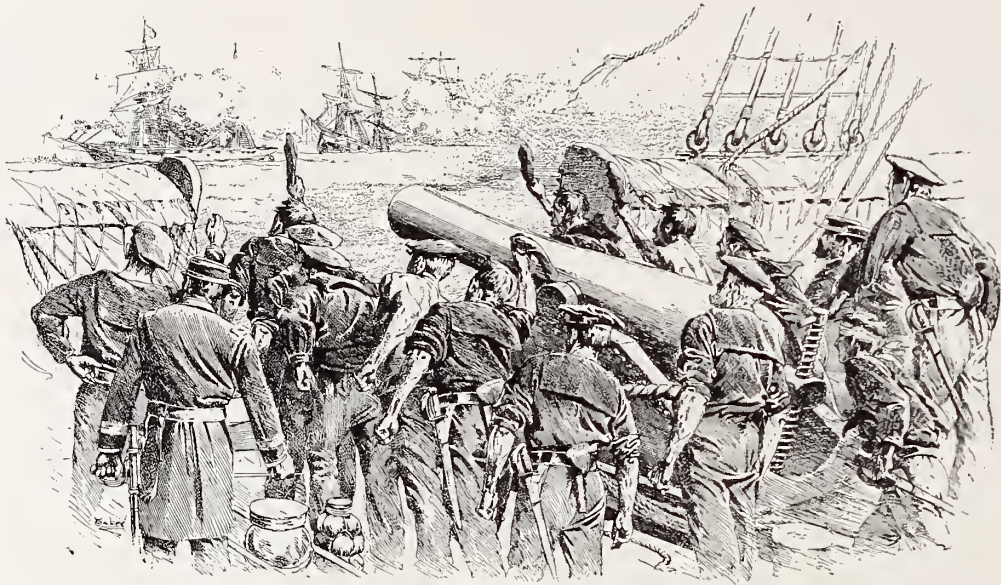
cannot tell how it was done is a proof of its excellence. If a man is compelled to work from a photograph—and there are very few who can without the fact being known at once, for it is much more difficult to make a picture out of a photograph than one from nature—it is nobody's business how the work is done, nor would the use of a photograph detract from the artistic value of the drawing.

Under this head come some of Blum's drawings for Carrère and Hastings' descriptive pamphlet on the Ponce de Leon Hotel in St. Augustine, Florida, the most artistic piece of architectural drawing and hotel advertising combined I have ever seen. It is a book which should be in the hand of every architectural draughtsman. The drawings, having been made in the southern states of America, are rightly based on the work of Rico. There is not an architectural draughtsman in the world who could equal, or even come anywhere near them. Blum has given all the architectural details with the utmost fidelity, and to them he has added an artistic rendering while he has avoided all stupid results by means of his delicate play of light and shade. Interest has been added by carefully-drawn figures, and the trees and flowers are put in with a knowledge of their form in nature and not evolved from the imagination of the architectural T square brain.



THE ALCÁZAR—ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

Carré & Hastings, Architects
Nov. 1874



W. L. TABER

MR. TABER has developed the uses of chalk and lithographic crayon with pen work ; if he did not invent this combination, he at any rate furnished the whole world with the idea. His drawing is notable for its clean directness. His work reproduces admirably.



F. S. CHURCH

MR. CHURCH'S work is not only notable for its quiet humour, but also for the knowledge of what will reproduce best. He has mastered the method of making fine lines which will stand alone and print well. And he uses these delightfully delicate lines in a most decorative fashion. These are two very typical examples of his interesting drawings which recently appeared in *Scribner's Magazine*. The reproductions were made in New York.



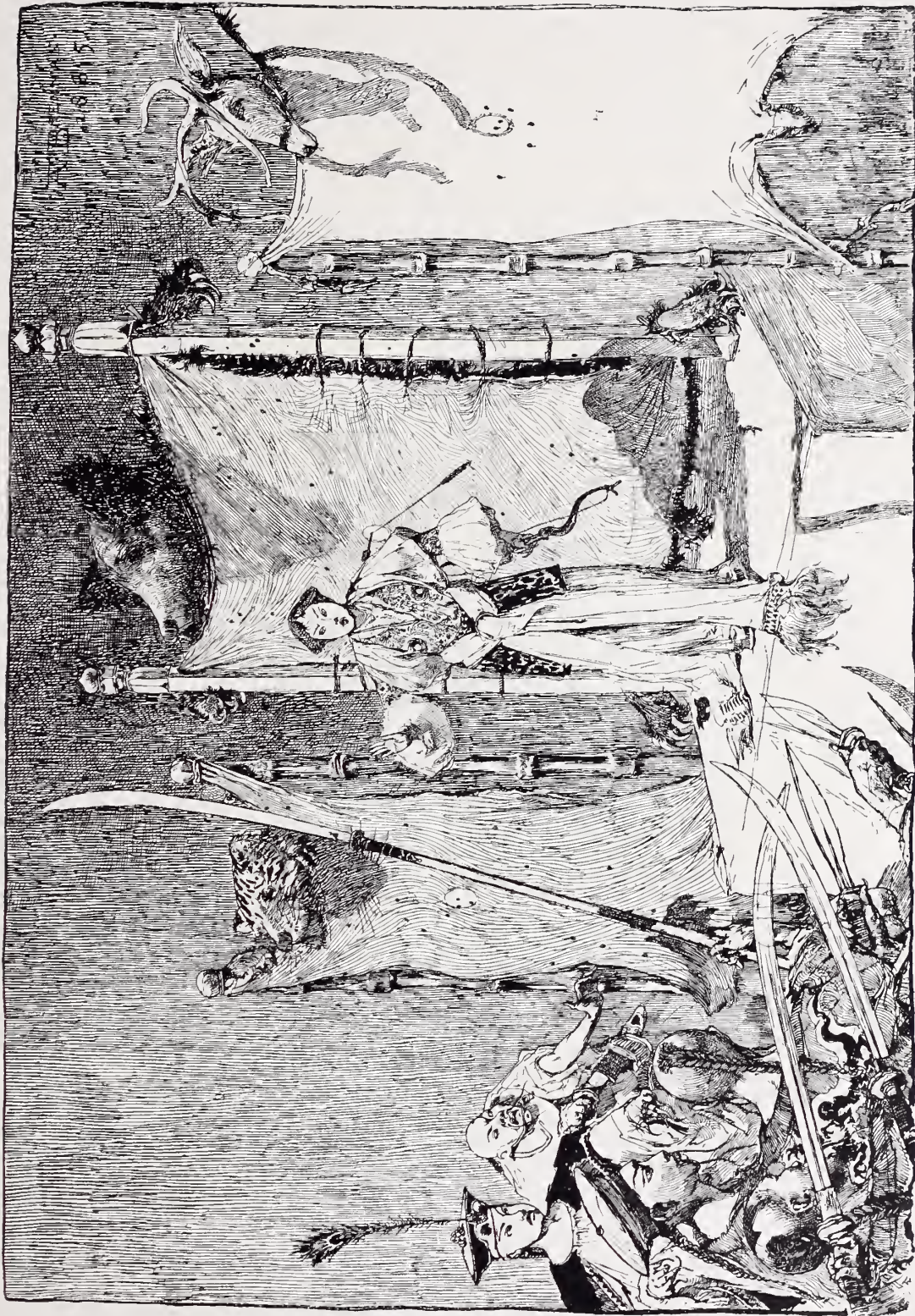
ALFRED BRENNAN

BRENNAN'S work is unconventional and often startling. Much of it, of course, is but an imitation of the Fortuny manner. His skill is shown in his concentration of blacks, and in this drawing in his rendering of the Chinese weapons, about which he probably knows nothing except what he has learnt from museums; he here impresses us with the idea of a completely toned drawing, though it is not a toned drawing at all; he breaks up great spaces of light or dark by either pure black or pure white—in fact every line and touch is a triumph of technical skill combined with a thorough command of his materials and resources.

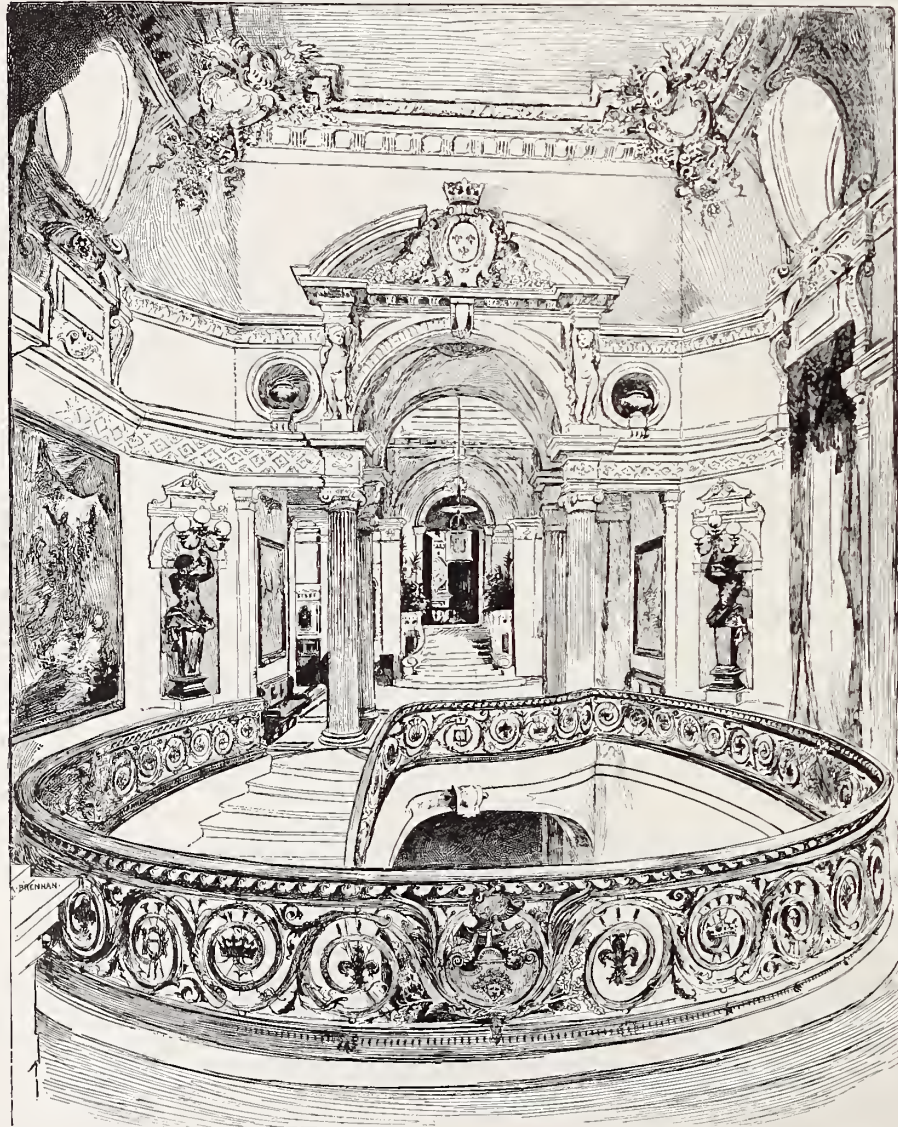
The original was a huge drawing—a drawing which took as much thought and time in execution and as much knowledge of composition as would be required to make a water-colour or oil of the same size, and there is scarcely a painter who has the technical ability to produce such a masterpiece. Because this man chooses to illustrate, his work, which the critic does not understand, is dismissed with a line. Had he made a painting of the same subject with the same amount of work in it, he would have been known all over the world. As it is, he is only an illustrator, but for pure cleverness there is no one who has ever surpassed him.

In the drawing of a stairway, which is a study in beautiful line, the lines have all the character, the meaning, and the value of the best etched line Whistler ever did. What could be better as a model for the architectural student than this?—if indeed the student could ever learn to work like Brennan. The drawing is full of interest, vitality, and distinction. There is nothing stupid and nothing photographic, and yet it was made from a photograph.

Brennan's decorative work is also filled with his individuality and character, and though, to me, much of it is absolutely incomprehensible, it is always striking and often beautiful; it is taken from any motive which he may happen to find around him, but instead of making a mere copy, he adapts this motive to his own wishes and requirements. He has illustrated several children's books and nursery rhymes, and these, when at their best, are, like his other work, technically unapproachable. Of course I know if



it had not been for the influence of Fortuny, Casanova, and Vierge, and the Japanese, there might not have been a Brennan; but his power is that of filling his drawing with all sorts of opposing influences and producing a uniform whole of his own. There is probably no one living who has a greater knowledge of the requirements and limitations and possibilities of process. With the thoroughness of the Middle Age craftsman, he has studied the subject in a workshop.



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Albert E. Steiner
. 90

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A. E. STERNER

MESSRS. A. E. STERNER and W. H. Hyde have, for some years, in the Editor's Drawer of *Harper's Magazine*, been treating the fashions and foibles of the country in a delicious manner. Though their drawings are amusing, they are neither burlesques or grotesques, nor yet mannered. They have shown the humours of realism. Owing to an error I have not been able to include an example of Mr. Hyde's work.

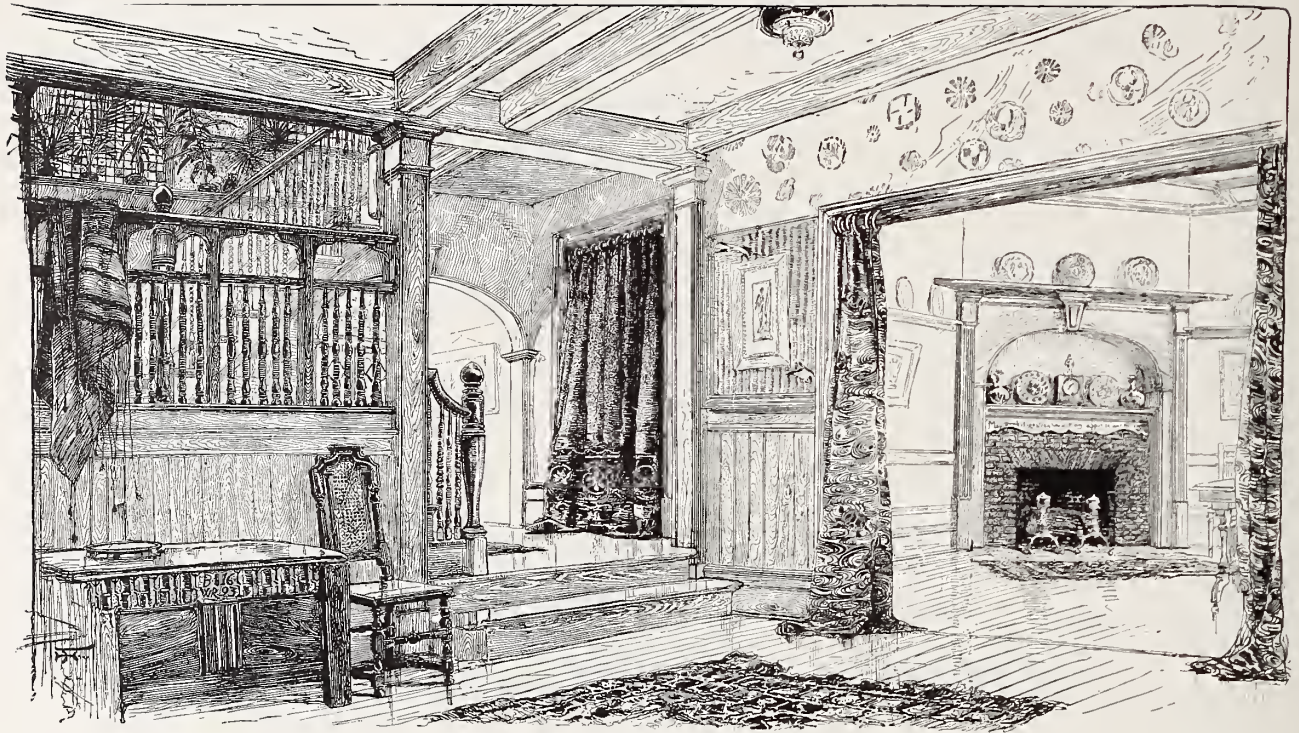
FREDERICK LUNGREN

LUNGREN is the third of the quartette of Americans of whom I have spoken, and though with them he was at first very much under the influence of Fortuny, Vierge, and Rico, and though his work now has many of their qualities, he has added to it, not only by his study abroad in Paris, but by uniting to the brilliancy of these Spaniards and of Frenchmen like Jean Béraud some of the methods of Germans like Schlittgen. The consequence is that while his work is in many ways suggestive of that of many men, it is at the same time his own.

What is to be specially noted in Lungren's work is the great power of expression conveyed with very few and simple lines, as well as the striking use of solid blacks, and the beauty of every line he uses. For example, in the accompanying drawing he expresses a great field with no work at all, excepting in exactly the right place, that is in the foreground, where he shows the growth of the grass and the weeds just where it would be seen, and the modelling of the ground which is given just in the right place to connect the two figures together in a good but not obtrusive manner. Notice too the use of pure blacks in the stockings and shoes of both children and in the sash and ribbons of one, and how carefully the folds of the drapery are rendered; the faces of the little girls, though perhaps not very interesting, are pretty and pleasing. The house among the trees is put in so that every line tells, while the distant wood has been drawn with chalk or crayon. The drawing itself was on smooth paper, but, as I have explained, lithographic chalk not only comes by process, but holds fairly well on this paper, which, though almost smooth, has a slight grain in the surface.

This drawing was merely an illustration for a child's story in *St. Nicholas*, and yet it is worth more study and attention—and if anything but an illustration would receive more—than a vast mass of the pictures painted every year.





HARRY FENN

It is always possible to render architecture picturesquely, even though it may be the latest American device in Queen Anne or a city shop front, if one only knows how, and Harry Fenn does. He not merely makes every line tell something, but he uses a different line for each substance. Notice how he gets the effect of the stairway with one line, the light wood of the hall with another, and how well the old chair and chest, drawn with still another, tell against it. The rug and the hangings are quite differently handled, while the fireplace in the dining-room beyond is in line and splatter work, the rest of the room in outline, which again varies the treatment. There is not such brilliant and strong colour in this drawing as in many of Fenn's, but it is an excellent example of picturesque working-out of a new, and therefore somewhat stiff interior, and, above all, of the use of line to express, not only surfaces, but the construction of a building in the best and simplest manner. Any number of Fenn's drawings can be seen in the American periodicals, especially in the *Century*. The interior is from the *Magazine of Art*.

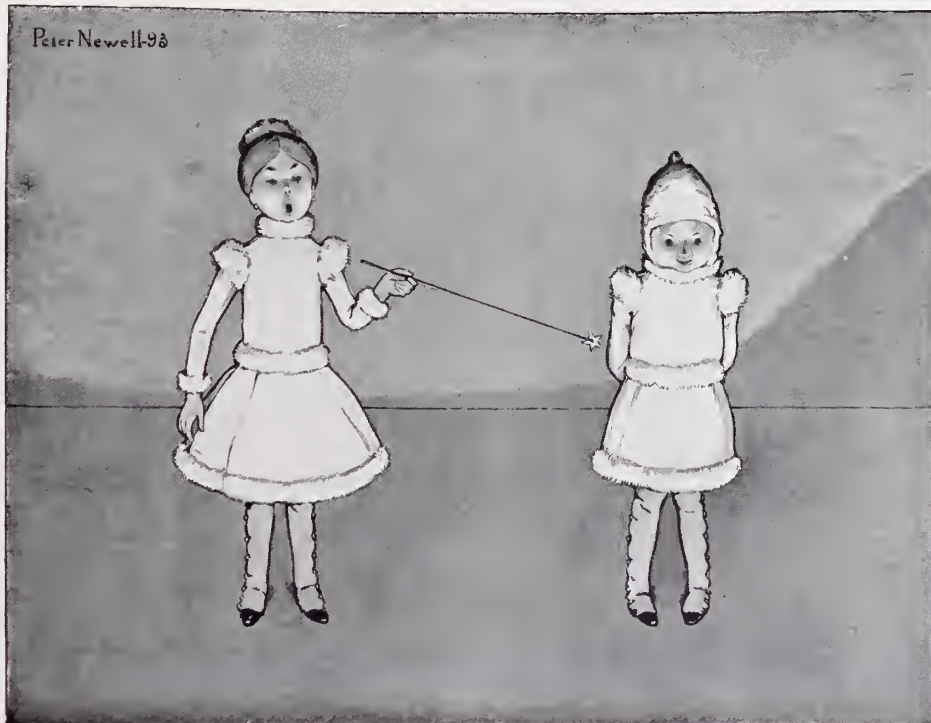


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E. L. WEEKS, PETER NEWELL

COMPARATIVELY few Americans have made much use of *papier Gillot* or even wash as a flat tone, though, as this book proves, these methods are very generally employed. Weeks' scratched paper work with the ink line over it comes well, and so too does the wash and pen by Newell.



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KENYON COX

KENYON COX, I believe, commenced his illustrative work with Blum, Brennan, and Lungren. But on going to France he gave up the methods which they thought to be the only right ones, that is those of intense brilliancy and cleverness, and has devoted himself to an entirely different manner of working.

Here he shows an excellent way of taking the photographic look out of a photograph, only retaining those features which give the character of the subject and suppressing all others. Thus the pose of the figure is indicated with freedom and grace, and the colour and texture of the clothes are well expressed, while the African type is self-evident. There is no obtrusive cleverness, nor indeed any cleverness of handling at all, in the drawing, but there is a very successful and serious attempt to render a type, a pose, and a costume, and the work can be thoroughly commended as good, serious, and honest, as well as for its non-photographic rendering of a photograph.

The other drawing is an excellent rendering of sculpture from a photograph—it is dignity and simplicity itself.

Kenyon Cox - 1892 - from a photograph from original plates by P. Martini.

Kinson def.
1885



After photograph



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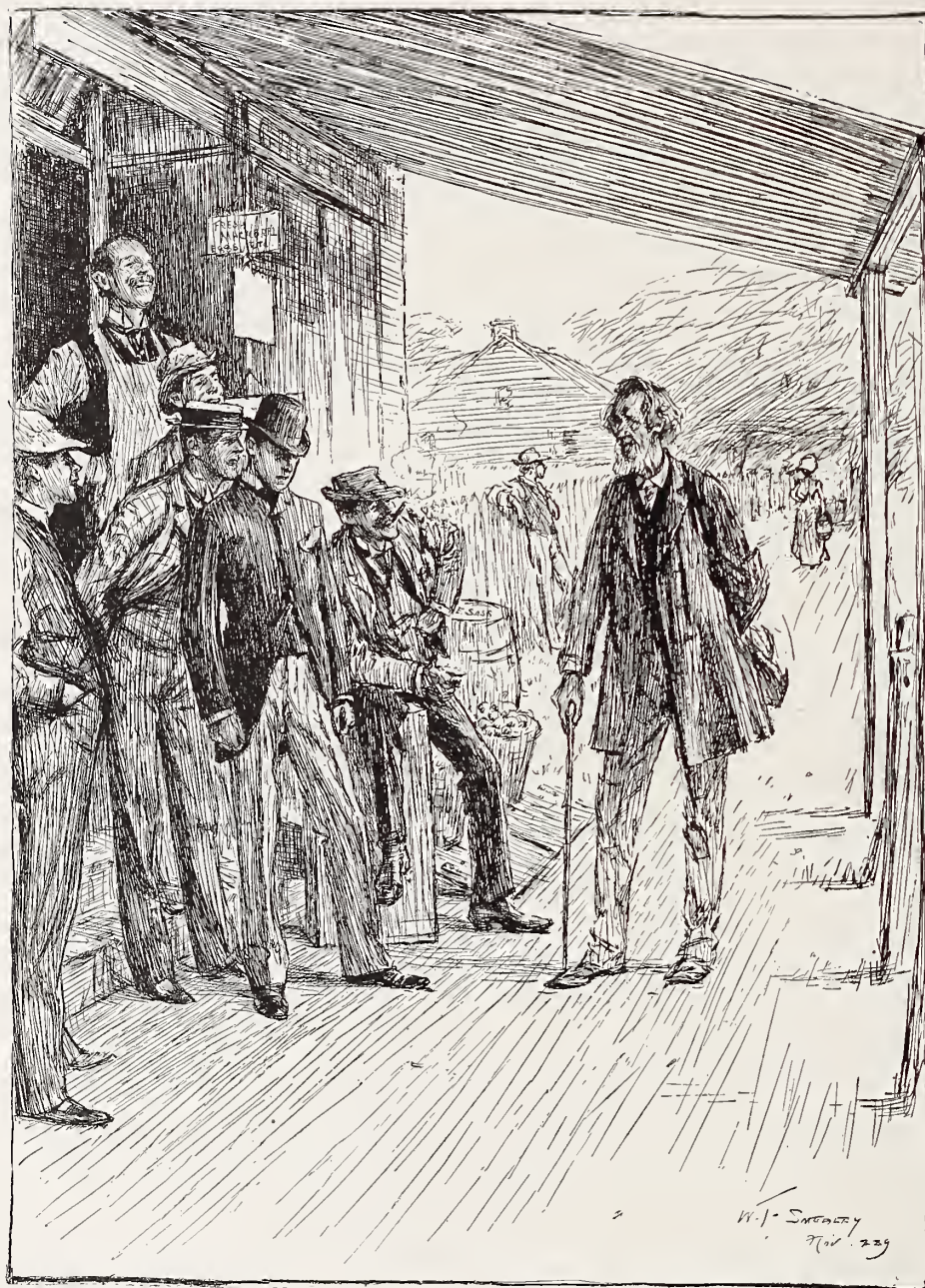
T. DE THULSTRUP

THIS drawing should be studied for its simple rendering of strong effects of dark against light. It is extremely cleverly managed.



WYATT EATON

Not only is this a good example of directness and freedom of line, with scarcely any cross-hatching and certainly no mechanical work, of beauty of modelling and suggestion of various surfaces, and of a man's individuality in his drawing, but it is a marvellous example of mechanical reproduction, probably the best in the book. It was engraved by the C. L. Wright Gravure Company of New York. Their aim is not, as I have found with too many other mechanical engravers, to succumb before the slightest difficulty, but, to use their own words, "to reach the acme of perfection in reproducing drawings," and "to give an absolute facsimile of the artist's work." It is only by such endeavours that blocks like this can be produced, that photo-engraving can advance at all.



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W. T. SMEDLEY

FOR ten years or more Mr. Smedley has been recognised as a most interesting illustrator, but he has never, like Abbey or Pyle, seemed to care to confine himself to one medium—unless it is that he prefers wash to line; his wash drawings coming remarkably well by process. His work is quite as American in character as Frost's, and, I think, more free and varied in execution. The types in both drawings are carefully studied, the backgrounds well suggested, and the work is all carried out with an apparent freedom which is the result of the hardest study.



W. J. S. Mearns.
New York - 1884

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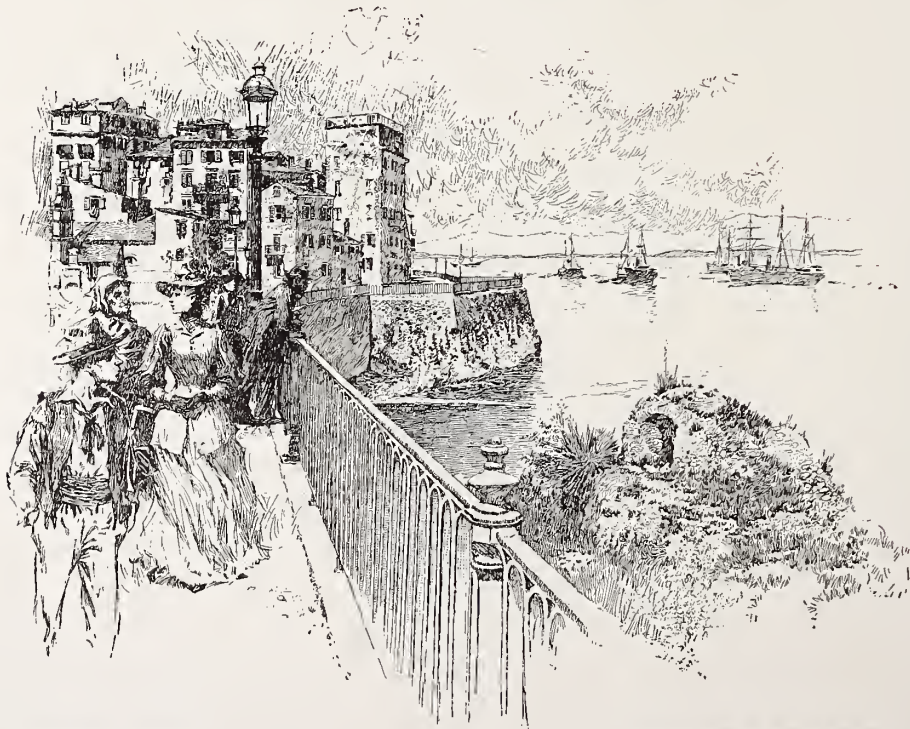


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ARCHITECTURAL ILLUSTRATORS

FOLLOWING that pioneer who might almost be said to have invented the artistic illustration of architecture in America, Harry Fenn, are a number



From Harper's Magazine.

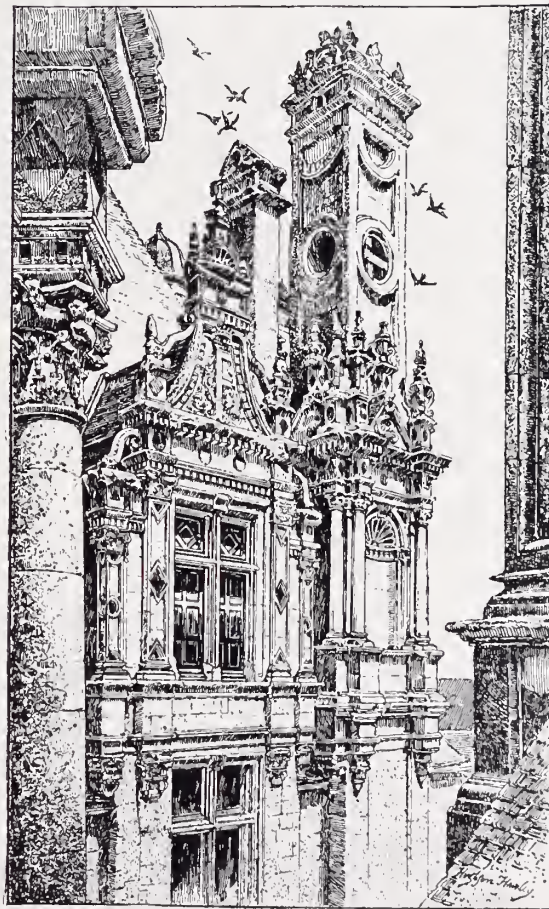
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of much younger men who have devoted themselves almost entirely to drawing architecture. Among them are C. Graham, Hughson Hawley, H. D. Nichols, and F. du Mond. But few of them are architects; all of them have studied art, however, and recognise that to draw a building well, it is not absolutely necessary to be able to put it up. They seize just the point that most architectural draughtsmen fail to grasp—that one should give the most impressive view of a building, not the most commonplace; that one should give the building its due relation to the others which surround it, or to the landscape in which it is



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placed. And this is the reason why all architectural draughtsmen's work is so uninteresting to the artist. Either the landscape is absurdly drawn, or else it is out of relation or scale, and cut about so as to show the house to what is supposed to be the best advantage. In these drawings, buildings, landscape, and details really are shown in an interesting fashion, simply because



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they are not rammed down our throats. Mr. C. E. Mallow's work was the best done in England recently. But that was because he intelligently studied the men who are represented in this book, and nature too.

But for style and distinction Mr. Burgess' "St. Simeon Stylites" in the English Chapter should be carefully examined. That is one of the best architectural drawings I have ever seen.

PEN DRAWING IN ENGLAND

PEN DRAWING IN ENGLAND

IN all the countries of which I have spoken, and in America too, the introduction of photo-engraving proved of the greatest advantage to the artist. It enabled him to work without considering a wood-engraver, who would have to pick out with the utmost difficulty and care, work which the artist did freely and sometimes in as many minutes as the engraver would require hours or even days to reproduce. But the pen drawings made by a brilliant band of young men for *Once a Week*, *Cornhill*, *Good Words*, the *Sunday Magazine*, and others—between about 1859 and 1865, degenerating towards 1875—and for many books, especially the illustrated edition of Tennyson's *Poems*, the *Arabian Nights*, Dalziel's Bible, were the most important that have appeared in England. Nearly all, however, were drawn on the block and consequently lost. That the proprietors of *Once a Week* looked forward to the introduction of photo-engraving, and probably endeavoured to foster it, is shown by the numerous examples of mechanical processes which they published.

But in England, until French and American magazines proved the artistic value, and not merely the pecuniary advantage, of pen drawing for process-reproduction, comparatively little attention was paid to it by draughtsmen. Even yet, but few publishers have discovered anything beyond the cheapness of the invention. There have been, of course, notable exceptions. The *Portfolio*, for which Brunet-Debaines and Lalanne did some of their best work years ago, has always, more or less, for its small cuts used photographic methods of reproduction, and usually pen drawings have been made for this purpose. The *Magazine of Art* has also employed photographic processes for years. But most of the English reproductions have been until lately of inferior quality. The aim of the photo-engraver was towards cheapness rather than excellence; and artists could feel little satisfaction in the results of drawings reproduced in this way. For example, *Punch* preferred—till

very lately—wood-engravings, in which much was cut out of the drawings, to process blocks, which ruined them altogether. But within the last few years several good reproductive processes have been brought out here, and one photo-engraver, Mr. Chefdeville, a Frenchman, is doing work which can scarcely be surpassed anywhere, though the work of Waterlow, the Art Reproduction Company, the Typographic Etching Company, the Swan Electric Company, among others, is now excellent, rivalling his. Many drawings are, however, still sent to Vienna for reproduction; while, as a rule, English block printing does not begin to compare with American, and without good press work you cannot have good results.

It is unfortunate that in England few leading artists now draw with a pen. I have been repeatedly given to understand that this is because it is the tendency of the English school to think more of colour than of line; and so pen drawing seems with the many to be thought of no account except for a rapid unimportant sketch. If anything has to be done in a hurry, "Oh, make a pen sketch," is suggested. Naturally, this manner of regarding it has not been conducive to the progress of the art in England. Though in this matter a healthy revival is beginning among the younger men. There are probably still many English artists who agree with Mr. Hamerton in his belief that "one very great educational advantage of the photographic process is that the public, which formerly looked upon real sketches with indifference or contempt, as ill-drawn or unfinished things unworthy of its attention, is now much better able to understand the short-hand of drawing, and consequently is better prepared to set a just value on the pen sketches of the great masters." But it would be no great comfort or satisfaction to men of to-day to believe that drawings, on which they spend their lives, have no other merit than that of assisting the public to appreciate work, not so well done technically, by artists four or five hundred years ago,—that pen drawings, the real masterpieces of Meissonier, Fortuny, and Menzel, are only helps to the understanding of the sketches of old masters. Yet this publication of sketches has had disastrous results, for the most childish, artless, and trivial things are printed with this excuse,—sketches, so called, which are so bad that one wonders what the editors are like who accept them, still more what is the public that pays for them. But the success of certain papers and magazines to-day, papers which publish good and bad sketches with equal impartiality, is a proof that the public is quite, as is only natural, unable to distinguish between excellence and rubbish, and, luckily for the editors, buys anything placed before it.

When I speak of drawings made on the block, I cannot help touching on another subject with which I have nothing to do in this book, namely, drawing on wood with a pen or hard pencil for cutting. With the starting of the publication of *Once a Week*, the editors or publishers of that paper succeeded in drawing around them the most original draughtsmen who probably ever lived in England. On the cover of each number it was announced that its illustrators were Leech, Tenniel, Millais, H. K. Browne, C. Keene, Wolf, and others. The word others on this title-page hides the names of Fred Walker, G. J. Pinwell, A. Boyd Houghton, Luke Fildes, Henry Woods, H. S. Marks, Cecil Lawson, J. Mahoney, E. Griset, J. M. Lawless, Paul Gray, C. H. Bennett, Poynter, Holman Hunt, F. Madox Brown, Du Maurier, W. Small, and F. Sandys.¹ No paper, probably not even the *Vie Moderne*, ever had a more brilliant staff. Most of these artists, seeing their wash drawings utterly ruined by wood and steel engravers,—all the character being cut out of them, and the drawings themselves lost in the process,—drew on the wood blocks with pen or pencil, thus compelling the wood-engraver to follow their lines. Even with this method, much was still cut out of the drawing, or put into it by the engraver. Thus it is usually impossible to tell whether it was made with pen, pencil, or chalk, or even which portions were washed. Therefore, while the drawings of the men of the *Vie Moderne* exist to-day, as well as their comparatively perfect reproductions in the pages of the paper, in *Once a Week*, we have neither the drawings nor their facsimile reproductions, but a translation according to the wood-engraver. The loss of British black and white work between the years 1850, and I should say about 1875, can never be replaced. Nor can it be too deeply deplored. I suppose what is left is better than nothing, but it certainly is not the original work. It is the engraver's idea of what the original work should have been, and as his ideal was frequently the steel plate, he treated the draughtsman as he liked; and once the block was finished there was no disputing him, or possibility of making changes.

The least known but perhaps the best pen draughtsman in Great Britain to-day is Sir George Reid of Edinburgh. He can, in a pen drawing, give the whole character of northern landscape, so different in every way from that of the country of the great southern pen draughtsmen, while his portraits contain all the subtlety and refinement of a most elaborate etching by Rajon; he seems to think Rajon and Amand-Durand the only men who can interpret him. He not only understands the use of a pen, but apparently fears that no process except photogravure or etching can reproduce

¹ For fuller description of this work see explanatory chapter on these men.

his beautiful and reverent work, a fear which at the present day I do not share with him. Abbey's drawings are quite as delicate, if not so much elaborated, and are well reproduced in *Harper's*, though their absolute fineness is lost. It must not, however, be thought for a moment that I mean to say any process for printing with type is equal to photogravure, which gives all the richness and delicacy of the drawing, together with a softness and fulness of colour, not possessed by it. It is to be regretted that Sir George does not, by using process methods and coming out in some of the larger magazines, take the place which so justly belongs to him as one of the foremost pen draughtsmen of the day.¹

An artist who easily stands at the head of his profession, as a landscape pen draughtsman, in England, is Alfred Parsons. He can draw decorative designs of flowers with all the grace and beauty with which Grinling Gibbons could carve them, and no higher praise can be given. He will, with pen and ink, make a rosebud which one cares to keep far more than a painting of the same subject by any other Englishman; he will show you a little valley farm down by the reeds in the river, a group of trees on a hillside, or a wind-swept moor; and of late he has begun to draw figures; while much of his work is so interwoven with Abbey's that at times you cannot tell one from the other. Though Parsons' work is imitated even to his signature, there is no one in England who can be named with him.

It is curious to note the inability of English artists to translate their own work into pen and ink, or to do anything outside the sphere of some one art. The surest proof of this assertion is that a few years ago, when English art was adequately represented in *L'Art*, instead of the artists, as in the case of many distinguished French painters, making their own drawings, and thus giving their own ideas and adding the value of originality to the reproduction of their painting, they allowed a clever young Scotchman, Robert W. Macbeth, to do the work for them. He did it very well, and by this practice has made himself the best reproductive etcher in England.

How little good pen drawing there has been till lately in this country is shown in looking over Henry Blackburn's catalogues, in which it is the exception to find, from one end to the other, a pen sketch one would wish to preserve. It may be said that English painters do not care to give more than the merest rough notes of their pictures. But the truth is, to produce a pen drawing requires great technical skill only to be obtained after careful study and continuous practice. In England, and in the course of time the

¹ One of his drawings is reproduced by process in this edition, at page 311.

same thing will happen in America, a successful draughtsman as soon as he finds he can make, if not a greater reputation, certainly much more money by painting, gives up his drawing as if he were ashamed of it. The difference in this respect between the English artist and a German like Menzel needs no comment. Not only is the German artist willing to produce black and white work, but glad to do so. The same can be said of Abbey with his exquisite drawings, while Alfred Parsons and Sir George Reid are exceptions in Great Britain.

Among the few breaks in the monotony of the long years of Mr. Blackburn's catalogues are the drawings by E. J. Gregory, one or two by Boughton, Colin Hunter, Herkomer, Charles Green, Sir J. D. Linton, Cecil Lawson, and some strong heads by Frank Holl. But the only drawings which really merit mention, as works of art in themselves, are those by T. Blake Wirgman, done after his own pictures. He has really cared, and he alone, and the result is his drawings stand out as by far the best that have been contributed to Mr. Blackburn's catalogues.

Hubert Herkomer is one of the very few men who have ever illustrated their catalogues with drawings which have a value of their own. His sketches of heads are full of character, strongly and simply put in, while his studies in the Bavarian Highlands, though greatly elaborated and almost too large for reproduction, are very successful.

Fred Walker made many pen drawings, but unfortunately scarcely any survive to be studied technically, having been drawn mostly on the block for the wood-engravers, like the work of so many of the other artists of *Once a Week*. One very charming example of his drawing can be seen on the wood at South Kensington, and is now for the first time, I believe, reproduced here. Another, probably the best he ever did, which has not, so far as I know, been engraved before, is in the first edition of this book. He died before the days of successful process-reproduction. I have been extremely fortunate in obtaining from Mr. Fairfax Murray one of the only known existing examples of that really great artist A. Boyd Houghton, another belongs to me, while Mr. Murray has also lent me a Mahoney and a Green.

Some of W. L. Wyllie's drawings, notably those of the "Toil, Glitter and Grime of the Thames," published a few years ago in the *Magazine of Art*, are models for the drawing of boats and the suggestion of light and the movement of water. If Whistler would only give us some pen drawings like his etchings of thirty years ago, he would show himself to be as a pen draughtsman what he was then as an etcher of old houses—the greatest who ever lived. A process block from one of his first series of London

etchings would be a perfect study for a pen drawing. But his all too few illustrations, or rather the blocks and prints from them, are most interesting.

Walter Crane's beautiful decorative drawing, his book covers, his designs, his initials, his head and tail pieces, in pen and ink, entitle him to be ranked as the first English decorative draughtsman of the day; while Selwyn Image's work is quite as striking and original, and a whole army of younger decorative men and women have appeared since the first edition of the book came out.

Although Du Maurier is probably the best known of the so-called comic draughtsmen, his genius to-day lies rather in his wit and humour and satire than in the technical excellence of his drawing. In the *Court and Society Review* for November 23, 1888, he calls himself a pictorial satirist, and this describes him perfectly. There is much for which we must thank the creator of Mrs. Ponsonby de Tomkyns, but at the same time it would be best for the student not to imitate his technique, since Du Maurier to-day, in his desire to express his ideas, seems to care little how he does it. He appeals far less to the art student than to the lover of satire. His drawings are a sort of sermon which happens to be drawn, instead of written with a pen. Every one, however, should study his work in *Once a Week* of nearly thirty years ago. I can easily understand the appreciative enthusiasm with which it was greeted by the critics of the last generation. It then contained all and a great deal more than is claimed for it to-day.

But the man who has, within the last few years, won for himself the foremost position in British illustration is Phil May, who, while I was writing this book, was quietly producing work which has since made him famous all over the world.

Harry Furniss is an extremely clever man; his drawings are full of character and style, and frequently his slightest sketches are the most interesting. His best work, I think, is found in his large drawings of the *Essence of Parliament* and in his small ones of the different members. Linley Sambourne's drawings also are intensely clever, but so near being mechanical that it would be impossible for any one to study from them without becoming wholly so. In his work, however, as in that of many another original man, the result is simply wonderful. Charles Keene's work in *Punch* was unfortunately nearly always engraved on wood and, before I had seen his original drawings, had he not written and told me that most of them were made with a pen, I never should have imagined it. The originals were the best character drawings ever produced in England.

It is to be regretted that so much was lost in the cutting. Thirty years ago one could tell much more easily how his drawings were made; at the end it was absolutely impossible, a fact which is not very flattering to the art of wood-engraving at the present time, as exemplified in the work of the engravers for *Punch*. Therefore, excellent as are Keene's drawings, it is useless for the student to study the reproductions in *Punch*, which give no true idea of the original work.

Cruikshank, Leech, and Phiz are responsible for the style, or rather want of style, of too many English draughtsmen. They had genius, but most of their followers have nothing but their weaknesses and imperfections of technique. The latter forget that the drawings of the artists they imitate were rarely done with the pen, and that if they were, it was only to be reproduced by engraving or etching on wood or steel, mostly by other men, and hence that the qualities of the pen work were cut out. It is a delight to turn from the English so-called comic papers to *Fliegende Blätter*, *La Vie Parisienne*, or the American *Life*, in which not only is there wit and humour, but a feeling for art not always to be found in English journals of the same class.

In the case of Sir John Gilbert, who has done much good work, freedom is the result of study; but the exquisitely refined work of Birket Foster is equally interesting,—and in a different fashion that of Harrison Weir, who has always fought for process. The same freedom, however, indulged in by a student would lead to meaningless blots and wild scrawlings, though all of Sir John Gilbert's blots and lines are put down with a purpose. A far better man to study would be Mulready or Wilkie, some of whose drawings are marvellous in their old-masterish feeling. A collection of them is to be seen at South Kensington. However, were Mulready and Wilkie living to-day, I believe they would utterly change their style. The attempt at so-called freedom, which on the part of the student is nothing but carelessness, is often sure to be his ruin. Look at the apparent freedom of a man like Forestier and then try to imitate it. Far better would it be for the student to follow the painstaking, careful lines of Tenniel in such work as *Alice in Wonderland*, for, though these drawings may have been made in line with a hard lead-pencil, and the student will probably not keep for long to Tenniel's methods, he will at least learn from them that pen drawing is not the easy slipshod art he is pleased to think it.

The late Randolph Caldecott, separated from his humour and observation, shows very little technically to study. Unless a man has the genius to make in half a dozen lines a drawing like that of the mad dog or the

cat waiting for a mouse, in which case he would be another Randolph Caldecott, it would be useless for him to study these drawings. Caldecott had enough genius to make him superior to technique. One can pardon his faults and ask for more of his delightful work because of his humour.

It is just this pardoning that has such a bad influence on art, and has made men, who really technically never studied their profession, its leaders. The trouble is that because artists have good ideas, the fact that they cannot express them technically is overlooked. No ideas can be expressed in a really artistic manner without technique, which is nothing more than the grammar of art.

Hugh Thomson, a very young man, who draws figure subjects; Herbert Railton, who is very clever and draws architecture; and Gordon Browne, whose Fairy Tales were excellent, and who seems to have the facility of Doré, are three men who have devoted themselves almost exclusively to pen drawing. But one cannot help being conscious that it is the demand for photographic draughtsmen, rather than the real feeling for line, which has sent them to pen drawing. Hugh Thomson's best work is his decoration, some of which is very effective. Herbert Railton, having been educated as an architect, has probably better knowledge of architectural construction than any other draughtsman. But one finds in his drawing, as in all architectural sketching, a confusion between architectural and artistic lines. His drawings have not the effect of being made from nature, though they may be, while his architectural training asserts itself everywhere. This is less Railton's fault than that of the English system of architectural drawing.

G. P. Jacomb-Hood has made some notable drawings for *In his Name*, and beautiful decorative head and tail pieces for Mr. Lang's translation of *Aucassin and Nicolette*. Frederick Barnard also has done some very clever pen drawings, but he seems to have preferred, until lately, when he has come out strongly in *Harper's*, other mediums for his black and white work.

Finally, in summing up, I think that the examples in this book will show most conclusively that, with the exception of Parsons, Reid, Phil May, Greiffenhagen, Raven Hill, Partridge, E. J. Sullivan, and Charles Keene to-day, the artists of the Continent and of America have paid more attention to, and have been more successful in, pen drawing for process-reproduction than artists in England.

I have left this chapter virtually as it was written five years ago, but among the illustrations will be found many changes both in addition and omission.

PEN DRAWING IN ENGLAND

ILLUSTRATIONS

INTRODUCTION

ONE of the most interesting periods of the art of illustration in Great Britain is just drawing to a close. During the last half-century more notable work has been produced here than in any other part of the world. During the period from 1830 to 1855 the art somewhat languished, though Harvey, Birket Foster, Harrison Weir, and Sir John Gilbert were busy enough in the last decade. From 1855 to 1875 there was a season of productiveness, if not so great in quantity as to-day, in quality incomparably superior to anything done here until within the last two or three years.

For the publication of pen drawings made some thirty or forty years ago, I feel that an explanation is needed. While pen drawing, owing to photography, has advanced in all other countries, there is no doubt that in England its most interesting period was just before photographic reproduction was invented. Very good work was being done everywhere at the same time. Meissonier was following up the traditions of 1830 in France, when those marvellous masterpieces of illustration were produced, and a little later Menzel was hard at work in Germany. This was the outcome really of the genius of Bewick, for had not Charles Thompson gone to France and introduced wood-engraving, and found artists ready to work with and for him, modern illustration might still be an affair of the future. To Bewick, therefore, is primarily due the great advancement in the graphic arts accomplished in the nineteenth century; he was the first of modern illustrators. In Italy and Spain at this period, no one was doing pen work of any special importance. But the Englishmen who illustrated *Once a Week*, *The Cornhill*, *Good Words*, the *Sunday* and *Shilling Magazines*, and the early numbers of *The Graphic* and *Punch*, have had, even in our days of development both in wood-engraving and in process, no worthy successors working for English periodicals. The consequence is that I am obliged to publish drawings by these men or else to ignore the best period of English work. However, it is not an unpleasant task.

In some cases I have found that the original drawings were preserved or photographed through the interest the engravers took in their work, and also because, realising the uncertainties of wood-engraving, they feared the drawings might be spoiled and no record of them left. The case of the Dalziel Bible is different. Messrs. Dalziel commissioned all of the rising young artists to produce a series of drawings. But the work turned in was difficult to do full justice to on the wood block; Messrs. Cassell about the same time brought out their Doré Bible, and it was almost impossible for any one to rival Doré's popularity and productiveness. Messrs. Dalziel,



"The Widow's Son," Dalziel's Bible.

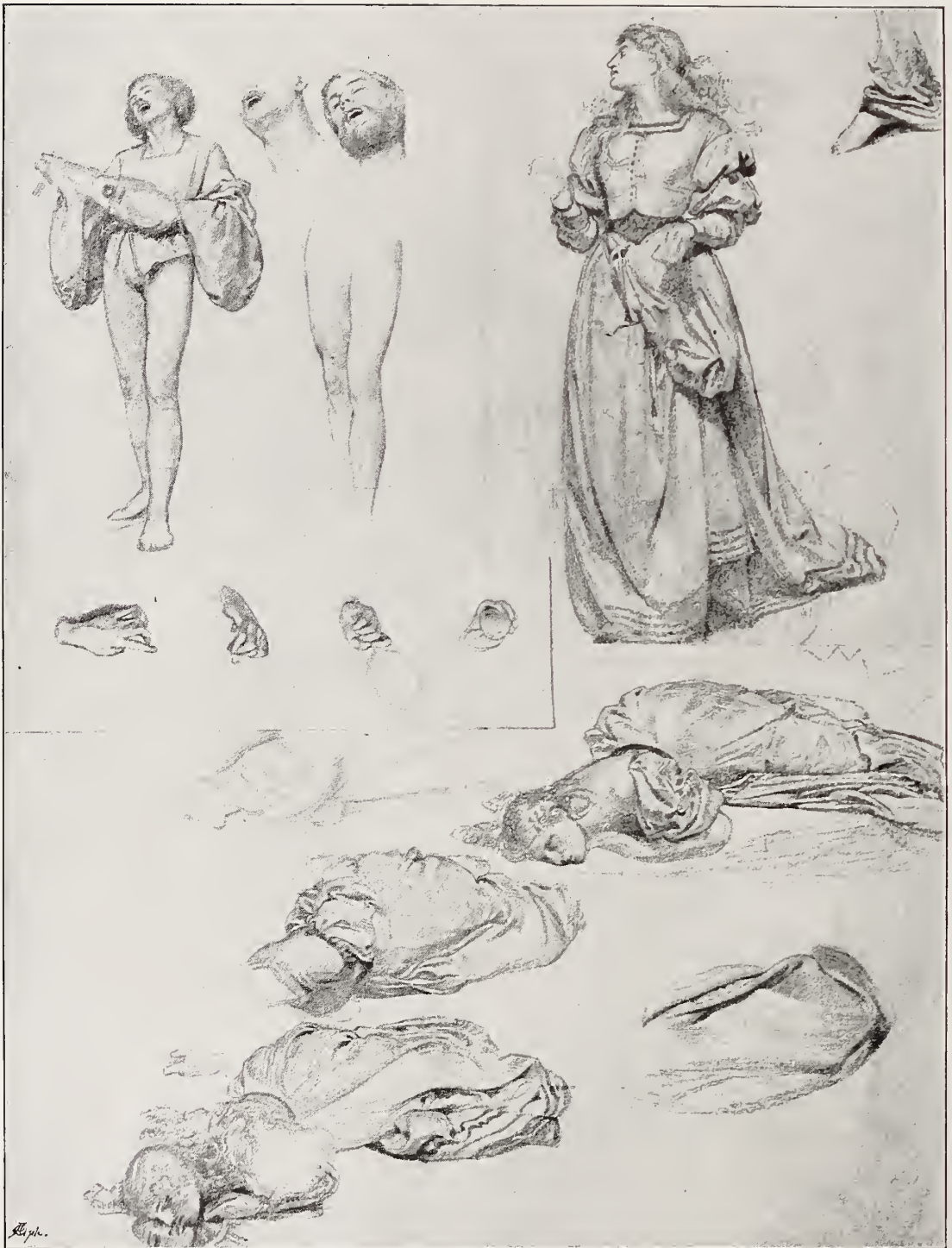
F. Madox Brown.

looking ahead and seeing that photography would be used to transfer drawings to the block for engraving, finished a certain number and put the others aside for twenty years, and their Bible Gallery did not appear until 1880, when the drawings were photographed on to the block and engraved, the original work thus remaining untouched. And now, fourteen years later, I have the admission from Messrs. Dalziel that they themselves consider the process-reproductions from these drawings much more satisfactory than their own wood-engravings. This, in connection with the fact that Mr. W. J. Linton has devoted the ripest years of his life to reproducing the masterpieces of wood-engraving, not by new wood-engravings, but by process blocks and plates, is the strongest proof that I, at any rate, desire, not that facsimile wood-engraving is a failure, but that it is a waste of time, labour, and skill, provided the drawing is made with as much attention to the requirements of process as the old men devoted to the requirements of wood-cutting, for a skilled craftsman to compete with a mechanical yet accurate invention. Mr. Marcus Stone tells me that he believes his illustrations to *He Knew He was Right*, by Trollope, made in 1868 and 1869, were the first pen drawings produced in England, all of which were drawn on paper and transferred to the block by means of photography.

With the Pre-Raphaelites a dignity was given to the art which it had never possessed before, and which is not half enough appreciated yet. In this the leaders were undoubtedly Sandys and Rossetti, though to Ford Madox Brown is generally awarded the credit of being the originator of the movement.

This design by him is carried out with the careful reverence for line which is so characteristic, not of the men before Raphael's time, but of the Germans of Dürer's age, though without slavish imitation of any one. Not only is every detail, save the very funny chicken in the foreground, well drawn, but the feeling for the various substances and the differing texture of the garments is well given. Contrast the heavy robe of the Prophet with the lighter stuff of the widow's cloak and the grave-clothes of the boy; note the difference, although the tone is very nearly the same, between the Prophet's garments, the steps, the shadow, and the widow's gown, and the delightful difference of handling in each. Every part is worked out with the feeling not only for light and shade, but for line. One can see that Madox Brown took the greatest interest in the making of this drawing, in rendering a subject of the past with the technical knowledge of the present—the true and right spirit in which all art work should be produced.

Though for my own purpose I should prefer the cleverness of a man like Fabrès, a cleverness which is amazing and which in a southern subject I would unquestionably follow, to the student I would recommend this



Studies for *Amor Mundi*. The original on opposite page, another drawing on the block, was made and engraved from a photograph by Frederick Hollyer.



From photograph of original drawing by Frederick Hollyer.

F. Sandys.



From original drawing.

F. Sandys.

drawing quite as highly as the one by Fabrès. However, the effects of strong light, which exist in the East, have not been rendered by Madox Brown so truly as by Fabrès. This probably comes from the fact that Fabrès worked from nature, Madox Brown in the studio. But the delicate suggestion of bits of light telling against the dark on the steps, the wooden stand relieved against the stairs, the relief of the heads against the white walls, and the delightful way in which the shadow of the little bird flying to its brick nest is studied, make the drawing equal to the work of Rico or any of the Spaniards and Italians; though it is not so realistic, it is carried out far more thoroughly than any of their drawings, and in it the peculiarly English artistic idea of telling a whole story is expressed, not in an aggressive, but in the right spirit. Notice how the light from the lamp in the little upper chamber is carried down the light side of the post to which the rope that serves as banister is attached, down the rope itself, on by the widow's gown into the most carefully-studied interior of the living room. The contrast between the delicate face of the child, the severe head of the Prophet, and the agonized expression of the widow is completely rendered. The subject could not be treated in a more satisfactory manner in any other medium.

By publishing these illustrations from Dalziel's Bible, I hope I may show, not only my appreciation of them, but that the methods of forty years ago were adapted to the requirements of to-day. There are certain details of line which will not reproduce, but I believe Madox Brown would have changed them had he known what was wanted.

It is alleged that it was not Frederick Sandys who revived illustration in the manner of the Germans of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, but that this revival, on the contrary, was due to the Pre-Raphaelites, and more especially to Saul Solomon, all of whom were themselves influenced by Menzel and Meissonier. But however this may be, there is no doubt that Sandys surpasses in technique all the artists of the best period of English draughtsmanship. His designs may not have possessed from their subjects that elevation of ideas which was so markedly the characteristic of the Germans, and which was the outcome of the spirit of their age. But there is no question that technically many parts of this drawing are quite equal to Dürer's work; while others are expressed in a manner absolutely unknown to Dürer. There is a feeling of colour throughout which Dürer never attempted on the wood, because he knew it could not be retained in the cutting.

I admit that in the first edition the photogravure from the block in certain particulars is not as satisfactory as the wood-engraving of the same drawing by Swain, because it was made from an old negative taken from the drawing on the block. It shows the colour of the block, which Sandys never intended, and, owing to this or to the ink not having been uniformly



From unpublished drawing.

Sir E. Burne Jones.

black or having run, the lines are blurred to a certain extent.¹ The negative too has faded, and many of the lines of the undergrowth about the middle of the right side of the drawing were apparently confused in the drawing, though they were corrected when cut. But I published the plate because, with all these imperfections, I was not afraid to have it compared with the wood block in the *Shilling Magazine* for 1865. The wood block shows the drawing in the manner in which Sandys and Swain wished it to appear; the reproduction shows it exactly as it was drawn on the block. Had the drawing been made on a piece of white paper, and could I have obtained that white paper, the result would have been perfect, because no one has ever drawn better for process than Sandys. I do not say that it would have been an improvement on the wood-engraving, but it would have been reproduced autographically with infinitely less labour, and would have given Sandys' actual lines without the intervention of another hand.²

Among the men whose work for engraving I have not previously included is, to begin with, Rossetti. When I said in the Introduction that I wished Rossetti had not elaborated with pen or pencil in his drawings, I referred more especially to the drawings from his paintings which have been photographed and published in rather large size. For technically these do not compare for a minute with his illustrations of Tennyson, particularly those in the *Palace of Art*, drawn on the block and cut to pieces. Mr. William Michael Rossetti kindly offered to lend me a set of negatives which were rather generally thought to have been made from the drawings on the wood before they were cut, as in the case of the Sandys drawing. But the slightest examination of the photographs shows them to have been made merely from preparatory studies before the drawings were put on the wood, and their publication would be most unfair to Rossetti. Nor would it be fair to show as an example of his work the illustrations in the *Prince's Progress* and the frontispiece to the *Early Italian Poets*, which give no idea of their exquisite refinement. The only drawing I know of which may have been made for engraving is the portrait of his wife, which was never cut, and can be seen at South Kensington, and this monument of his skill and his art has here been reproduced truly and well for the first time. He can hardly be considered an illustrator, though he did make so marvellous a success in the Tennyson. But even in it, there is but one drawing—the first illustration to the *Palace of Art* engraved by Messrs. Dalziel—really worthy of the extravagant praise lavished upon it; and the original block, together with an electro from it, is here printed. How much is lost by electrotyping can be seen at once—how much was lost by the engraver will never be known. It would be the greatest waste of

¹ Sandys himself has told me that the wood block was badly prepared.

² The block in this edition (page 287) is made from the original study.



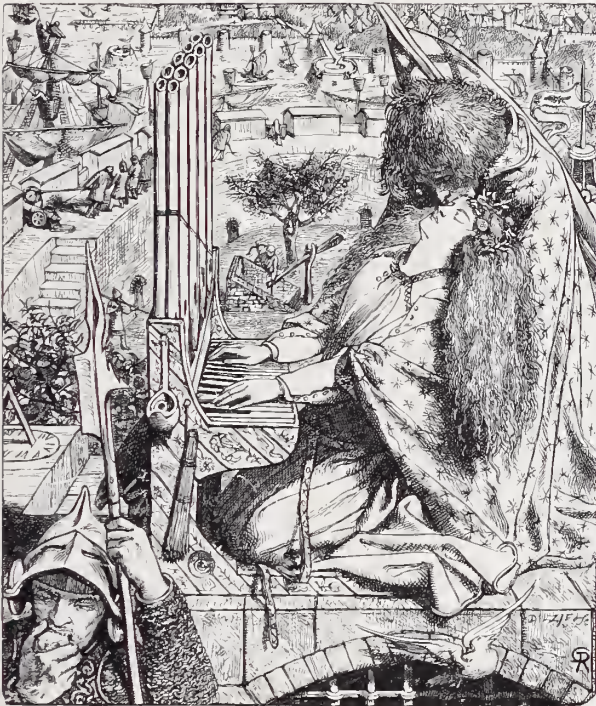
From original drawing.

D. G. Rossetti.

time to draw in such a manner and on such a scale in these days of process. That Rossetti and Dalziel did produce their result calls for all praise; a repetition of it would be laborious and misplaced affectation.

Sir E. Burne Jones has been good enough to lend me an original unpublished drawing in somewhat the style of Rossetti, and it has been excellently reproduced by the Swan Engraving Company.

The work of other men in the pages of the magazines I have referred to was engraved by Messrs. Swain and Dalziel, I doubt not with the greatest possible fidelity of line, but the actual quality of the line, that is the quality given by pencil, brush, or pen, is in nearly every case lost. Therefore, though these magazines



Wood.



Electro.

D. G. Rossetti.

and *The Cornhill* and *Good Words* collections of proofs should be seen and known by all students, it is really useless to publish any of the blocks as examples of pen drawing. But as engravings, the series of Parables by Sir J. E. Millais, especially the Good Samaritan, published in *Good Words*, April 1863, and the Lost Piece of Silver, in September of the same year, are enough to make any man's reputation. I have been most fortunate in obtaining an original unpublished drawing by Millais—his study for the "Ophelia." One of these men who, to my mind, is much less well known than he deserves to be, is J. Mahoney, whose drawings in the *Sunday Magazine* for November 1, 1867, and March 1, 1868, are, even as wood-engravings, equal to anything that has ever been done in England; the engravings by Whympers from Mahoney's drawings in *Scrambles amongst the Alps*



From unpublished drawing.

Sir J. E. Millais, R.A.

should also be seen. Two reproductions by process from original drawings are, however, included.

Fred Walker is considered by the older men of to-day to be one of the greatest illustrators who ever lived. His subjects were always interesting, his sentiment popular, and his drawing exceedingly graceful. But owing to the fact that he worked before process, as well as to the methods employed by English wood-engravers, he was limited in certain ways in using the pen. For this very reason the results he did obtain are the more surprising.



From original drawing.

J. Mahoney.

The sentiment in his pictures is very charming, but in this drawing, as in so many others, it is neither true nor real. The colour and line and composition are most admirable, but in his time such a drawing could not be reproduced.

The English engraver of Fred Walker's time seems to have endeavoured to compel him and Pinwell and Keene and Du Maurier and their fellow-draughtsmen, even when they were at the height of their success, to draw lines which he, the engraver, could cut in the easiest manner. The consequence is that it is impossible to tell whether many of the drawings were done with a pen, a pencil, or a brush. I know it will at once be said that most of them were not done with a pen at all but with a brush, that is with the sensitive point of a very fine brush such as the



From original drawing.

J. Mahoney.

Japanese use. They were also worked on with a lead-pencil, pen, and brush, but in the engraved result, in the majority of cases, you cannot tell which line was made with a pen, which with a brush, which with a pencil ;



From original drawing on wood.

F. Walker, A.R.A.

and I say that such a subjection of the artist to the engraver is utterly wrong. It is not that the wood-engraver could not cut almost every line

that Fred Walker ever drew, but the fact is that he did not engrave it so as to show the actual means used to produce it. Wood-engraving can do almost everything, and even this drawing of Fred Walker's could be engraved on wood. But when we have a mechanical process like photo-engraving which will produce, in as many hours as the wood-engraver would



From original drawing.

William Small.

have to take days, an equally artistic and true result, there is no reason why we should not use it. This is one of the cases where science has rightly come to the aid of art. It is all very well for certain artists, who are not illustrators, to say that another man can render your work better than a machine; in a line drawing, in which you do not want any one's ideas or feelings but your own, no man can equal, though he may very materially aid, an accurate machine in its reproduction.

Though the idea, the composition, and the lines in the drawings of the men of Fred Walker's day are all most charming, and though the

artists themselves considered the engraved results on the wood obtained from them most admirable, any one who will take the trouble to compare these engravings with the facsimile engravings, after Menzel, or with the

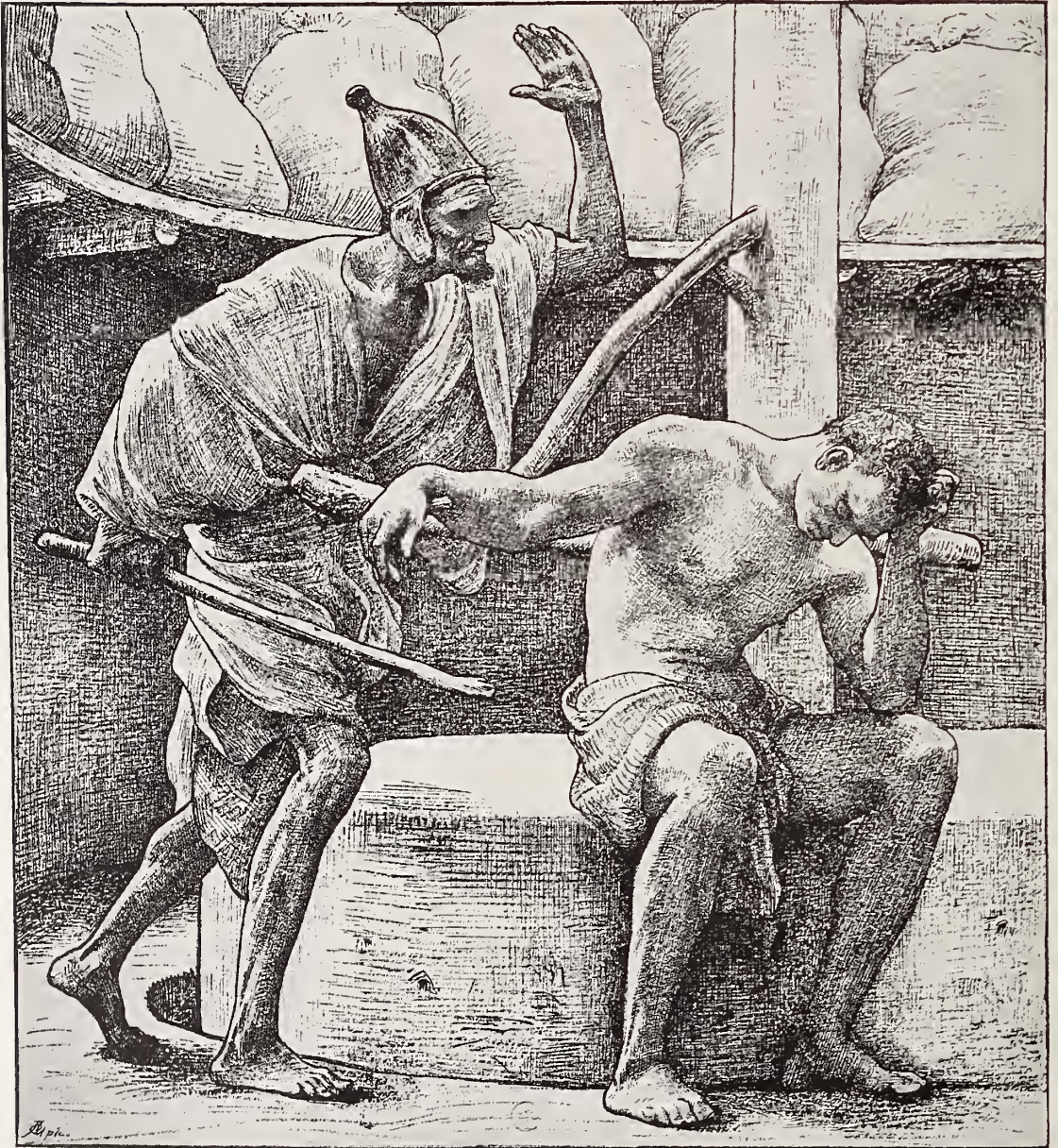


From original drawing.

G. J. Pinwell.

work of some of the American engravers like Whitney and Cole, or Frenchmen like Baude and Florian, or Englishmen like Paterson, will see they are not admirable at all, but give, instead of the actual quality of the artist's line, that which it was easiest to reproduce. The engravers may deny this, but the comparison I suggest will prove at once the truth of

what I say. Though no one can think more highly than I do of the endless number of varied effects which Fred Walker obtained, I cannot help feeling to-day that many of these are utterly unsuited to pen work, that they could



"Samson," Dalziel's Bible.

Sir F. Leighton, P.R.A.

have been gotten with far more ease with a brush, and that the reason Fred Walker drew with a pen was not from any particular love of line but to make for, or give to, the engraver lines to follow. One method some of his fellow-draughtsmen very frequently used was to make the foreground,

or the part they wished accentuated, with a pen or brush in line which the engraver followed, while the background, in which of course they only wanted flat tints, was done with wash which the engraver could cut as he chose, often turning washes into line, or changing the direction of lines. The advantage of working in this way was that, if the artist made a mistake on the wood, he simply went over it with wash on which he worked with Chinese white, and the engraver made what he wished out of it. A good example of this manner of working can be seen by looking over the



From original drawing.

CG
Charles Green.

reproductions from the *Graphic*, published in the *Universal Review* for September 1888 ; though I do not wish it to be thought that I can commend anything which has yet appeared in this *Review* as good original drawing, reproduction, or printing. But in the number I mention these drawings, very much reduced, are all brought together and are therefore more accessible than in the *Graphic*.

There is another matter to which attention can be most easily called here. In studying the handling in the clothes of the figures in almost any of these drawings, especially those by William Small, Pinwell, Houghton, and to a certain extent Herkomer and Macbeth, you find that

exactly the same line is used by all, and that this same line appears in Du Maurier's drawings to-day. Either these men became mannered in an exceedingly short space of time, or else the engravers compelled them to draw in this abominable, mechanical, cross-hatched manner.¹ This same touch can be found in Dürer and the old men. But it is not a fine quality in their drawings. It is the expression of a mechanical difficulty



From original drawing.

A. Boyd Houghton.

which they could not surmount and which it is foolish for us to follow, imitate, or commend to-day. And so also I believe the growth of this cross-hatch work, twenty or thirty years ago, which has been mistaken to be a good style by so many draughtsmen, was not at all the fault of the draughtsmen but of the wood-engravers. And the reason for the position which Fred Walker holds among these men is, not so much because his drawings were better than theirs, for I do not think they were, but because he was more independent and refused to draw in this mechanical manner, although even in his work you sometimes see it cropping up wherever the engraver could put it. It is really the independence of his work and not

¹ Mr. Birket Foster tells me that frequently the lines were the engraver's and not the artist's at all : that many of his simple wash drawings came out as

near like elaborate steel plates as the engraver could make them on the wood.

the excellence of the style itself, which has given Fred Walker the place he holds—and this is the surest proof that if one wants to succeed in illustration, one has simply got to do something for one's self.



From original drawing.

A. Boyd Houghton.

It may be a surprise to many to find Sir Frederick Leighton included among pen draughtsmen, and I have no doubt I shall be told that this is not a pen but a brush drawing. But when a man makes a drawing as

notable,—technically so remarkable,—conveying such an idea of strength and size and power, and showing conclusively what may be done with a brush used as a pen, it ought to be known.

Dickens was a magnificent field for Charles Green, one of whose drawings is reproduced, Fred Barnard, and others. While that original genius, A. B. Houghton, stands quite alone.

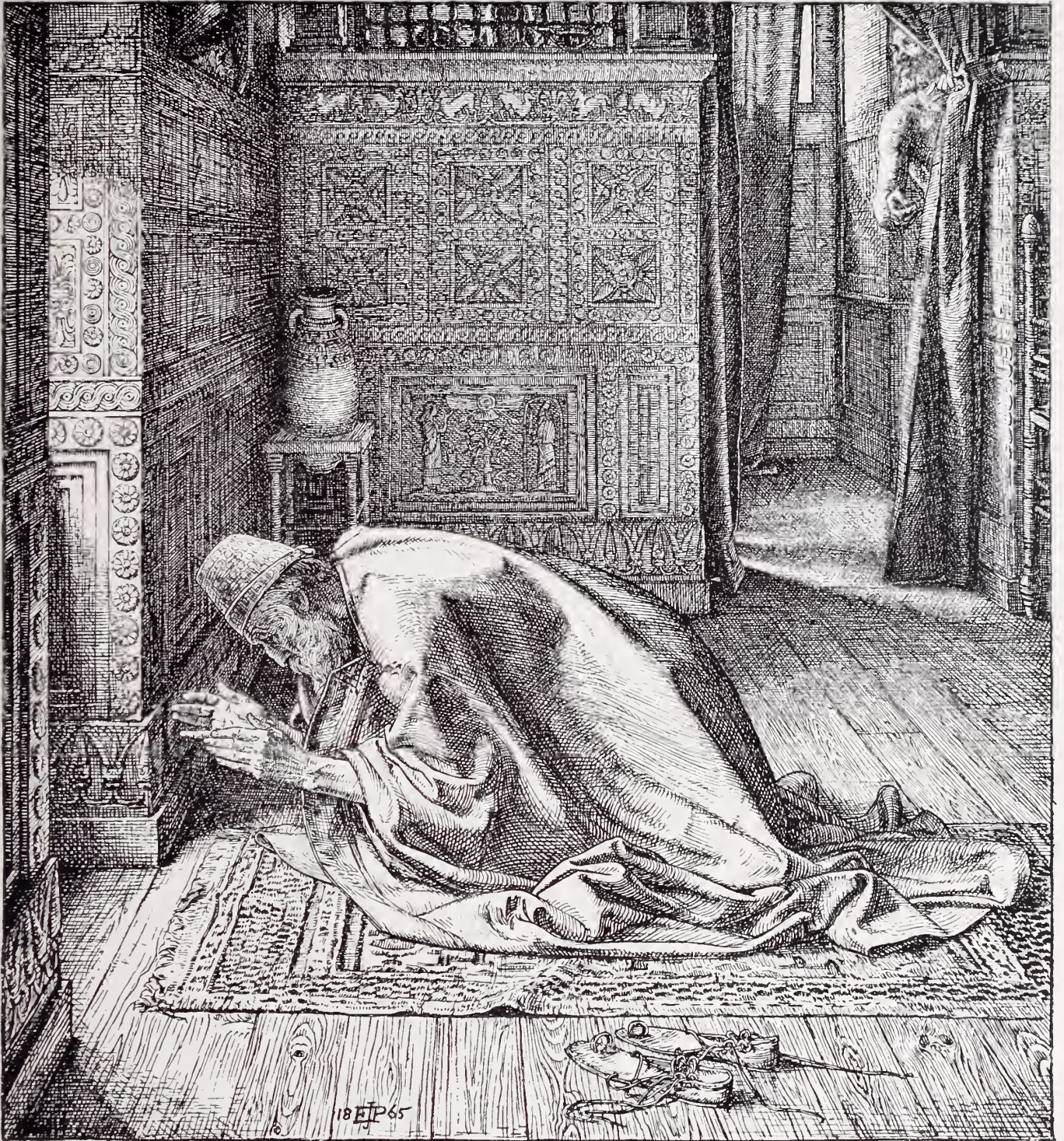
E. J. Poynter's drawing of Daniel's Prayer was made for Dalziel's Bible. It



Clark's *History of Golf*.

Sir John Gilbert, R.A.

differs from Sir Frederick Leighton's and that of Ford Madox Brown in being carried out in the most complete manner all over, and in resembling in the handling a clean wiped print from an etched plate. Had I made a copper plate from it and printed that with *retoussage*, I do not believe that any one could have told it from an etching. The drawing of Daniel and the figure in the background are excellent, and the careful way in which the detail has been all worked out is something remarkable. The result is extremely good; it is indeed by far better than any pen drawing made before Gigoux's time, for of course to Menzel this style of drawing is largely due, and Mr. Dalziel has told me he bought copies of Menzel's drawings and gave them to the artists who were then at work on his Bible. But,



"Daniel's Prayer," Dalziel's Bible.

E. J. Poynter, R.A.

though this drawing of Poynter's is a wonderful example of careful honest work, I cannot conscientiously say that its style is a good one for a student to follow. The same effect could have been produced in wash with one-tenth the time and labour.

This was the commencement of the reaction against translative wood-engraving. These lines of course had to be followed by the engraver, and when it is remembered for a moment that the engraver had to cut the whites out between these lines, some estimation of the difficulty of the task can be formed. And when it is considered that the process



From *Days of Old*.

Holman Hunt.

block from the original drawing from which this impression is printed was made automatically, I think it shows most conclusively what strides mechanical reproduction is making. As to the reproduction itself, the lines nearly all over have thickened appreciably, and in some places they have filled up, because the drawing was made on yellowish-toned paper and in parts in a very grey ink, and having been made twenty-nine years ago, it has also probably faded to a certain extent. I think a French, and I am quite sure an American process block from the same drawing would have given these grey lines, which in a few places have been entirely



1883
J. W. North, A.R.A.

From original drawing.

omitted, and in other places have thickened perceptibly or become rotten. But the principal thing I want to show is that it is possible to reproduce a drawing like this simply and easily by process, giving the character and



From Defoe's *Plague*.

F. Shields.

Plague, which is almost Rembrandtesque in its feeling of light and shade.

It would be most interesting to publish examples of all this work; though it was not done for process, if the original drawings could have been obtained, but in many cases they could not have been rendered satisfactorily by photo-engraving, not through any fault of the process but because the artists worked without knowledge of it, while the reproductions of the engravings themselves would only prove the possibilities of process for reproducing wood-engravings, and nothing about the drawings. There-

feeling of the work, which this block certainly does; while the engraving of it on wood, line for line, is an almost impossible task with really no better results. For, as I have shown, in the woodcut you do not have the lines but the effect produced by cutting round them; in the process block you have the lines themselves reproduced just as they were drawn.

Of the rest, there are Holman Hunt, J. D. Watson with his great delicacy; Gordon Thomson; J. W. M'Ralston's illustrations to Mrs. Craik's novels; T. Morton, who was good yet sketchy; R. Barnes; Saul Solomon; Basil Bradley; A. Murch; while the work of G. J. Pinwell, Sir James D. Linton, and the later men is to be found in the early volumes of *The Graphic*.

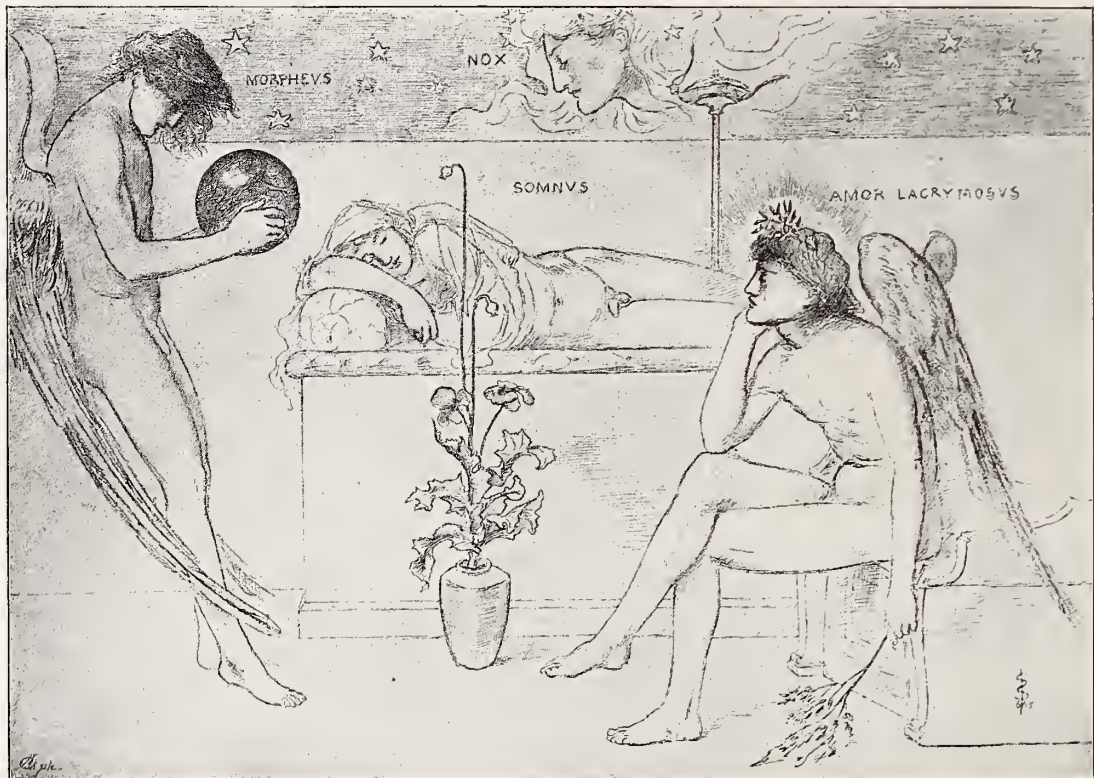
Frederick Shields has lent me a photograph from one of his designs for Defoe's



"St. Simeon Stylites." From photo of drawing by Frederick Hollyer.

E. W. Burgess, R.A.

fore, interesting as it would be, and difficult as it is for me to resist showing them, to do so is not within the limits of this book. Those which have been included in this edition are mainly from original drawings, mostly in private collections, which the owners or artists have kindly allowed me to use.



From photo of drawing by Frederick Hollyer.

S. Solomon.

SIR GEORGE REID

SIR GEORGE REID'S pen work contains all the subtleties and refinements of a most delicate etching. He is one of those exceptional draughtsmen who can combine breadth with delicacy, who can elaborate a drawing on a piece of paper no larger than his block—for his drawings are mostly done the same size as their reproductions,—and yet obtain valuable results without niggling. The great feature of his work is its wonderful delicacy, its suggestion of colour. Of all the men whose designs I have shown he is the



From original drawing.

Sir George Reid, P.R.S.A.

only one who succeeds in obtaining such delicate effects and yet makes his drawings the size he wishes to have them printed. However, the enormous difficulty of doing so must be apparent to every one, and he rarely makes any more pen drawings. Those he has already given to the world, however, are sufficient to secure his reputation as a pen draughtsman.

Sir George Reid tells me that he makes a pencil drawing from nature, then from this works out an elaborate study in pen and ink of the proposed size of its reproduction. This of course accounts for his remarkable certainty in his drawings. I cannot conscientiously advise any one to follow his methods, however, because they are too difficult. But if you can draw in his manner and succeed as he does, there is absolutely no reason why you should not. He seems to have no trouble in getting his figures and landscapes just the way he wants them, for he draws landscapes as well as portraits, and with them has illustrated three or four books. It is true that some of Parsons' work is very little reduced, but Parsons does not strive for very delicate lines, many of which could not be reproduced perfectly except by photogravure; though with a little more breadth of drawing and strength of line, I believe Sir George Reid could obtain exactly the same effect more easily by reduction. Du Maurier's drawings also are very nearly the same size as their reproductions. But then, in comparison, there is no fine work in them. As I have mentioned elsewhere, the photo-engraver tells you your work must be reduced to get fineness; here is the most positive refutation of such statements. But if with process and reduction one can obtain these effects, I see no objection to doing so. Certainly it is sensible to take advantage of every means at one's disposal. Turn to the Blum drawing for example; it was not very much larger than the block in the American chapter. But it was originally intended for a much greater reduction, and yet, because the drawing was intelligently made, it comes well with or without reduction.



T. BLAKE WIRGMAN

THESE drawings by Blake Wirgman differ as much in style as in subject, but are alike in their mastery of method. The portrait of Mrs. Smeaton after Reynolds, though apparently knocked off, is full of knowing suggestion of the modelling and colour of the original. In the other, of Mr. Armstead, he has expressed himself by line. Dantan in his drawing of a similar subject shows colour, Wirgman uses almost pure line, by which, however, he gets the modelling and suggestion of colour and indicates the surfaces. He makes the fewest lines tell with the greatest effect. This drawing and others of English sculptors, engraved on wood and much reduced, appeared in the *Century* some few years ago.



H. H. Wymstead

J. B. Wignman 1881



WALTER CRANE

WALTER CRANE has furnished me with this design as a characteristic example of his illustrative work. His manner of working is to make with lead-pencil or chalk a more or less elaborate study of his subject, with a great and very proper idea of its decorative motive, on a piece of paper of the proposed size of the final drawing. He then makes a tracing from this and works it out in pen and ink. The drawing was scarcely larger than the reproduction. There is nothing gained by reducing his work; in fact I think the nearer the original size it is reproduced the better it comes.

The feeling of long sweeping lines and the suggestion of modelling in the drawing are very fine. But when we look at the lines of which the drawing is composed, and compare them with the work of men whom Crane considers to be the ideal draughtsmen, we find that, in his reverence for them, he seeks to perpetuate even the defects and imperfections which, had they been able, they would have been the first to overcome. These defects were really due to the undeveloped stage of engraving and printing, when there were endless mechanical difficulties which the woodcutter and the printer could not surmount. But in the preservation of the defects of these early draughtsmen Crane seems to be quite as faithful as in his admiration of their perfections. Again, when we compare his cross-hatching and shadow lines with the work either of the early Italians or of Dürer for example, we find that he does not work with the care for each individual line which characterised all their autographic drawing, that is, their etched work or their work engraved on steel, which, and not the woodcutting, is equivalent to the pen drawing of to-day. This can be most clearly seen in the woman's face or the shading of the man's back. The general effect is quite right, but the student who followed the lines would most certainly come to grief. Crane's decorative feeling is also very fine and he gives good colour effect.

He has repeatedly told me and seems to think that process cannot reproduce his work, though he finds this reproduction satisfactory. Nothing could really be easier to reproduce by process than his drawings were it not that he uses a very poor ink, sometimes for his shadows, getting in the result, notably in the shadows on the armour which express the modelling of the man's back, instead of the grey he wants, a black line, the true quality of which can only be obtained by the most minute, laborious, and careful hand-work, either in process or woodcutting, though this work could be avoided if he were to adopt either the line of Dürer or the style of the pen draughtsmen of to-day. For example, Howard Pyle's work shows admirably what I mean. As it is, Crane's drawings cannot be reproduced without this elaborate and, I cannot help thinking, useless expenditure of time on the part of the wood-engraver or the photo-engraver.¹

¹ For other work by Walter Crane, see Chapter on Decoration.



From original drawing.

J. D. BATTEN

MR. BATTEN has devoted himself almost altogether to legendary and fairy art. He has a keen appreciation of humour, and is very intelligent in his handling; and his illustrations have been justly appreciated. There are some others of dwarfs, fays, and demons in the Celtic and other fairy stories he has illustrated, but I have not been able to obtain the use of them from Mr. Batten's publishers. Launcelot, Speed, and H. J. Ford have also given much time to fairy lore, but their work is not so distinguished as that of Mr. Batten.



ALFRED PARSONS

ALFRED PARSONS is a man who has transgressed almost every law of pen drawing. There is no shorthand about his work, there is no suggestion in line; but he has with a pen succeeded where every one else has failed. His pen work has the richness and fulness of colour and the delicacy of execution of an etching, combined with the most artistic elaboration that could be obtained with a colour medium. When a man can successfully carry pen drawing to this perfection of completeness, there is no reason why he should not, provided the result is, as with Parsons, artistic. With other men, however, it is usually laboured and over-worked.



HE manner in which he has arrived at this complete mastery of pen drawing is simply by regarding it as no less serious a medium than any other, by studying the light and shade in his subject as in the drawing at Long Marston, by seeking for tone and colour where other men only strive for line. Note the drawing of the distant trees, the curves of each leaf in the foreground plants in all the drawings, and the individuality which he puts into





From Harper's Magazine.

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the stem and leaf and blossom of every plant he draws. His drawings of plant forms are also full of decorative feeling. He is a perfect combination of decorator and illustrator; if he gives you an eighteenth-century initial, you may be sure it has been obtained from the best authority, just as you know, if you are a botanist, that his flowers are right. But work like Parsons' can only be produced by the most careful study from nature, and in no other fashion. As a general rule, I consider Rico's methods much better, and in a certain sense they are more difficult to follow, because Rico has the mind of a great analyst, and the analytical faculty is probably rarer than that of selection and complete rendering. But Parsons possesses this latter quality, as well as that of decoration, to a greater degree than any other man living, and the possession of such ability gives him a place apart. As to the drawings themselves, they are made on smooth Whatman paper with inks more or less diluted with water. Their great feature is not the cleverness with which they are done, but the truth with which everything is drawn, and the marvellous manner in which difficulties hitherto considered insurmountable by pen draughtsmen have been conquered.

The photogravure from *She Stoops to Conquer*, reproduced by Amand-Durand,¹ is the best example of decorative realism that I could possibly show. The shield and the lettering might be the work of a decorator of Goldsmith's day. But no one has ever made such exquisite studies of roses as those which surround and build up this most original title. The flowers grow and stretch across the design with all that feeling for curves and direction which the old men rendered by a single line. Parsons' work contains these lines, but they are hidden among the flowers, and each spray and each flower and each leaf is worked out in a manner unknown before our time.

¹ First edition, and block on previous page.

LINLEY SAMBOURNE

WHEN I said in the Introduction to the English Chapter that Sambourne's work was almost mechanical, I did not wish to say anything that Sambourne or any one else could object to, for I admire his drawings very much. But the peculiarity of his style is that it seems to be founded on mechanical drawing, that is on the



Engraved by Swain.

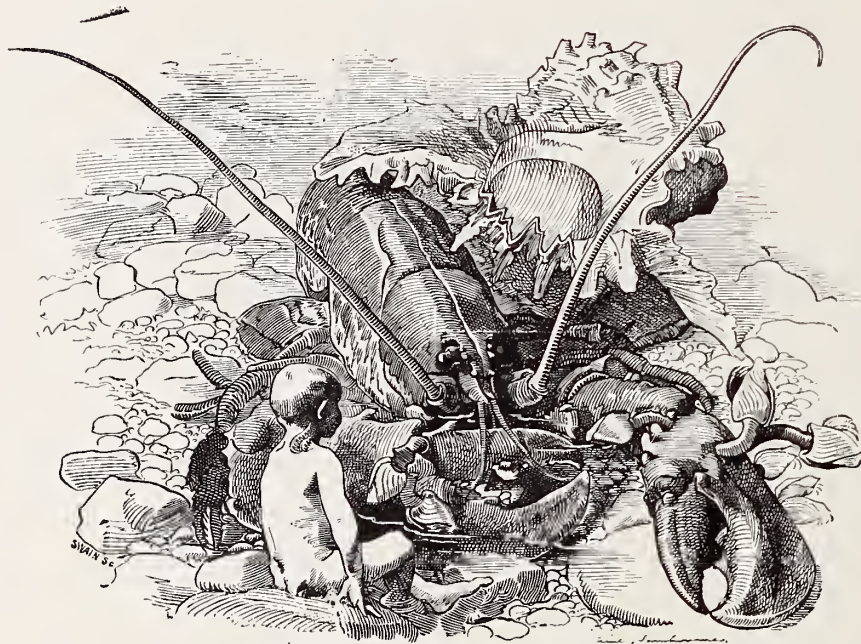


Process Block by Dawson.

sharp, clean-cut lines of engineering or architectural work. As his drawings are always more or less conventional, and seldom, if ever, wholly realistic, this is perfectly allowable; and that he should get such remarkable results using such peculiar handling is all the more notable. On looking over his original drawings I find that a certain amount of this mechanical look is gotten by the engraver; for example, the angular lines surrounding eyes and mouths are enormously intensified, and while of course these lines do exist in the drawings themselves you do not feel them as you do in the reproductions. Sambourne, working almost always for and with

Mr. Swain, knows the result he is

drawings engraved by some one else would probably not have this excessive Sambourne look, which is the only thing I can call it. The process block of the water baby compared with the woodcut shows this at once, though the actual changes in detail—in the reeds and the water, for example—were put in by Sambourne on the wood before it was cut; but the hardness in the dragonfly's wings and the very wooden lines in the woodcut are due to the engraver. The actual loss in the quality of the line is visible all over; I can feel it everywhere. That the process block is really not vastly superior to the woodcut in the pen quality is not owing



to a defect in the process, but entirely to the fact that the ink used in the original drawing was weak and pale. Sambourne knew this perfectly well, for he offered to go over the lines. But the comparison could not then have been made with fairness to Mr. Swain. As it is, I find the process block the more pleasing of the two reproductions.

Of Sambourne's composition, which is always good, his drawing of the lobster and the small boy looking at it, from the *Water Babies*, is a characteristic example of another phase of his work—that is his combination of human figures and animal forms, often very grotesque. This large lobster drawing was done in such poor ink it would not have come by process. Though Sambourne uses but one female type, there is much grace and beauty in it combined with fine decorative feeling. The pages of *Punch* are filled with such drawings. The tail-piece is a characteristic example. It would be almost useless for the student to copy his work,

because, owing to this conventional treatment, he would only obtain an exceedingly weak Sambourne.

His drawings, to use an illustrator's phrase, are sure to make a hole in the page. His effects are almost always novel and catch your eye and interest you, even though the subject is very local. This is as it should be, for if a drawing is done in an interesting manner the subject is of minor importance. But it is for the pleasing fantastic medley which he produces in an impossible book like the *Water Babies*, or in his social and political allegories in *Punch*, filled with good drawing, that Sambourne's work interests the whole world, whether the local subject is understood or not.



HARRY FURNISS

OF all the artists of *Punch*, the only one who habitually attempts caricature is Harry Furniss.¹ But in his large drawings, called for some unknown reason cartoons, there is shown, especially in the one he has sent me to represent his work, the absolute want of all the qualities which I have noted in those of Oberländer, Frost, and Caran D'Ache. For you must be an Englishman to appreciate it, and you must have been on the spot and thoroughly in the swing at the time the drawing was made to understand it, while the work of the German, American, and French caricaturists does not altogether depend upon time or nationality. Even the most delightful drawing which



I know Furniss ever to have produced, the burlesque of Pears' Soap, was unintelligible to any one who had not seen the advertisement. This drawing of Education's Frankenstein, interesting as it is, will really explain what I mean. It is not done for all the world, but for a small section of the British public. In Furniss' smaller drawings, two of which I also show, and in his Parliamentary sketches, there is much more cleverness of handling, while there is no doubt that they give the character of their subjects. They look as if models had been used for them, but they also depend in almost every case, no matter how well they are drawn, on something exceedingly local. The consequence is that although one appreciates Furniss' great talent, at the same time unless one is thoroughly in with his public one cannot see the point of his drawings, which in themselves are not sufficiently amusing to make one laugh.

The large drawing could not be satisfactorily reproduced by process, neither could the small ones. Furniss was working in each case for the wood-engraver and therefore did not consider the quality of his ink and paper. I have tried process with the lower figure on this page, but the woodcuts are better because the ink was not good. Furniss does at times work for process, and then shows that he understands its limitations.

¹ Since this was written, Mr. Furniss has left the staff of *Punch*.



Everyone can sing now
Everyone can teach now
Literary Everyone can write now
Everyone can paint now
Everyone can eat now

We are starving

Harry Furniss 1883

GEORGE DU MAURIER

THIS drawing was published in 1865, and I only chose it because it was one of the first which specially appealed to me when studying Du Maurier's work in *Punch*. I might have shown a hundred others just as delightful, but all different. And yet with these drawings, at times published in the same number or even on the opposite page, we find the Du Maurier of to-day whom I am utterly unable to understand. In saying this, I refer to his use of a mechanical cross-hatch to express almost all sorts of surfaces and of one type of face, and to his conventional and mannered drawing of landscape. But it seems to me that in the beginning his mannerisms must have been imposed upon him by the engravers, though now they are to be found in all his drawings. Du Maurier did not commence as a comic draughtsman. There is no comic element, no humour, in his early drawings, for that matter, nor in many of his later ones. But every artist would wonder at his technique, his expression, and the grace he got out of the very inartistic dresses of the last generation. No effect seems to have been impossible to him. He has tried in his early drawings to render daylight and nightlight, he worked in all sorts of styles. There is one set of drawings in *Punch* in which you find Du Maurier burlesquing the Pre-Raphaelite movement so seriously as to be almost Pre-Raphaelite himself. In this series he is as good as any of the German comic symbolists; but he is, in this series, quite as English as they are German. In the early days of *Punch* he was pre-eminently a technician. He cared hardly at all for the story he was telling, but he cared infinitely for the way in which he told it. Du Maurier possessed the power of showing beauty in the most commonplace and really uninteresting subjects. It is almost impossible to analyse this. One has simply got to feel it for one's self in the delightful way in which the absolutely uninteresting folds of the woman's gown are worked out, in the suggestion of modelling in the man's trousers, and in the study of light and shade on the polished leather of the lounge.

His work of to-day can be reproduced perfectly by process without the least trouble, and I should imagine, from the look of the wood-engravings in *Punch*, that the old work—a drawing like this, for example—would have come equally well, in fact much more truly than by wood-engraving. Within a short time his drawings have been reproduced almost entirely by process, not only in the pages of *Punch* but in the illustrations to his stories printed in *Harper's Magazine*; for Mr. Du Maurier is now almost as well and favourably known a novelist as illustrator.





CHARLES KEENE

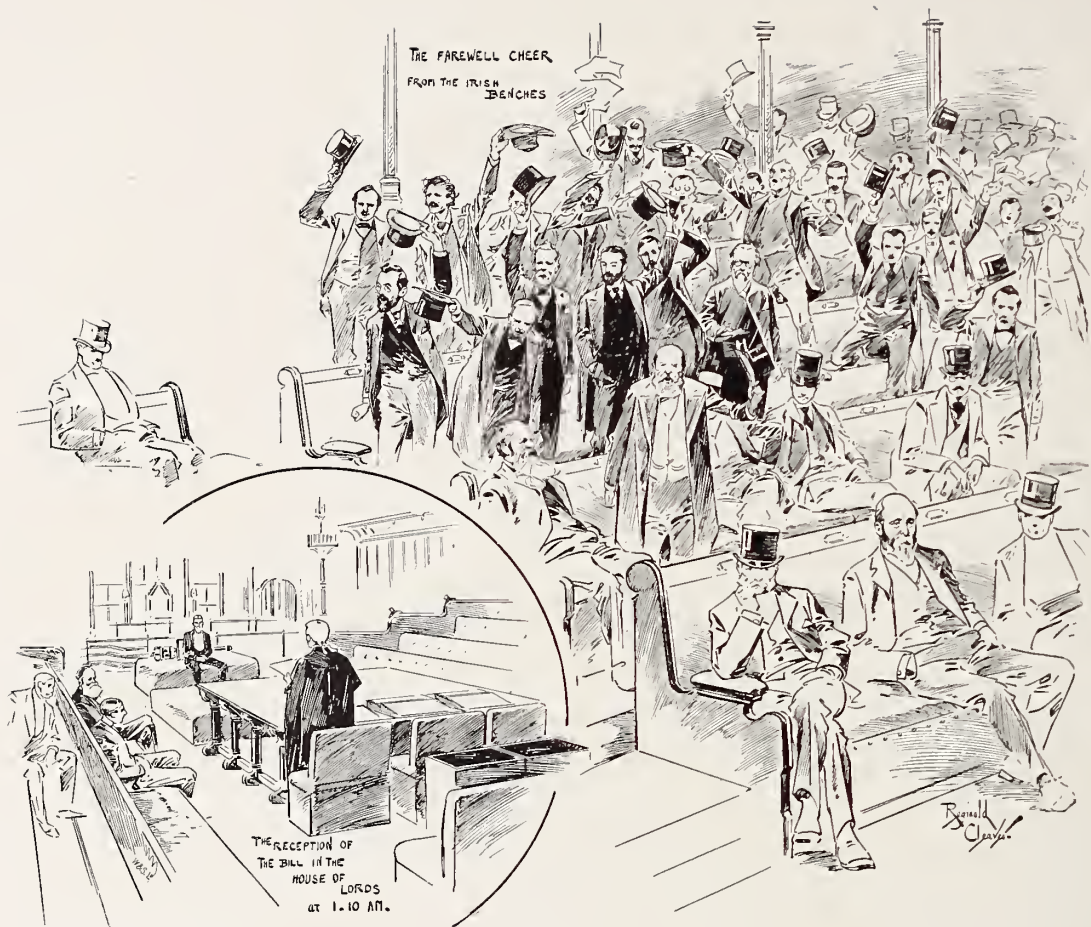
THERE are very few men in this world about whose work every one has a good word to say. But Charles Keene was and deserved to be one of the few. His style was always excellent, his subjects interesting or amusing, and he always strove to improve on his own methods. No draughtsman in England reached such a high standard, maintained it, and continually tried to improve it. I am not even certain whether the drawing at the top of the page was made with a pen, for the pen quality has been entirely cut out of it. But I have seen so many exactly like it done with a pen that I think it probably was. At any rate it is an example of very good line-work, of the study of character in the two figures, the modelling of the ground, and the suggestion of distant landscape. There is absolutely no reason why I should have selected this particular drawing. Those which have appeared in *Punch* during the last few weeks of his life are equally good, if not better; and indeed the last thirty years of *Punch* are a record of Keene's efforts to produce the best character sketching in the best possible manner. His methods were those of extreme simplicity and directness of work,

thought in composition, attention to modelling, and care in arrangement. Owing to the fact that he used grey ink, always drawing for the engraver, washes here and there, and introduced pencil work, no process save photogravure will give a better result than the wood-engraving by Mr. Swain.

The other example has never been published before, and shows the man's work done some twenty-five or thirty years ago—the real Keene—which never could have been properly cut on wood, though it now comes perfectly by process. It is one of the most interesting drawings in the book. It shows exactly what Keene would have done had any one been able to reproduce him.



From original drawing.



From original drawing.

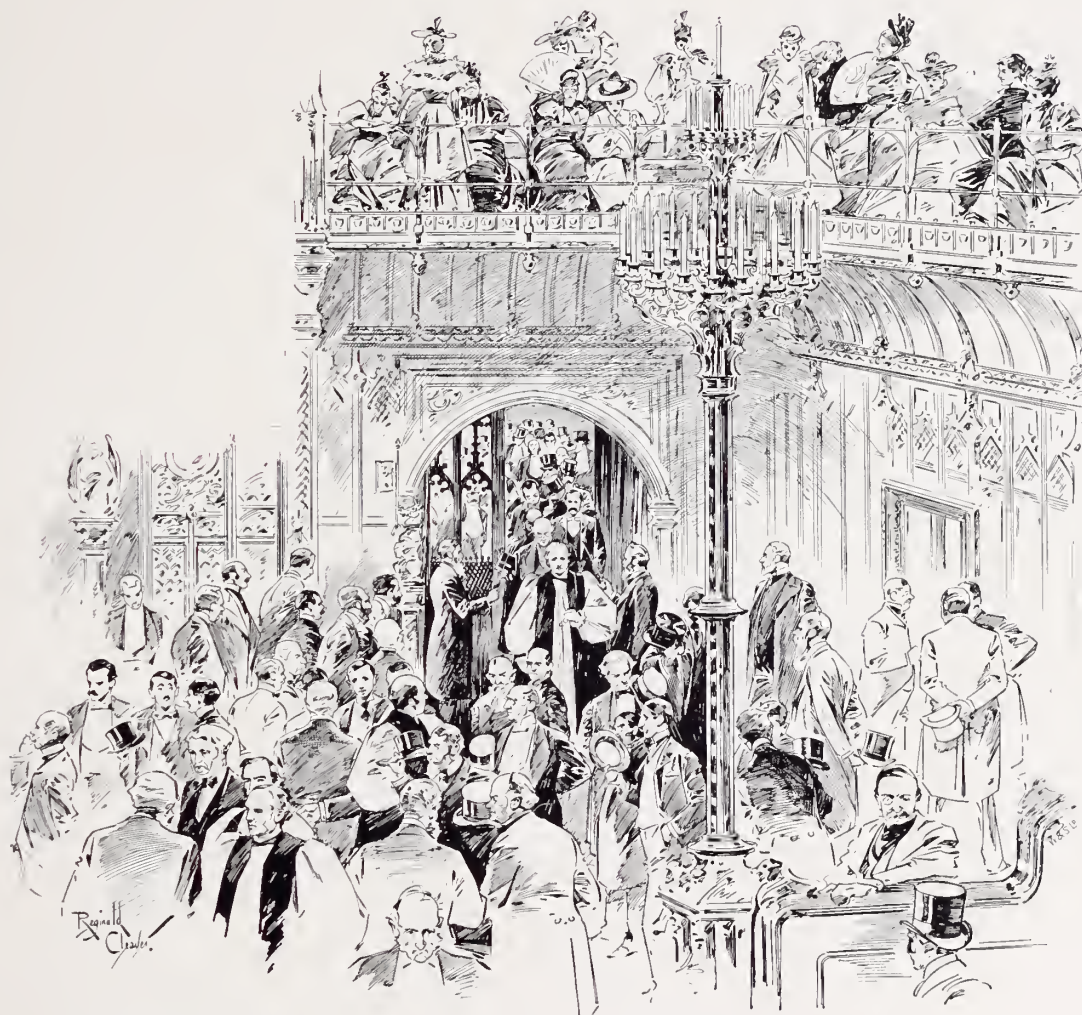
REGINALD CLEAVER

THE limitations of timely, newsy drawing and quick engraving, and rapid printing, necessary in the production of a daily illustrated paper like the *Daily Graphic*, have been felt by a set of young artists in England, and they have adapted their work to meet these limitations. Mr. Reginald Cleaver has succeeded in evolving a style which renders his subject well, engraves well, and prints well.

His drawings come almost as well in the pages of a rapidly-printed newspaper as here.

Mr. Cleaver seizes the telling points of an event, concentrates them, and puts them down in the simplest and most direct manner. It is, however, rather unfair to single out Mr. Cleaver, when, in other ways, Mr. T. S. C. Crowther, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Johnson, to name no more, have so well shown that, given the ability to produce good work, and an

interest in journalism, the artistic correspondent now, for the first time, has a chance to show what he can do. In the near future all newspapers will be illustrated; and it will be interesting to note if they follow on the successful lines of the *Daily Graphic*, or seek to develop new means and methods. For the would-be newspaper illustrator there could not be a safer man to study than Mr. Cleaver.



From original drawing.



From original drawing.

J. BERNARD PARTRIDGE

SINCE the first edition of this book appeared Mr. Partridge has won for himself a leading place in English illustration, both by his *Punch* work and his book illustration. The drawing of the Italian is very good in expression, especially the face and hands; but I think it a pity he added the meaningless lines in the background. The other drawing from Austin Dobson's *Proverbs in Porcelain* is very graceful. One thing to be specially noted about Mr. Partridge's work is the clean sharp manner in which it reproduces. It is almost improved by reproduction.



From original drawing.



A WILLING CONVERT

FIRST MAN (*lighting up*).—"See those three girls over there, Jack? each of 'em has Thirty Thou.!"
(Jack Hardup thinks he remembers having heard some Bishop was in favour of tolerating polygamy, and wishes it would become fashionable.)

A. C. CORBOULD

FEW men have enough individuality to resist new movements, nearly every one being influenced by some new phase or fad of the moment; but Mr. Corbould has been true to English tradition in subject and handling, and if one may not altogether like his technique, one must admit that he tells a story well and simply, and also that his work engraves or processes perfectly.



W. L. WYLLIE

WHEN one considers the extreme picturesqueness of river life, especially of life on a river like the Thames, it is very remarkable that pen draughtsmen have not turned it to more profitable account. On the Thames, however, the reason for this neglect may be because Wyllie has made it so completely his own. This drawing, done largely, freely, and boldly, mainly with a quill pen, shows, not only his command of the pen, but his knowledge of the construction of boats, the movement and swing of the water and the effect of sunlight shining through the bright but misty and smoky atmosphere of the river. The quill and brush have both been used. Where the roulette work is seen, it indicates his greyish brush-marks.

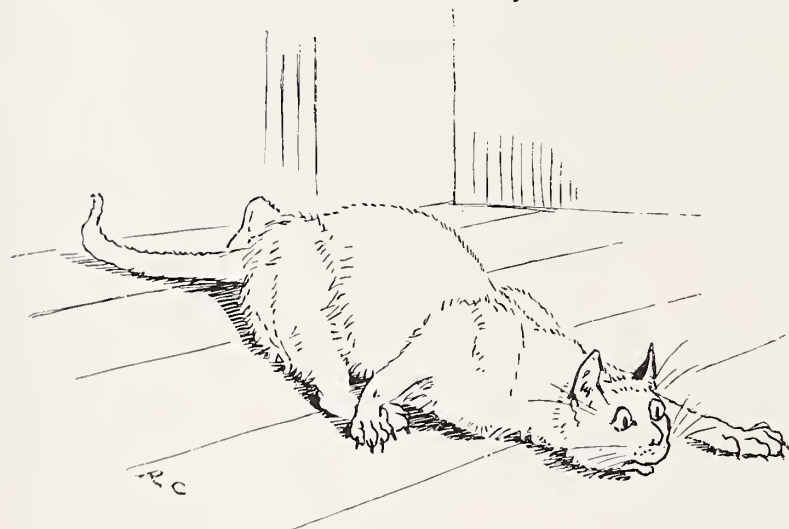
RANDOLPH CALDECOTT

I THINK there is probably no one who has been so unjustly treated, by having been given a place to which he had no claim, as Randolph Caldecott. I believe I am right in saying he wished to succeed as a painter, a sculptor, and perhaps as a serious illustrator. As a modeller he was a success. Some of his beautiful little low reliefs are not half so well known as they deserve to be. As a painter he was a complete failure. As a serious illustrator, he either servilely copied the men working about him, or else, as in many of his horses and other subjects, borrowed from Menzel without approaching him. His so-called character sketching in Italy and America was either characterless or caricature, and even the best of this work in *Breton Folk* is technically of no value to the student. But there is a side to his drawing which, though it has been almost altogether ignored, is really the only side to be considered by the student. This is his power of showing expression

and action by a few lines, often by a single line of his brush used as a pen. There is no one in England who has ever equalled him in this respect, and I very much doubt if any one anywhere ever surpassed him. I do not see how it would be possible to give with fewer lines the intense expression of the cat stealthily approaching the mouse. But curiously enough, although there are several other cats in *The House that Jack Built*, there is not one which comes near it, unless perhaps I except the cat worried by the dog on page 15,

in which, however, the dog is characterless, while the intense expression which characterises the cat I give is wanting in all the others.

Again, has anybody ever given such a delightful absurdity as this of the dog who, to gain some private ends, went mad and bit the man? It is the concentration of action and expression. Could anything be finer than the two dots for eyes which glitter with madness, or the aimless expression of the fore paws and the undecided pose of the whole body? You have not an idea in which direction the dog will spring, but you are very sure you ought to get out of the way. The coloured plate on the opposite page is very good, but what could be more inane than the absolutely vacant expression of the young man in the background? The whole arrangement is



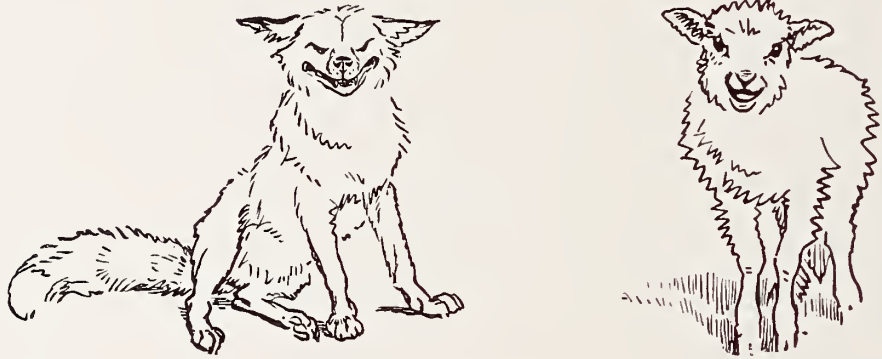
excellent, but there is no reason why, when a man tries to elaborate a drawing, he should put in the houses in so careless and slovenly a manner. The big dog too, on page 14, sitting among broken pots and plates is good, but Caldecott simply could not work out a foreground. When a man draws plants and flowers and grass, I at once compare him with Alfred Parsons; if he cannot give them so well as Parsons, it is useless for the student to turn to his work.

These drawings of course were done with a brush used as a pen, in sepia or some other liquid colour, a method which, as far as I can see, was merely a fad. Unless the printing is in brown, as in the picture-books and *Æsop's Fables*, it is impossible to give any idea of the work. It cannot be reproduced in its proper value, and absolutely the only object in using this brown ink to-day would be to make work for engravers and colour-printers like Messrs. Cooper and Edmund Evans. The latter has reproduced, as far as I know, all the colour-work of Caldecott, with whom his name has come to be very closely associated. The work of Caran D'Ache is done with a pen in black ink, and the flat colour washes, which he, like Caldecott, uses, are lithographed or processed. The work is far simpler and the colours seem to keep in their right places with a great deal more ease.



It would be almost impossible to give a better idea of bounding free motion than in this stag from the *Æsop*, with the whole of Scotland stretching away behind him, though probably the lines in the shadow were better in the original drawing. Then look at the happy fox after he has fooled the stork, and the innocent young lamb, probably just before he entered on his discussion with the wolf. Take this lamb especially; technically I cannot conceive of anything more innocent and child-like; it would be simply absurd to attempt to copy such a drawing, and yet everything you want is in it. It shows Caldecott's marvellous power in expressing a whole story in a few lines, technically worthless, in his hands perfect. But the minute he went beyond this expression in pure outline, only to be surpassed by the cleverness of handling of Caran

D'Ache, he began to fall off. Note the action and go of these Three Round Hats. The first figure and horse are good, the boy on a pony is indifferent, the third man and horse and the landscape are absolutely bad ;



for when he began to elaborate, Caldecott was not able to express with many lines what he could indicate with one. If a man can express so much in one line as he did, he is really great ; no one can follow him. If you have the same ability, you can do the same thing ; if you have not, your imitation is sure to be artless and valueless. I know it will be said that there are cases in which Caldecott drew figures and elaborated landscape well ; perhaps there are, but they are the very rare exceptions, and even in these exceptions his work cannot be compared with that of a man like Charles Keene, for example. What I want to show is every man's best work, and what I have shown is, I think, Caldecott's.





From original drawing.

WALTER SICKERT

MR. SICKERT'S study of George Moore is not only an excellent portrait, but a very careful study of lighting. The shadow on the left cheek has come too dark, otherwise the reproduction is admirable. The light on the hair was obtained by scratching away the ink with an eraser.



From original drawing.

L. RAVEN HILL

MR. HILL is a man of many moods. He has studied all methods and all styles, as yet he has not settled on one for himself. The baby certainly owes its inspiration to the Japanese, but the observation is as true and intelligent as the handling is direct and simple. In the other there are reminiscences of Keene and of Forain, as well as of Deal. But the composition is his own, and it is excellent. The characters of the dealer and his "client" are well rendered; the architectural features are well put together; and the glimpse up the street adds interest, but does not detract from the story. Colour is indicated, and form, as in the fish, is carefully attended to. Mr. Hill, I believe, does not work to a great extent from nature, or even models, but depends on his memory and his observation, and in his work they do not fail him.



From original drawing.

W. G. BAXTER

ENGLAND, a few years ago, possessed a comic draughtsman without ever knowing it. If one heard Baxter's name mentioned, it was only with the prefix vulgar; for the commonplaceness, the vulgarity, or the triviality of a paper covers all its contributors, no matter what the merit of their contributions.

Baxter was allowed to die unknown and unrecognised by artists, though I imagine he was the delight of millions.

Baxter succeeded in accomplishing a wonderful performance. What share he had in the creation of *Ally Sloper*, whose parentage and early life are shrouded in mystery, I shall not pretend to decide. He saw *Sloper* grow and develop under his hands; he attracted an audience of admirers, and he kept them,—a most difficult feat. Now that *Sloper* has become an established institution the retention of his followers is easy enough. The great mass of them, however, I fear, know nothing of Baxter.

Had Baxter simply been a caricaturist, I am afraid I could not have felt much interest in him; for I must admit that, as a general thing, I do not care much for this form of expression, unless technically it has something outside the subject to commend it.

Baxter's work, however, is strongly composed and excellently carried out. Nothing could be more difficult than to bring in, week after week, the same characters, put them in new situations, and make them appeal to the people,—for Baxter was the people's artist more than any one else has ever been. And yet the handling of the design must appeal to a painter.

In this drawing there are but two details which seem to me out of harmony with the whole. Towzer is a little amazing from his prominence, and so is the striped bathing shirt in the other corner. But it must be remembered that every detail in, not only this drawing, but all Baxter's *Sloper* work—and all renderings of *Sloper*—has a mystic and symbolic meaning which it would tax a Rose Croix person to fathom, and is only to be comprehended by his constant followers.

This block was printed in *Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday*, and it printed well,—a paper which, probably, is not exactly considered by its publishers to be a model of the typographic art.



D. G. Bates.



C. E. BROCK

SCARCELY a month passes, certainly not a publishing season, without the appearance of some new man, some new illustrator. Mr. Brock has come out with Hood's *Humorous Poems*. His drawing can scarce be called original,—there are many reminiscences in it,—but his humour, dramatic action, and his arrangement are quite his own. His sense of illustration is good, and is well shown in the concentration on the black horse and black cap of the huntsman in the title; possibly this is exaggerated, but it is a good sort of exaggeration. In the other drawing, “The Supper Superstition,” the story is extremely well told with movement and go. There are several other drawings in the book quite as good; enough of them to prove that Mr. Brock has something to say for himself, besides showing how well he has studied other people.





AUBREY BEARDSLEY

THE very limited number of drawings which Mr. Beardsley is said to have produced makes their perfection of execution all the more remarkable. Though artists may be struck with a man's earliest work, and though the creator of it may, and frequently does, never produce anything better, one usually waits until he is dead, or discouraged, before any visible sign of appreciation is granted him.

But whether Mr. Aubrey Beardsley's work is appreciated or despised—and my only fear is that he will suffer from over-appreciation and enthusiasm—his work shows decisively the presence among us of an artist, whose illustration is quite as remarkable in its execution as in its invention: a very rare combination. It is most interesting to note, too, that though Mr. Beardsley has drawn his motives from every age, and founded his styles—for it is quite impossible to say what his style may ultimately be—on all schools, he has not



THE LADY OF THE LAKE
TELLETH ARTHUR OF THE
SWORD EXCALIBUR

W. P. MERRILL

AYB

been carried back into the fifteenth century, or succumbed to the limita-



tions of Japan; he has recognised that he is living in the last decade of the nineteenth century, and he has availed himself of mechanical reproduction for the publication of his drawings, which the Japs and the

Germans would have accepted with delight had they but known of it.



From original unpublished drawing.

Mr. Beardsley has recognised that decoration means, not the production of three or four fine stock designs, and the printing of these in books, to which they have no earthly relation, on a hand-press ; but that decoration

should be the individual and separate production of designs which really illustrate or decorate the page for which they were made, and that the artistic value of such designs is not lessened by the fact that they are quite as well, if not better, printed by steam than they have ever been by hand.

Although in all of Mr. Beardsley's drawings which I have so far seen there are signs of other men's influence, I know no reason why this influence should not be apparent if the inventor of what we may consider the type is a worthy man to imitate. Some of his head and tail pieces, notably one of men in armour, seem to me, in execution as well as design, quite equal to the best fifteenth-century work. Then, too, his little landscapes are altogether delightful: though they are conventional in the right sense, they are not imitations. But most interesting of all is his use of the single line, with which he weaves his drawings into an harmonious whole, joining extremes and reconciling what might be oppositions—leading, but not forcing, you properly to regard the concentration of his motive. In his blacks, too, he has obtained a singularly interesting quality, and always disposes them so as to make a very perfect arabesque.



From original drawing.

R. A. BELL

OF all the younger men who have been more or less influenced by the so-called decorative revival, no one is more interesting than Mr. Bell.

He designs simply, straightforwardly, and well, suiting his style to his subject. His treatment of the landscape in "La Belle Dame sans merci" is, I think, as good as it can be, and his spacing and arrangement of blacks in this drawing and in the title most masterly. Mr. Bell has designed many book plates which are altogether charming.

Orpheus with his lute made trees
And the mountain tops that freeze
Bow themselves when he did sing
To his music plants and flowers
Ever sprung: as sun and showers
There had made a lasting spring.



Every thing that heard him play
Even the billows of the sea,
Hung their heads and then lay by.
In sweet music is such art
Killing care and grief of heart
Fall asleep or hearing, die.

KING HENRY VIII.

W. RAINEY

MR. RAINEY unites in his work the best traditions of the older men with the most modern developments introduced by the younger. The two figures are charmingly worked out, while the landscape is delightfully suggested. In the

other design there is much decorative feeling in the arrangement, while the train is drawn with intelligent realism.





From original drawing.

W. DEWAR

I HAVE only seen two of Mr. Dewar's drawings, but this one is good enough to make any man's reputation, and I am glad to have the chance of including it. The design is ably rendered, full of character and go, and is, therefore, well worth study.



From original drawing.

A. S. Hartrick.

A. S. HARTRICK AND E. J. SULLIVAN

THESE two men, starting on the *Daily Graphic*, have lately had their work printed in the *Pall Mall Budget*, though I do not think either of these drawings appeared in that paper. Both are notable for their understanding of what will print well. Mr. Sullivan has possibly more love for the medium and more sense of line, while Mr. Hartrick possibly expresses himself better in wash. But the reproductions are specially noteworthy as showing what admirable results can be obtained from line drawings by the half-tone process. They are the work of the Swan Engraving Company.



From original drawing.

E. J. Sullivan.



From original drawing.

GEORGE THOMSON

THIS drawing was made on the spot, from life, is an excellent character study, and a proof that good results can be obtained from the most unpromising subject. It was published originally in the *Pall Mall Budget*, and is a good example of the best sort of illustrated journalism. It was made in pen and wash, and has been most faithfully reproduced by the Swan Company; their success with half-tone is surprising.



KATE GREENAWAY

MISS GREENAWAY has produced, I believe, but little work in black and white; even these drawings, published in *Mavor's Spelling Book*, were printed in brown; and, though possessing all the characteristics of this most deservedly popular artist, seem to call for a wash of colour. I feel them to be more like key blocks, though good ones, for every line has a meaning and is rightly put down. They are engraved on wood by Edmund Evans, who has reproduced almost all her work.





A Group on horse backs.

HUGH THOMSON,
HERBERT RAILTON,
HOLLAND TRINGHAM

MR. THOMSON has in many ways improved enormously since I wrote about him before, especially in lightness of handling, and in understanding of the requirements of process. There is, and probably always will be, a mannerism about his work, a souvenir of Caldecott, whose work of the same sort, Thomson has long since surpassed; Caldecott was no doubt the original man, Thomson the clever student; a student of a tradition which he has improved on.

Mr. Railton, until lately, when he has taken a new start, giving up the pen, has retained his popularity and remained where he was. He has the same great merits that I praised, and the same grave defects. He has only, however, to look around him to see the enormous influence that he has had on contemporary illustration.





From original unpublished drawing.

The most interesting of his imitators is Holland Tringham, who is now working in a style for himself. This drawing of Cologne Cathedral is excellent, and though it is doubtful if Mr. Tringham ever saw Cologne, he has made good use of his material, probably a photograph. The Cathedral is intelligently drawn, and the town is well put in.

In speaking of this imitation and stealing of ideas and execution from which Railton has suffered, possibly more than any one, I cannot help pointing out that those few editors who will encourage one man because he imitates another, and will publish that imitation because it is cheaper than the original, are a disgrace to journalism, swindling the public, in order to put a few more pounds in their own pockets and in the coffers of their proprietors.

As to the illustrators who aid them, they are beneath contempt.



"TRUTH"



T. S. C. CROWTHER

SEVERAL young men have graduated from the *Graphic* School on to that paper ; among them is Mr. Crowther, whose portraits, by their character directly rendered, their simplicity of line which allows them to print well on a rapid steam press, prove him to be a draughtsman well fitted for daily illustrated journalism. But, like all good men, his work is not spoiled by being printed carefully, nor is it much improved. This is as it should be ; it is not necessary to draw down to a penny paper nor up to a shilling magazine. Work should be good, and look right wherever it is printed. Naturally, under some circumstances, elaboration is out of place, but want of elaboration does not mean want of art.



From original drawing.



From original drawing.

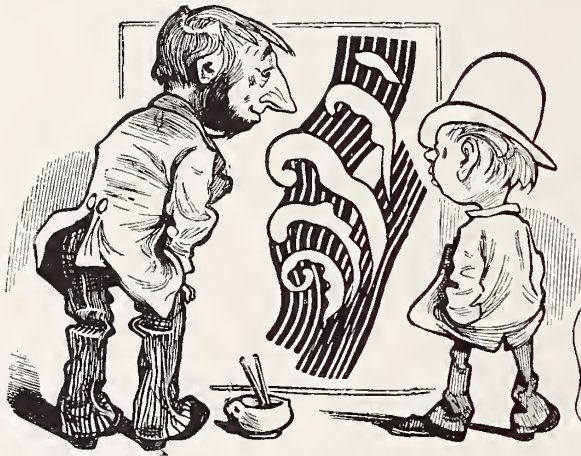
EDGAR WILSON

MR. WILSON proves conclusively, with these two drawings, that decorative work need not be conventional,—although the summing up of the conventions of all time is to be found in all good work. The arrangement of big sweeping lines is very fine. Although Mr. Wilson is learned in Japanese art, there is no undue obtrusion of it here.



From original drawing.

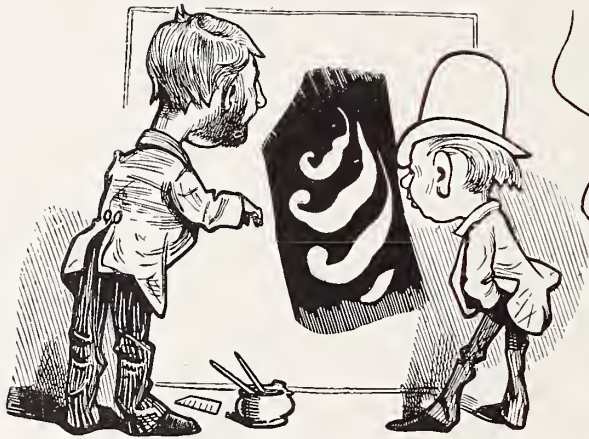
THE BRITISH WORKING MAN.—HIS NOTIONS ON GRAINING



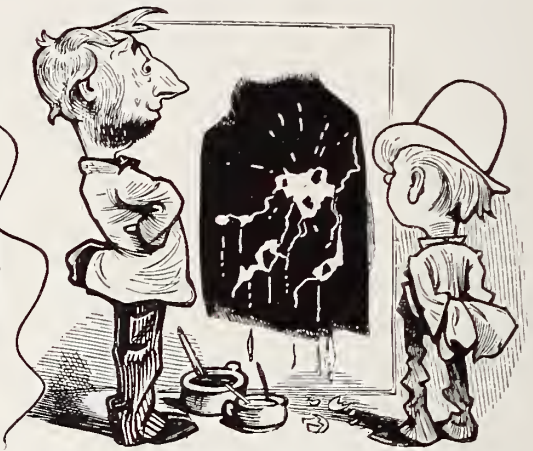
"Now I comes to you, and I says, 'Meeginy,' I says. 'Werry well,' you says; and you combs it so, and puts twiddles with a rag. There!"



"Then I changes my mind and I says 'Oak,' I says. What do you do? Why, you up and combs it lighter and puts the twiddles t'other way."



"Then I say 'Wornut,' I says; and you makes it werry dark and turns the twiddles upsey-down! And there's yer wornut."



"Then I up an' I says 'Marble,' I says. Then you paints it black and shies a hegg at it, and there's yer marble!"



"Wott! Not like marble? You're a disgrace to yer father, you are!"



"It's all along o' that School Board! Where's that there strap?"



From original drawing.

A FREE LUNCH.—*Old Grumpmudgeon*.—Look here, young woman, I ordered steak and chips; not this stock dish of yours which you're handing round to everybody. *Polly the Waitress*.—Stock dish? *Old Grumpmudgeon*.—Yes. Sheep's eyes and mashed.

J. F. SULLIVAN

MR. SULLIVAN is absolutely individual, his humour is spontaneous. One can revel in his drawings and their side-splitting legends, but the technical study of them would be disastrous to any student, save for simplicity and directness, in which qualities they are probably the best by any Englishman.



A reminiscence of the Peacocks

PHIL MAY

No man in England has had so great an influence on modern illustration as Phil May. It is very easy to account for this,—no man is easier to imitate superficially, no man more difficult to follow really, so keen is his appreciation of character, so subtle his delineation of it. But his style of handling has been universally borrowed. The contrast of white and black, the backing up of thin lines by masses of strong ones, and his knowing simplification of drapery,—these methods have been almost universally appropriated. But



From original drawing.

his power of drawing and his sense of humour are unrivalled. Nothing more amusing could be imagined than the legend to "What's the Row?" However, in this it seems to me he has carried his simplification too far. But the "Old Parson" is almost perfect. While the "Reminiscence of the Pelican" adds faithful portraiture to its many other merits. Yet the portraits are not insisted upon, they are in their right places, while the use of line and solid colour is most knowing.



"Wot's the row up the Court, Bill?"

"Bob Smith was kissing my wife, and 'is old woman caught him."

MISS C. D. M. HAMMOND

IT is very curious that women who are artists have not more generally taken to illustration; it is just possible, however, that it is because illustration is not so easy as it seems. No longer can the out-of-work painter tumble into it, unless he falls very low indeed, in illustration, that is. Miss Hammond (and her sister too) has taken up the art as a profession, and she has learned the secret of drawing for reproduction. Her work comes extremely well by process, is in fact improved by it. It is very curious that more women have not made the designing of fashion plates their study. Menzel and Meissonier have shown that this can be done with distinction, but the photographers are their only followers.



From original drawing.

Hammond



From original drawing.



MURICE
GREIFFENHAGEN

From original drawing.

MAURICE GREIFFENHAGEN AND FRED PEGRAM

It is extremely interesting to have the chance of comparing the handling of virtually the same sort of subject by such accomplished technicians as Pegram and Greiffenhagen.

Both have chosen a single figure. Both these figures are lit up by artificial light—here the similarity ends. The methods used are absolutely different, and the results obtained totally unlike each other. This expression of individuality is just what makes pen drawing, and, in fact, all art, so interesting.



From original drawing.

WILLIAM SMALL

Two studies, one for a drawing and the other made at the Langham Sketching Club.

There are few people to-day, save Mr. Small and some others of the older men, who could carry out a design with such exquisite feeling, to say nothing of making a study like this ; or, if any one could make such a study, he would at once consider it to be a finished work.

But in the sixties illustration was a more serious profession, which artists were encouraged by intelligent editors to follow ; not discouraged by unintelligent proprietors. Whether one can improve a brilliant study like this by repeating and elaborating it, possibly in another medium, is doubtful ; but it proves at any rate the interest in their work and the desire to make that work as good as they could which animated the men who preceded us. The other example, the costume model, is a study at

the Langham. The style of both resembles the early Keene's, Whistler's, and Du Maurier's. Who was the inventor of this style I do not know. But I do know that no more individual and interesting method or expression has ever been employed in England; it might almost be called a national style.

The drawings have not come very well, for the ink is faded and the paper has greyed with time; and, besides, process was unknown, wood-engravers were unable to follow these lines, and the drawings were made purely for the love of the thing.



From original drawing.



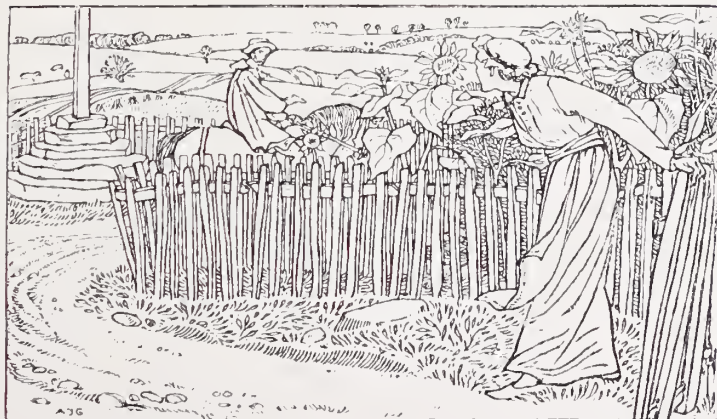
THE BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL

I AM very glad to have the opportunity of including the work of several leading members of what has been called the Birmingham School.

These artists have set up a standard for themselves, and are endeavouring to follow out their beliefs.

Their theory of work is, I believe (though after all it is but the scheme of Morris and Crane), that all illustration must be decoration—*i.e.* conventional. That it must harmonise in colour and in line with the type, and that it must be printed simply and naturally with it. That all realism—and by this term I believe all mechanical improvements are excluded—is out of place in a book. That pictures, which they hold are not decorative, that is conventional, in black and white are to be kept in portfolios or hung on walls. That all work should be so drawn that it can be printed on hand-made paper, without overlays or other aids. And finally, that the decoration is but a part of the page of no more importance than the type, and that to the spacing of the type and placing of the blocks the greatest care should be given.

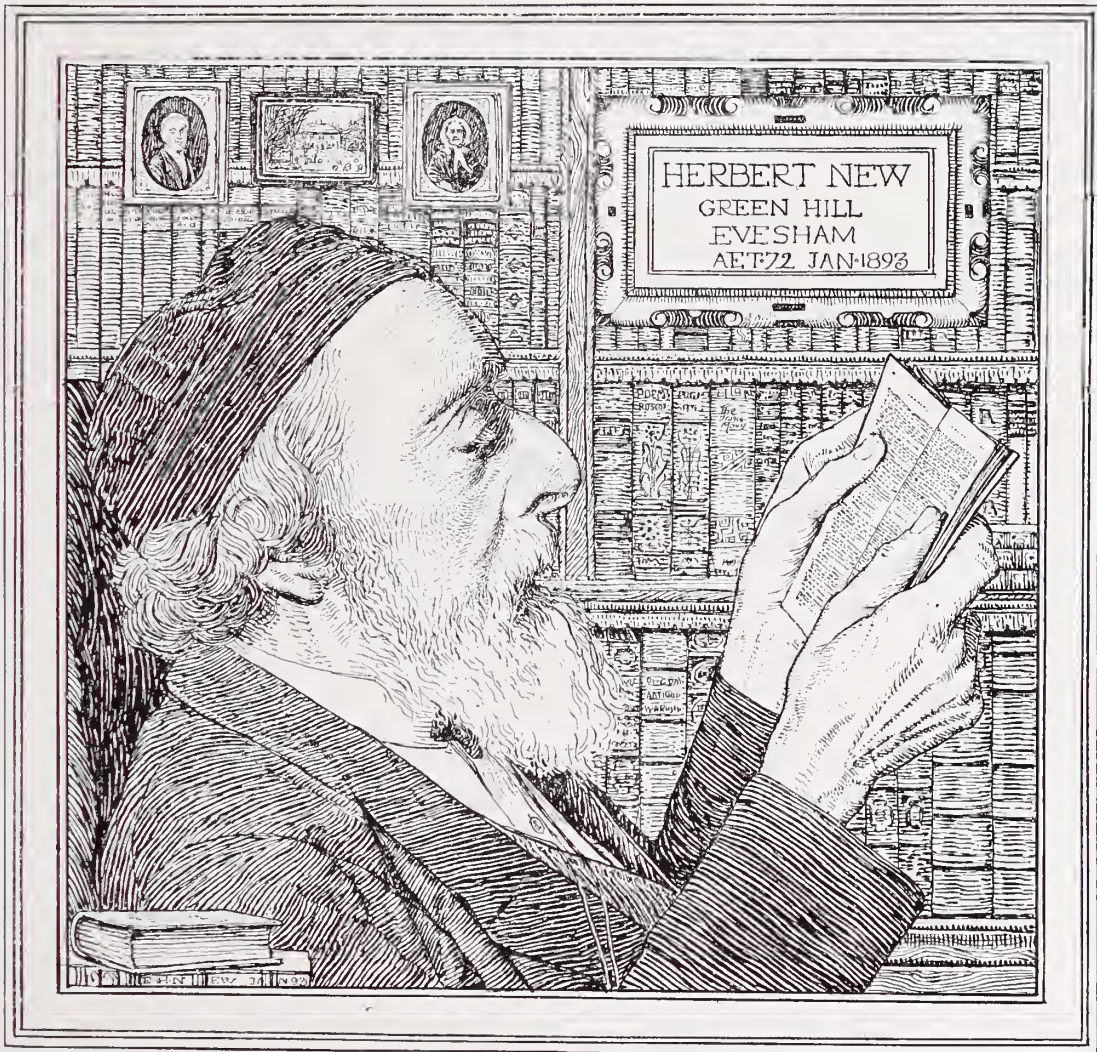
Having placed these limitations on themselves, they have gone to work in their own way, and one sees the results.



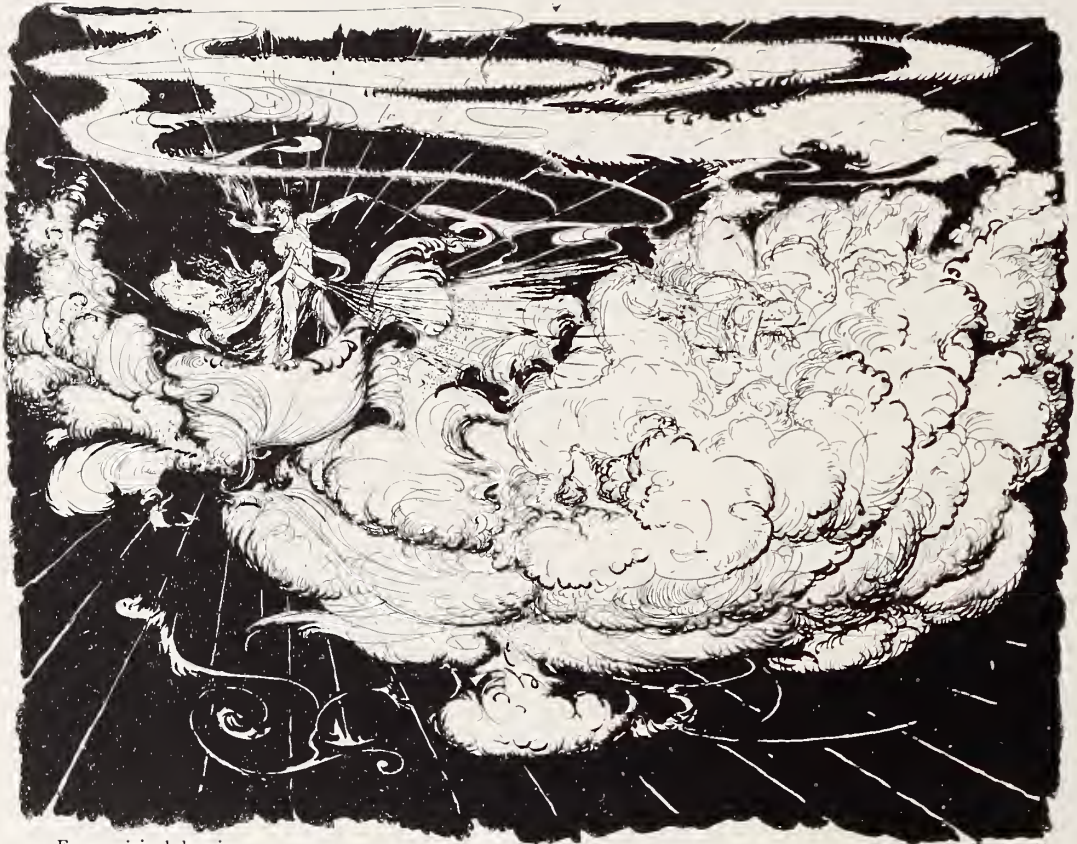


From original drawing.

I respect their self-restraint in so limiting themselves, but what is gained I fail to see, or how a work of art can be anything but decorative—if it is a work of art—whether conventional or not, I cannot understand. There is great danger of mannerism and monotony. Some of the blocks, notably these by Messrs. New and Muckley, reproduced by Waterlow and Sons, are very much better printed here than they ever were before, owing to decent overlaying. While the process-reproductions, really well and carefully done by M. Chefdeville, have made another thing out of Mr. Gaskin's designs for *Anderson's Tales*, which were not so satisfactorily reproduced before.



From original drawing.



From original drawing.

MISS R. M. M. PITMAN

MISS R. M. M. PITMAN

MISS PITMAN'S sense of colour and line is excellent, her drawing of detail is remarkable, the study of hands is careful.

Then, too, she arranges her subjects well. This theme of Apollo is as old as the world, and yet her rendering of it is quite new; and while she can draw with great care and elaboration when necessary, she can also suggest with style, directness, and simplicity, as in the horses, while there is much movement and lightness in the clouds. Her feeling for big lines is good, and it is not too much like the Japanese; the way in which the subject has been placed in the great field of black produces a most pleasing sensation of delicacy. Altogether Miss Pitman, who is one of the youngest of English illustrators, is one of the most interesting; she has something to say in her own way, and she is rapidly learning to say it.



LAURENCE HOUSMAN

MR. HOUSMAN cares for the books he illustrates, and cares for the illustrations with which he decorates them. The arrangement of his pages in *The Goblin Market* proves this; and though at times one may find him too archaic, possibly striving too much after the primitive woodcut, still the result is interesting. His little text designs, head and tail pieces, are very charming, and one feels that he has studied Calvert and Blake intelligently.





From original drawing.

H. R. MILLAR

MR. MILLAR, a student of Vierge, has adapted that master's methods to his own requirements; and though one notes the influence of the great Spaniard, Mr. Millar does not follow him blindly, but with intelligence, and such a method always produces good results, as in the drawing.



From original drawing.

F. H. TOWNSEND

It is always interesting to publish the work a man considers to be his best. It is the fashion, however, to assert that an artist never knows when he has done a good thing. I do not believe in following this fashion; certainly, I think the above one of the best drawings Mr. Townsend has made. It is interesting, because of his painter-like handling, both in touch and colour. The fat grey line should be noted.



From original drawings.

PERCY KEMP

MR. KEMP has proved conclusively that sport is no enemy of art, and he has treated the most modern of sports in a most masterly and yet most amusing fashion. In many ways the work is quite equal to that of Caran D'Ache. To find other examples one must mainly hunt for them in *Cycling*.

PEN DRAWING FOR BOOK DECORATION

PEN DRAWING FOR BOOK DECORATION



RECENTLY certain artists have sought to separate the conventional decoration of books from their pictorial illustration, and to treat each as a distinct art, or rather to consider the former to be a fine art, the latter a nuisance. Though, in a measure, the illustrator has become divorced from the

decorator, there is no real reason for this separation. In the early age of book decoration, I believe the decorator and illustrator worked together, and were in the best examples one and the same man. No one would ever deny that Holbein, or whoever illustrated many of the beautiful books of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, was not both decorator and illustrator; if the work was not actually done by the same hand, it was the product of the same mind. No one but a master of anatomy, of figure drawing, could have produced the figures which are interwoven in the decoration of almost all these works. I refer, not to the pictures inserted in the text, in the initial letters or in the margins, but to the conventional decorative figures themselves. Neither do I mean to say that Holbein did all the work with his own hand; I would as soon assert that he drew and cut all his wood blocks, but he invented it, sketched it and touched it up. And as with Holbein, so with the





other great book decorators in the past, whose names have mostly been forgotten as their work was probably ignored when it was produced.

But while I have no intention of endeavouring to separate the illustrator and the decorator, since I believe no such separation should be recognised, there is a distinction between drawings which, while they ornament the text, are specially intended for its elucidation, and those which, though they may illustrate the text, are intended primarily to ornament the page according to conventional rules. Of these latter I propose to speak here. Of the drawings reproduced in other chapters, there is not one which would not be a decoration in any book; many I now give are illustrative; and yet a certain difference in motives and in treatment, even when conventional laws are set aside, is apparent.

The old MSS., the missals, and early printed books were treated very much as are modern illustrated publications. The MSS. were made rich with ornament, sometimes confined to a very elaborate initial letter, sometimes extending down the margins, and they also contained many pictures wholly realistic in treatment, either placed in the page very much as are the cuts in our magazines, or else so interwoven with the ornament as to be almost inseparable from it. And so it was with the early printed books. At times the text was enclosed in a border of graceful spirals or purely conventional forms; at others it enclosed a picture; often picture and ornament were not to be separated. Beautiful, however, as many of these designs were, after they had served their purpose in

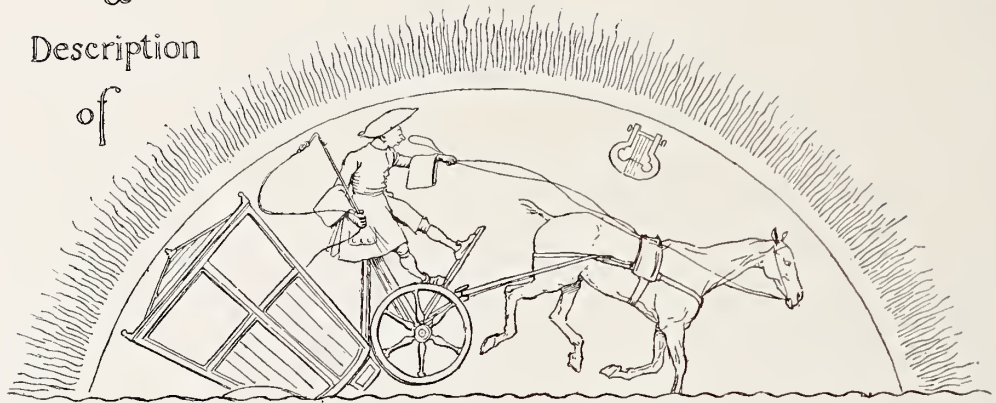




the book for which they were designed, they were cut into pieces and used with as much disregard of beauty and fitness as is shown by any present-day cliché dealer. These MSS. and books, therefore, are a mine to the modern illustrator, but it is a mine which I do not intend to work. In the first place, those in which the most beautiful examples occur were either printed in colour, or afterwards coloured by hand, and were not meant to be seen in black and white, consequently when one does reproduce them in black and white the effect is frequently extremely poor. Such use of old decoration which has no mechanical relation to modern printing, instead of being praiseworthy, really calls for all the condemnation which I have lately heard devoted to what is known in this country as American work—that is, work in which the artist, the engraver, and the printer have striven together, as they did of old, to produce beautiful and appropriate results, such as are to be seen in the books of Abbey and Parsons and of Howard Pyle. Modern work of this kind, however, is really no more American than it is French or German; look, for example, at Leloir's *Sentimental Journey* or *Manon Lescaut*, or at Poirson's *Vicar of Wakefield*, from which I regret to say I have been unable to show examples, not finding it possible to obtain the necessary permission from the publishers. This old work was mainly conventional or symbolical; to-day we have found that realistic drawings decorate a page as well as geometrical forms, and that a flower by Alfred Parsons or a vase by Jules Jacquemart is quite as decorative as the illustrations in any old missal, and infinitely superior to the realistic decoration which the old men themselves used.



a
Description



Morning in LONDON.



A second reason for not giving examples of old book decoration is that, even when not coloured, it was drawn on the wood and seldom engraved by the artist himself, and therefore, to a certain extent, was not autographic. Of course drawing on the wood in the time of Dürer and Holbein, especially when intended for the decoration of the text, was more or less conventional, as a reference to the etched work of the same men will show. The artist, when working for the engraver, could, by drawing less freely, do much to help him to obtain accurate results and to lighten his labour. As we are often reminded, artists and craftsmen then worked together. Books were produced entirely by art workmen in a workshop, a beautiful example of which remains to-day in the Plantin Museum at Antwerp, with its typesetting rooms, its artists' designing rooms and designs, its printing presses, and its "hutches" for tame authors and artists and proof-readers; it was the house, the home,





and the workshop of the publisher. But, save that publishers and authors and artists do not live on the premises, the same state of affairs, carried out in a much broader manner than even Plantin would have thought possible, will be found in many of the great publishing houses to-day. However, because we see the business details and the shabby working of such firms, and because they have produced results undreamed of by Dürer or Plantin, only the beautiful side of whose work survives, we younger men are told by unsuccessful engravers, visionary dreamers, incompetent middlemen, or mediocre illustrators, that we must go back to the time of Dürer, that we must give up our improved printing presses, our process work, our overlays, and our art for the people, made by the people and enjoyed by the people, and return to the work which was made only for the few and given to the few—to the fine illustrated volumes intended rather as curiosities for presentation to popes and kings and nobles, than books which the people, or even artists, should ever see. If this is to be, why should we stop with the Renaissance, with the decorative work of Rome, with those mummy cases of Egypt which show how much more the Greeks knew about painting than Giotto, or why should we look at the beauty of Greek art at all? Why, the reasoning of these people would carry us back to painting





ourselves blue and drawing with a burnt stick on the walls of a cave.

The great difference between the conditions of early and modern bookmaking is too often lost sight of, and yet, without understanding it, it is impossible to justly value the great development accomplished in illustration and decoration within the last few years. The old illustrators attempted the same scheme of illustration as that which is carried out to-day; they would have used the same realism had it been possible—or the same idealism, whichever you choose to call it, for I suppose it is universally admitted that between idealism and realism of the highest kind there is no difference;—they arranged their pages in the same manner, a manner which is praised in their work and condemned in ours; but they had not the same technical knowledge or the same mechanical facilities. To begin with, the methods of the printers of the fifteenth century could not be applied to the large editions of to-day. The old books, which either were carefully chained in one place or were the rare possessions of the great of the earth, could be decorated to any extent; their size was not an important consideration. But if the books of to-day—intended for wide circulation—were equally decorated, with every page of text enclosed in a border as in books of the fifteenth





and sixteenth centuries, they would be so swollen as to be almost entirely unmanageable. This is a fact regretted by a select few, though even if the old methods could be applied to modern editions, they would not equal those now adopted. We are told much about Caxton and Dürer, Holbein and Plantin. But were these men living to-day, instead of looking back to Gutenberg and MS. illuminators who were their predecessors, they would use steam presses and avail themselves of every appliance of mechanics, science and art, as they did in their own day, thus placing themselves far in advance of their time and their contemporaries. The draughtsman to-day who is most in sympathy with Dürer is he who adapts his work to the methods of Theodore de Vinne in New York or the Guillaume Frères in Paris, or the Constables and Clarks of Edinburgh. It is owing to the progressive men who have not spent their time lamenting the past and mourning present degeneracy, but have always sought to advance, that the world has developed at all. To have the inventions and improvements of to-day called bad because they were mechanical impossibilities three hundred years ago is rubbish; and it is on such rubbish that modern art is nourished.

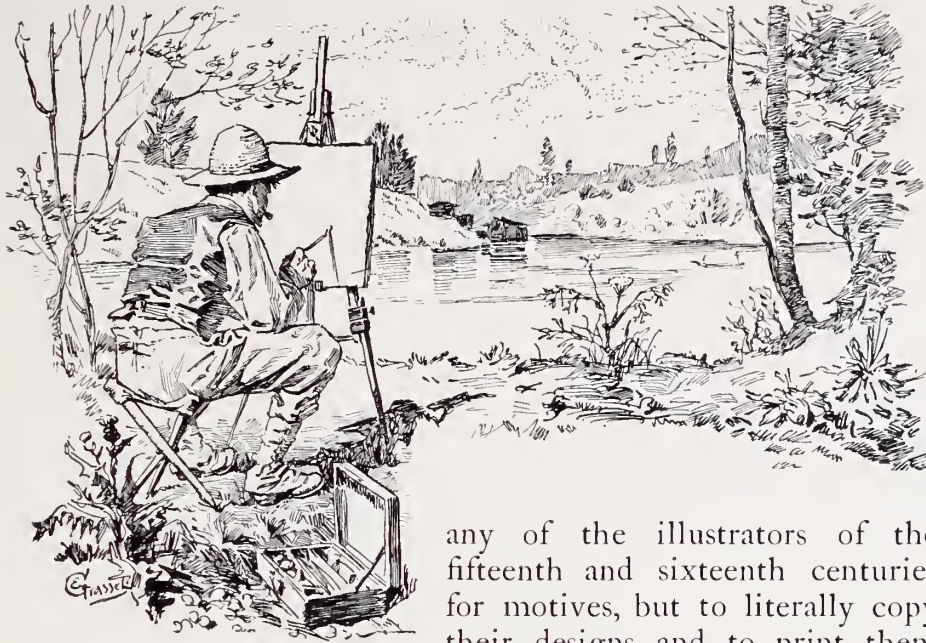
For a time, especially about the beginning of this century, it seemed as if the art of book decoration was dormant. There was,



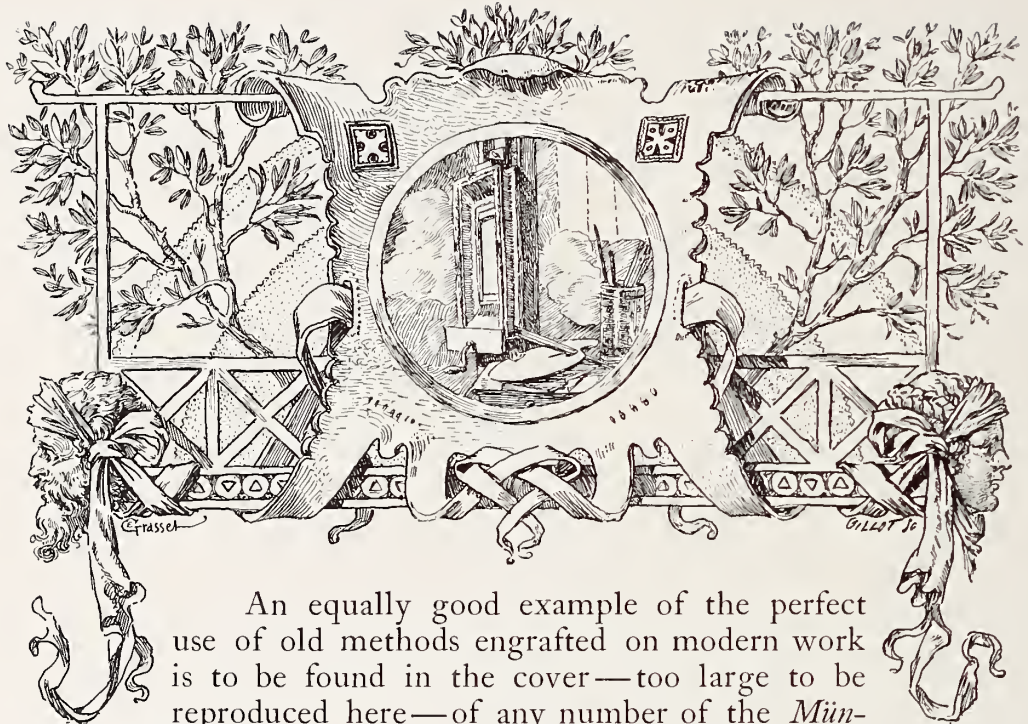


it is true, what was accepted as decoration, but it was really desecration. Old books were borrowed from unreservedly and their designs used without the least sense of fitness or proportion, as has always been done however by the cheap and nasty publisher and printer. The cheap editor is a product of this century I imagine—and especially of the last few years. A publisher would not have hesitated to embellish a cook-book with head and tail pieces from the *Divine Comedy*. He employed decorators—really desecrators—to scrawl all over the inside and outside of his book covers, and to spread themselves unrestrainedly on the pages in the most obnoxious manner. This sort of thing came to a crisis in the *Books of Beauty*. The consequence was that many draughtsmen in disgust gave up all attempt at decoration. But within the last few years a new impetus has been given to the decoration of books,—using the term to express the distinction I have pointed out,—and it is to this modern work that I will pay most attention, since it alone, having been done for reproduction by process, comes within my present scope.

The principal conventional motives were very early evolved in every country ; we have, as a rule, endeavoured to make little or no advance upon them, and they are still accepted as standards only admissible of slight changes. This, however, is far from meaning that all that is possible to-day is to copy what has already been done. No matter how conventional the treatment or what the motive, the decoration should have some relation not only to the size and shape of the page, but to the subject of the text. If we surround our pages with designs of the sixteenth century—as some draughtsmen still do and would have all others do—which have no relation to the text, it is not decoration but senseless display. Dürer's designs for the *Missal of Maximilian* might be appropriate to a nineteenth-century prayer-book, but there must be a great lack of ideas on the part of the nineteenth-century illustrator who cannot work into sixteenth-century forms nineteenth-century feeling. It is always wise to go to Dürer, to Meckenen, to Mantegna, or to



any of the illustrators of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries for motives, but to literally copy their designs and to print them on a modern page reveals an absolute sterility of invention or a conservative servility which is disgusting. The accompanying cuts of the two little angels carrying the crown and St. George and the Dragon show how admirably some of Dürer's work would be adapted to many of our needs; but on looking through Howard Pyle's *Otto of the Silver Hand*, one finds the little tailpieces there have much the same motives and are carried out in much the same spirit, and yet are altogether original in subject, while they are reproduced mechanically with an ease which would have surprised Dürer. There is probably no draughtsman as successful as Howard Pyle in working in the manner of the sixteenth-century artists, always, however, adding something distinctly his own. His mediæval tales have given him good reason to adhere to the old models. The book I have just mentioned would not have been so appropriately illustrated with designs less conventional in treatment and more modern in feeling; the full pages, though reproduced by process, look like old wood blocks; the head and tail pieces at a glance might be mistaken for Dürer's. But that Pyle knows how utterly out of place these designs would be in books relating to other periods is proved by the very different methods he employs for other subjects. His *Pepper and Salt* gives an excellent idea of the great extent of his knowledge and his perfect understanding of the limitations and possibilities of the decoration of a page.



An equally good example of the perfect use of old methods engrafted on modern work is to be found in the cover—too large to be reproduced here—of any number of the *Münchener Kalender*. In it again all the old feeling is preserved, and yet we find the proper adaptation to modern requirements in the coat of arms, the eagle, and the emblems of the printer by whom it is issued. But still, I cannot help saying that, from my standpoint at any rate, such schemes of decoration as those by Grasset are even more appropriate. In his work we have, in the first place, the old decorative line in the borders, in the centre are the charming little suggestions of a picture carried out exactly in the way the old men would have done it, realistic figures and landscape being given in a shape which accords with, and decorates and illustrates the page at the same time. A realistic picture can be just as decorative as any





"we have no souls and

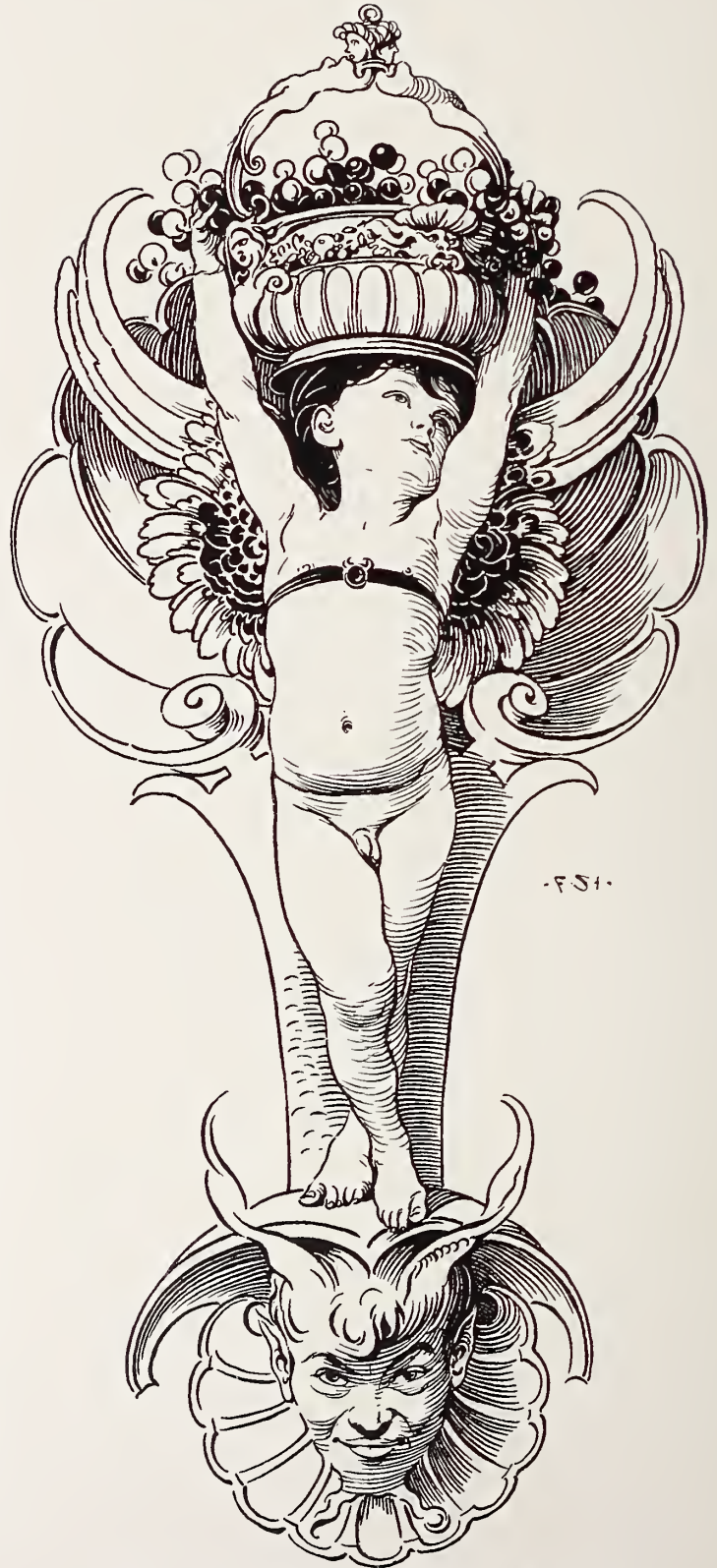
we are gay without care"

number of conventional illustrations of the seem more conventional because technical I say and I maintain earthly reason, save hide-bound tradition which prevents the producing decoration. The designs are not perfectly appropriate and they produce decoration to the nineteenth century as well as to the *Catalan Salon* which he was the decorative illustration of the nineteenth century artists had their time. The conventionalism and is to be found in all

ventional lines. The earlier illustrators conventional to us, simply conditions allowed than is now possible. that there is no narrow, conservative, or inability to draw, modern man from tion of this sort. only well drawn, but priate in their places, Grasset's power to which has some reteenth century as logue of the Paris illustrating; just as trations of sixteenth-some relation to mixing up of conrealism in decoration most any old book.

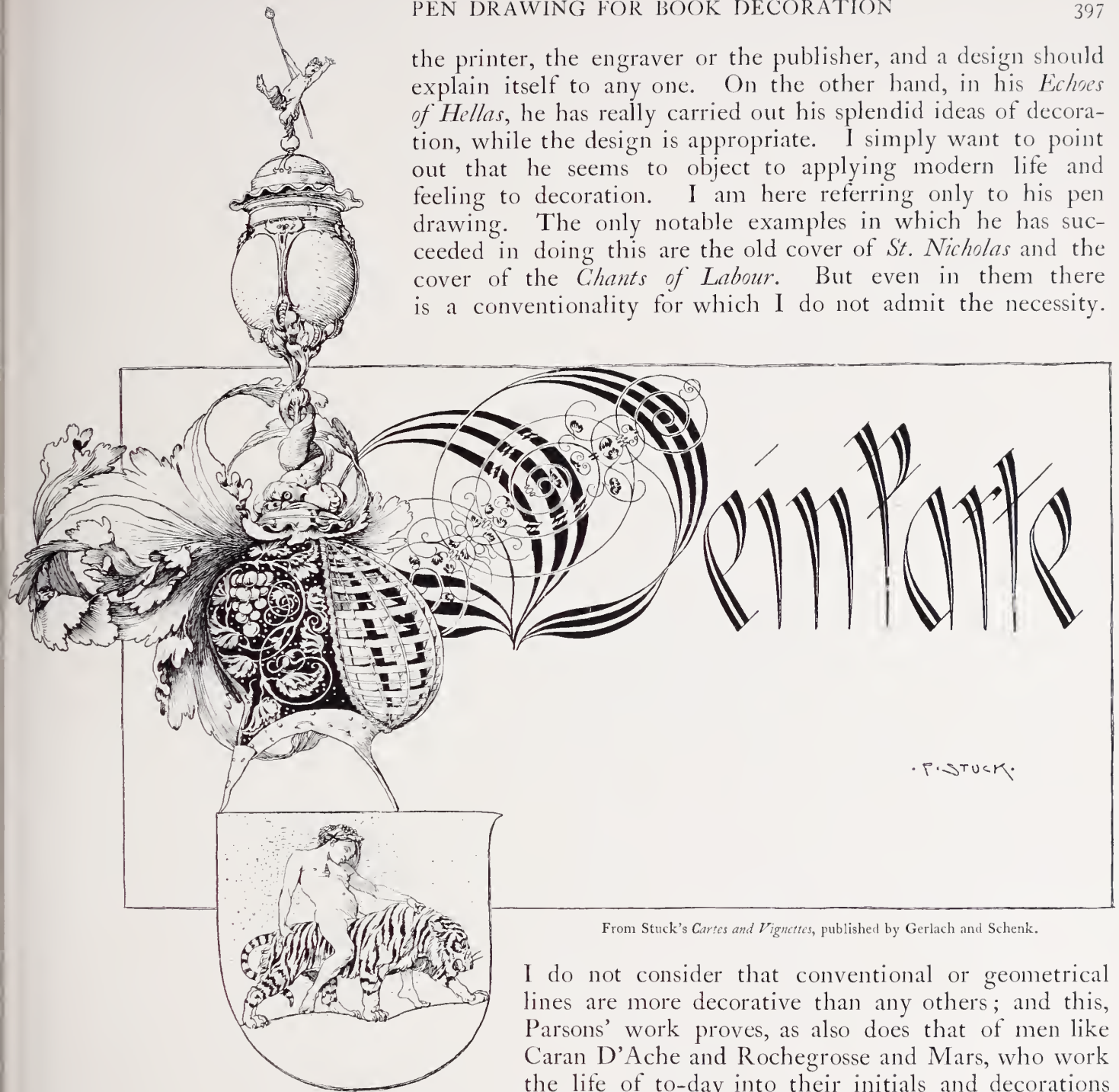
But because, if I may so express it, realism prevails in the decorative work of Alfred Parsons, though he is able to draw flowers as no one else ever drew them, and to fill his page with the mingling of decoration and realism that Dürer never dreamt of,

though his every line is as beautiful as Dürer's, are we not to use it, not to study it? As far as I can see, the only reason why it should be considered not altogether right is because it is produced to-day, and because there is no one else in the world who can do anything like it. It is interesting to compare the block after Parsons in the English Chapter with the designs by Walter Crane worked out in such a different spirit. The organic lines in the latter are very beautiful, but the Parsons plate, and also the heading *In Shakespeare's Country*, show there is another and newer way of decorative drawing which I, for my part, think a great deal better and more appropriate to books published to-day. The examples of Crane's work are two of a series of designs made, not for any special books, but for Messrs. Clark, that is for trade purposes. Fine as all are, they have, with the exception of two, absolutely no relation, as far as I can see, to the work of



From Stuck's *Cartes and Vignettes*, published by Gerlach and Schenk.

the printer, the engraver or the publisher, and a design should explain itself to any one. On the other hand, in his *Echoes of Hellas*, he has really carried out his splendid ideas of decoration, while the design is appropriate. I simply want to point out that he seems to object to applying modern life and feeling to decoration. I am here referring only to his pen drawing. The only notable examples in which he has succeeded in doing this are the old cover of *St. Nicholas* and the cover of the *Chants of Labour*. But even in them there is a conventionality for which I do not admit the necessity.



From Stuck's *Cartes and Vignettes*, published by Gerlach and Schenk.

I do not consider that conventional or geometrical lines are more decorative than any others; and this, Parsons' work proves, as also does that of men like Caran D'Ache and Rohegrosse and Mars, who work the life of to-day into their initials and decorations instead of trying to copy old conventionality.

Look at the swallow by Habert-Dys, or the tailpieces by Unger, and the designs by Stuck.

Franz Stuck is not only a mystic and a comic draughtsman, but a man who turns

his undoubted talents to very practical purposes. Menus and invitations, show cards and advertisements he produces in such numbers that one would be bored with them if it were not for their unceasing variety. Bad drawing does not struggle with mediævalism ; and he prefers the latest process development to the earliest woodcut imperfection.



Otto Greiner's work shows how impossible it is for the German to get away from the Dürer tradition. No matter how modern the greater part of the design is, the general arrangement is quite as traditional as the helmet which Dürer himself copied from the Memorial Stone in the local churchyard.



CANTATE
MONTAG
LEIPZIG
1893

VENISSE

FATA LIBELA

1893

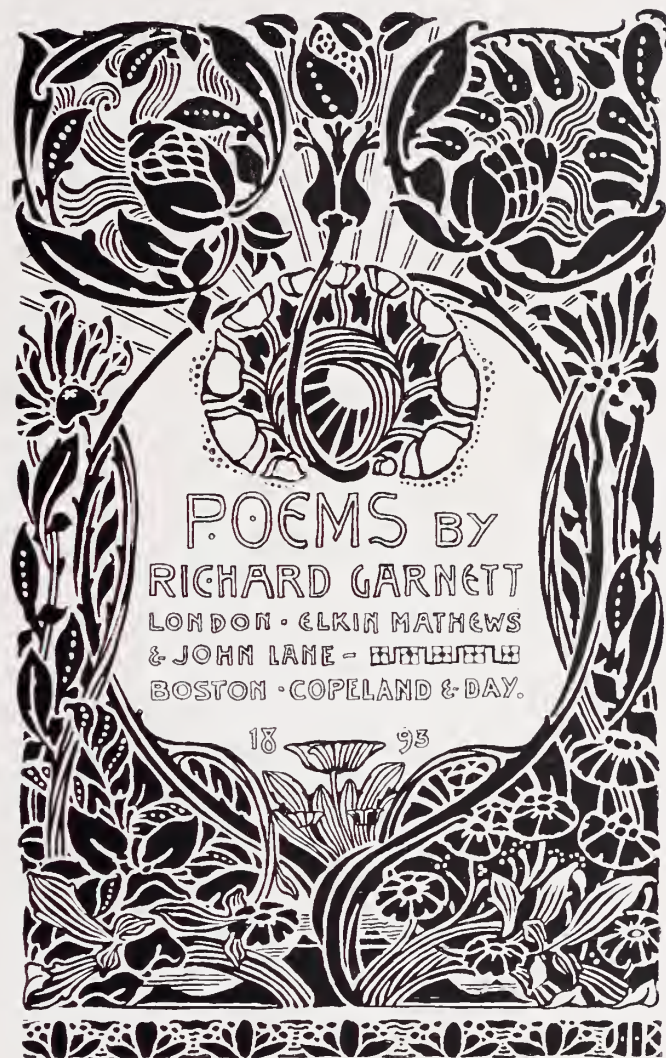
The silhouetting of white on black is not an easy matter, but Otto Seitz has accomplished it well, carrying out in process the traditions of the early printers, like Radholt; producing in this way very interesting results.

J. Sattler, too, has been most amusing in this way.

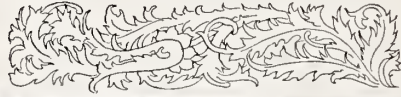


Otto Seitz

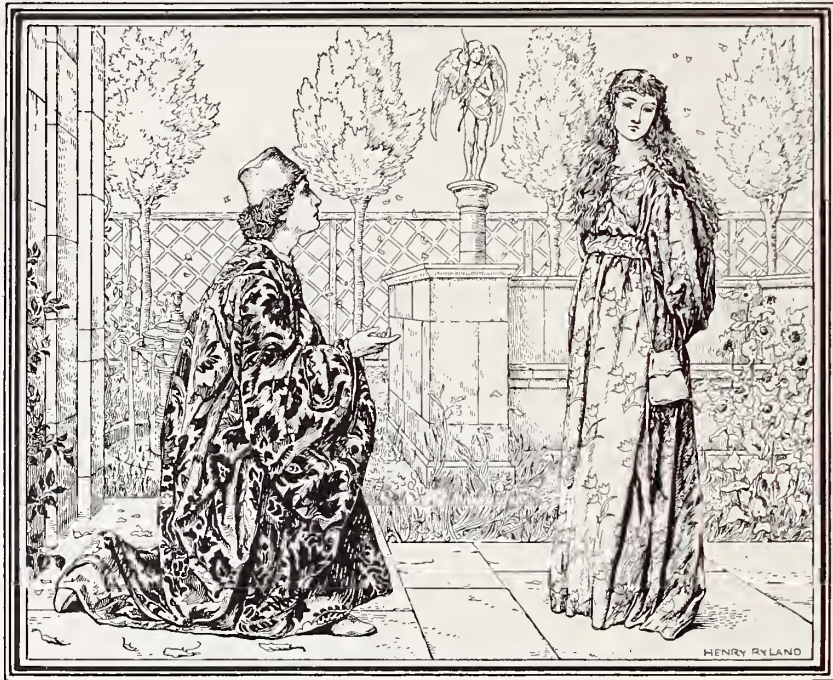




*Forget not yet the tried intent
Of such a truth as I have meant
My great travail so gladly spent
Forget not yet*



*Forget not yet when first began,
The weary life ye know since when
The suit the service none tell can
Forget not yet*



*Forget not yet the great assays
The cruel wrong the scornful ways
The painful patience in delays
Forget not yet*



*Forget not! O forget not this
How long ago hath been, and is
The mind that never meant amiss
Forget not yet*

*Forget not then thine own approved
The which so long hath thee so loved
Whose steadfast faith yet never moved
Forget not yet
Sir Thomas Wyatt.*





EACH number of the *English Illustrated Magazine* always contained reproductions of old work and new designs which were appropriate to, and specially designed for, the articles they decorated.¹ Among them I cannot help mentioning—though they are not drawn in pen and ink—several by A. C. Morrow for articles on different industries; these were most decorative and most appropriate, and I only regret they were not done in pen and ink, so that I might use them. Caldecott and Herbert Railton and Hugh Thomson, the two latter in their *Coaching Ways and Coaching Days*, have produced head and tail pieces which were most appropriate, as well as good in design. But the best decorative work in the *English Illustrated* is to be seen in many drawings by Alfred Parsons, Heywood Sumner, and Henry Ryland. To my mind Heywood Sumner's illustrations to his article on Undine are the most beautiful decorations it has yet published. And if all of his drawings are worked out in a more quaint than decorative style, they often convey the ideas of the life, character, and feeling of the time and country he was illustrating or decorating, though sometimes, notably in *The Besom-Maker*, he seems to have striven only to perpetuate the imperfections and crudities.

A set of men in England who have persistently set themselves up solely as conventional decorators are the artists of the Century Guild, and three of their designs they have kindly lent me. Selwyn Image, Arthur Mackmurdo, and Herbert Horne are the

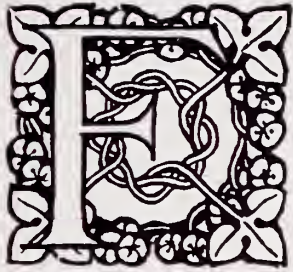
¹ I refer to this Magazine when it was published by Messrs. Macmillan.

SILVARVM: POTENS: D



IANA: CANDIDA: DEA.

best known of these men who, I know not why, refuse to make use of any of the adjuncts with which science has in our time furnished the book-maker. The full-page drawing of Diana is so remarkably

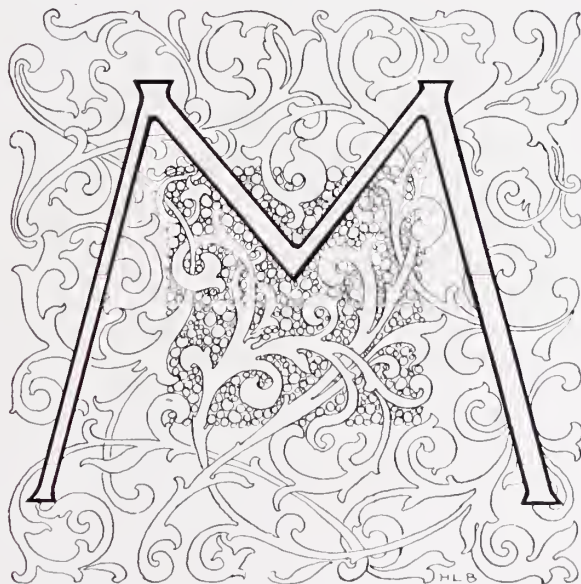


well done that one sees, if it were not that Herbert Horne refuses to make himself comprehensible to the ordinary mortal, he might easily do much more good in the world and fill a far wider sphere than the narrow niche in which he deliberately places himself. It would be difficult to explain in what way art is served by using bad paper ; and from the standpoint of printing illustrations, the paper of the *Hobby-Horse* is thoroughly

bad, handmade papers of all sorts being unsuitable for the printing of pen drawings, or any illustrations printed from blocks, in fact. The initial by Horne is of equal value with that by Bridwell given farther on, but it is no better. The tailpiece also is extremely good, that is, the spaces are well kept. It may have some hidden meaning ; to me, however, its only meaning is the beauty of line. Nor do I understand the printing of the *Hobby-Horse* page ; it is very good as a mass, but very bad for practical purposes, that is, for reading. In many of the decorative designs, notably the cover by Selwyn Image, I fail to grasp the significance or to discover any relation to any age ; and certainly, if Dürer was right, the *Hobby-Horse* men are all wrong. I prefer to believe that a man like Albert Dürer, whose work was understood by the people of his age, or Parsons, whose work is understood by those of to-day, really does more good than one whose designs can only be made intelligible by a continual reference to the history of symbolism.

Those who have strong faith in the degeneracy of modern art often contend that we cannot make purely decorative initials equal to those of the men of the sixteenth century. That the initials of the old men were very beautiful and very decorative no one would be foolish enough to deny.

Moreover, that in the original drawings there was far more refinement than could be given in the woodcuts, we know from the little blocks with the drawings on them, for one reason or another left uncut,





and now to be seen in the Plantin Museum. In delicacy of execution this work is very much akin to modern pen drawing, and would be reviled, was its existence known to them, by those who now can find praise only for the really excessively bad reproductions of that early period. Indeed, there is no better proof of the fact that, before the days of process, much of the draughtsman's work was lost in the cutting than a comparison between these drawings on the block and the printed initials of the same date, while the realistic treatment in the original drawing also shows that



much of the old conventionalism was due to the limitations of the woodcutter. But that the designing of initials is not a lost art is demonstrated by reference to the initials by Bridwell, designed for and published in the *Century Magazine*, two of which the Century Company have allowed me to reproduce, as well as those by the Century Guild artists to which I have just referred. They are quite equal to any initials ever designed. The actual drawing in Bridwell's lines might in places be somewhat firmer, but it must be admitted that some of Dürer's work of this

kind is about as slovenly as possible. Take Bridwell's letter S, for an initial to decorate an article on nature, or more especially on a pine



wood, could anything be more appropriate? And it is utterly and entirely different in motive from the other; one is classic, while the other shows the free motive of the Japanese.

I have not published any Japanese designs because they are not appropriate to a European work, not having been designed for it. But it is quite as admissible to use Japanese as classical motives, if we can adapt them to our purpose. Neither have I given any of the Europeanised Japanese of Felix Régamey who, of course, did so much to introduce this style to Western illustrators. His work to me is always purely that of a

European who attempts to be Japanese, and not the engrafting of European ideas on Japanese motives.

MONG all the men who have used Japanese suggestions, there is not one who has yet succeeded

better than Habert-Dys. I confess I do not like the circular form of this design, because it is impossible to properly build it into the type, and though I grant, from this point of view, it is imperfect, it contains so many beautiful lines and so many good qualities that I do not hesitate to use it. Another method of work adopted by Habert-Dys is his decorative treatment of birds. He most probably got his idea from Giacomelli, but he has improved on it and has added the Japanese feeling to the whole composition,



which has been copied all over the world. F. S. Church too has worked out this idea, but I do not think really as well as Habert-Dys. The little drawings of a cock-fight by Renouard are as Japanese as they can be, but yet no Jap would have drawn them exactly like this. They are as French as they are Japanese.



spaces are well filled, there is absolutely no mistaking the Munich model who has posed for the figure. The same can be said of the drawing by Walter Crane for the *Chants of Labour*, to which I have already called attention, where the workman is most characteristically an Englishman, and where the whole space is better filled than in the example of Unger's work, and the design is a great deal more appropriate, for Unger's was made to be used as a headpiece in *Universum* very much in the same manner as Walter Crane's designs were drawn for Messrs. Clark.

I have said nothing as yet about decorative lettering. The pages of MSS. and early printed books are often held up as models, but effective as they are from a decorative standpoint, they are only too frequently extremely difficult to read, and, whatever books may have been to their owners in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, they to-day are intended above all to be read. Those who believe decoration must be primarily useful, cannot but admit that a legible page is of far more value than a beautiful page which is unreadable. The MSS. are often, simply in their



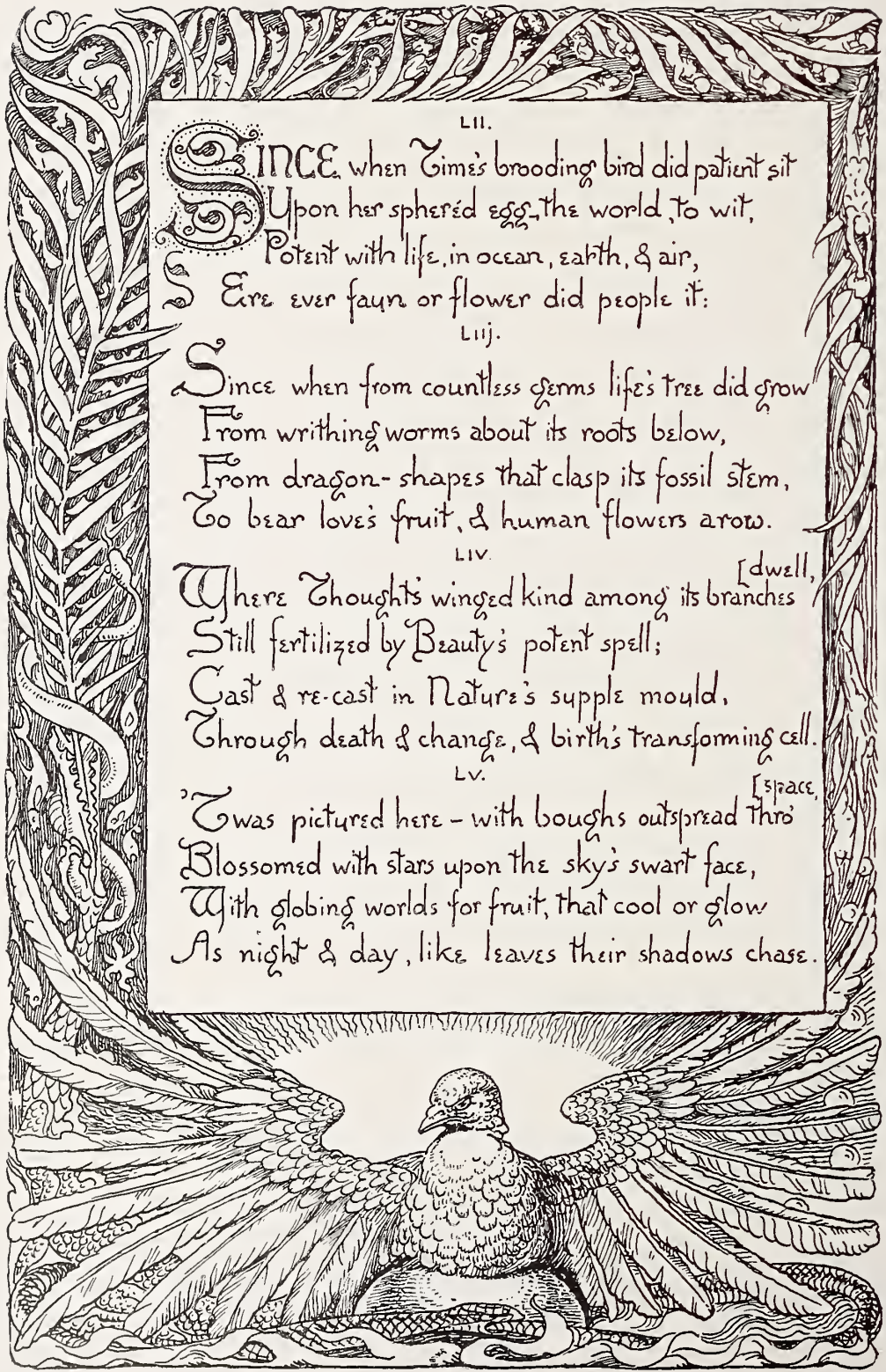
IRECT copying is, I insist, always bad, but in the initial and the tail-piece by Bracquemond there is most skilful combination of German and Japanese, while the whole result is French.

Not only the time but a country's national characteristics can be perfectly easily expressed in book decoration. The two designs by E. Unger are as German as they possibly can be. A good deal of the tree drawing is bad and careless, though much of this may be due to the woodcutting, for it was drawn on wood. But the



lettering, far more beautiful than any printed books. But the men who are held up to-day as masters of book decoration were only too ready to sacrifice this beauty in order to make use of the invention of printing, and by it to save time and labour. The profession of the scribe was doomed from the moment the first printed book was published. Just as the illustrators after Gutenberg recognised the folly of having the text, which accompanied their drawings, cut on wood instead of being set up in type,





LII.

SINCE when Time's brooding bird did patient sit
 Upon her spheréd egg, the world, to wit,
 Potent with life, in ocean, earth, & air,
 Ere ever faun or flower did people it:

LIIJ.

Since when from countless germs life's tree did grow
 From writhing worms about its roots below,
 From dragon-shapes that clasp its fossil stem,
 To bear love's fruit, & human flowers arow.

LIV.

Where Thought's winged kind among its branches ^{[dwell,}
 Still fertilized by Beauty's potent spell;
 Cast & re-cast in Nature's supple mould,
 Through death & change, & birth's transforming cell.

LV.

'Twas pictured here - with boughs outspread thro' ^{[space}
 Blossomed with stars upon the sky's swart face,
 With globing worlds for fruit, that cool or glow
 As night & day, like leaves their shadows chase.



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so it would be useless for the illustrator of the modern magazine to seek to return to the methods of the first printers. There is not much doubt that a book with all the lettering reproduced from the MSS. would be much more trying for readers than a book with all the text set up in type. However, for an occasional page or for a title page, the artists' lettering instead of the ordinary type is very charming. Walter Crane works, probably to a greater extent than any one else, in this manner. But I do not altogether like his lettering; it is nearly always the same, it is not easy to read, and I do not think it is well spaced. Compare the sameness of his or Heywood Sumner's lettering with the infinite variety used by Alfred Parsons, or Howard Pyle, or Alfred Brennan. The latter vary their lettering to suit their text, and this Walter Crane and Heywood Sumner never do. Nor do they even draw it carefully. Though they believe type and decoration to be of equal importance they slight the lettering.



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Many examples of good conventional decorative work I cannot give, simply because they were designed for pages of a certain size and shape, and therefore would not be seen here in its proper relations, and justice could not be done to it. I can, however, refer



the student to almost all American artists or other draughtsmen who contribute to American magazines. Reginald Birch has done much work which is filled with the feeling of the German Renaissance, in him developed by study in Munich. Ludwig S. Ipsen has brought his knowledge of Celtic art to the decoration of

American books, where, however, one feels it to be a foreign element. Roger Riordan's designs for stained glass ought to be mentioned in this connection, for, reproduced in black and white, they become beautiful page decorations.

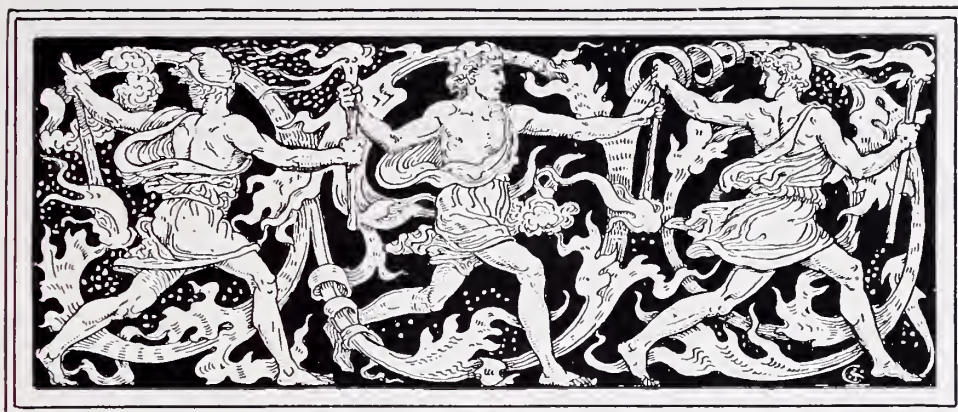
George Wharton Edwards' decorative pen work is frequently very good, though it is not always very original. It would be an unpardonable omission to leave out Elihu Vedder, the greatest American decorator, in some ways the greatest decorator of modern times, if I were concerned with all forms of book decoration. But I am only treating of



pen work, and Vedder seldom works with a pen, nor is his brush work carried out with the pen feeling. In France the late Paul Baudry did some very fine book decoration, but, as far as I know, his life was not devoted to this work, of which he has left comparatively few examples. Much the same can be said of Luc Ollivier Merson, whose drawings from his paintings are very decorative in feeling. In Germany there is an endless number of draughtsmen who use the work of Dürer to a greater or less degree, copying it without the least attempt to adapt it to the special subjects they are illustrating. But I cannot attempt to give a complete list of the decorators for the simple reason that all illustrators are decorators.



Decoration is appropriateness, and it really makes no difference whether it is realistic or conventional, so long as it improves the appearance of the page. But at the same time I consider the modern thoroughly developed realistic work in its



best form superior to that of the old men, because it shows most plainly the advances we have made in knowledge and technique. However, I cannot conceive how any liberal-minded person can fail to appreciate the fine qualities contained in the two drawings of birds by Habert-Dys and Herbert Horne, one done with all the feeling of the nineteenth century, the other, good as it is, but a copy of the sixteenth. Both are equally decorative.

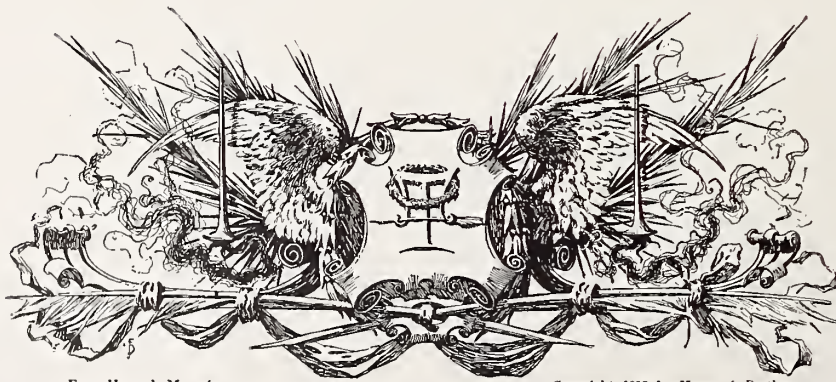
Nowhere for a moment will such a statement be questioned, except in this country. But here, within the last thirty years, people have been continuously taught to believe that book decoration, like all other art work, to be artistic must have a spiritual, moral, social, political, literary, or sixteenth-century value, while beauty of line and perfection of execution have been subordinated to these qualities; as a result the many pay no attention to the real artistic merits or defects of a drawing, but simply consider it from an entirely inartistic standpoint. The excuse is the elevation of the masses and the reformation of the classes. Art





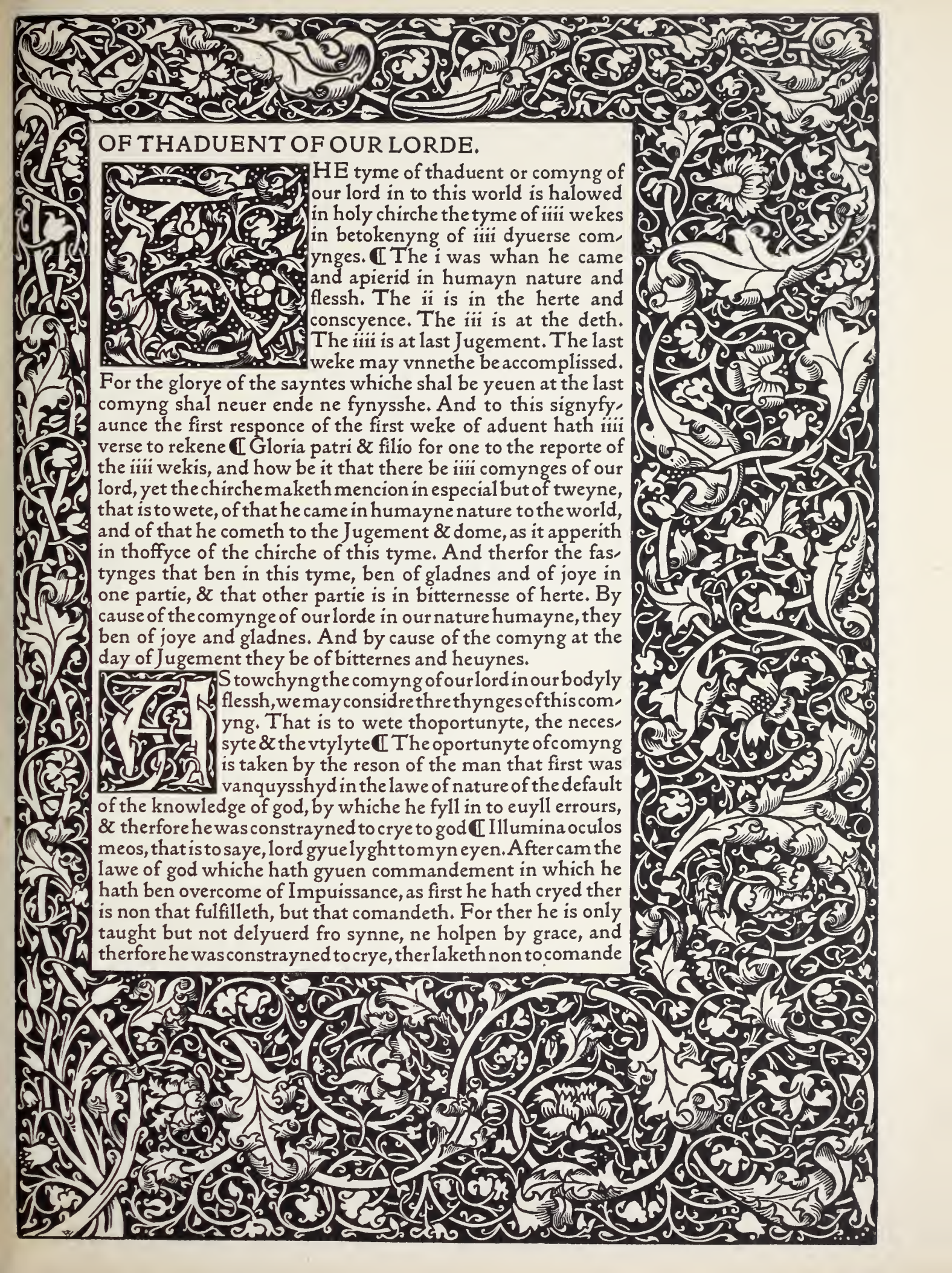
will never accomplish either of these desirable ends, its only function being to give pleasure, but this pleasure will be obtained from good work produced in any fashion. If the work is equally well, or, as usually happens, better done in a modern style, it will give more pleasure to a greater number, simply because it will be far more widely understood.

At the moment of going to press Mr. William Morris has lent me a page of his type and decoration. The effect is very beautiful, having regard to the limits within which Mr. Morris chooses to work.



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OF THADUENT OF OUR LORDE.



HE tyme of thaduent or comyng of our lord in to this world is halowed in holy chirche the tyme of iiii wekes in betokenyng of iiii dyuerse comynges. ¶ The i was whan he came and apierid in humayn nature and flessch. The ii is in the herte and consyence. The iii is at the deth. The iiii is at last Jugement. The last weke may vnnethe be accomplisshed.

For the glorye of the sayntes whiche shal be yeuen at the last comyng shal neuer ende ne fynysse. And to this signyfyauce the first responce of the first weke of aduent hath iiii verse to rekene ¶ Gloria patri & filio for one to the reporte of the iiii wekis, and how be it that there be iiii comynges of our lord, yet the chirche maketh mencion in especial but of tweyne, that is to wete, of that he came in humayne nature to the world, and of that he cometh to the Jugement & dome, as it apperith in thoffyce of the chirche of this tyme. And therfor the fastynges that ben in this tyme, ben of gladnes and of joye in one partie, & that other partie is in bitternesse of herte. By cause of the comyng of our lorde in our nature humayne, they ben of joye and gladnes. And by cause of the comyng at the day of Jugement they be of bitternes and heuynes.

A Stowchyng the comyng of our lord in our bodyly flessch, we may considre thre thynges of this comyng. That is to wete thoportunyte, the necesyte & the vtylyte ¶ The oportunyte of comyng is taken by the reson of the man that first was vanquysshid in the lawe of nature of the default of the knowledge of god, by whiche he fyll in to euyll errors, & therefore he was constrayned to crye to god ¶ Illumina oculos meos, that is to saye, lord gyuelyght to myn eyen. After cam the lawe of god whiche hath gyuen commandement in which he hath ben overcome of Impuissance, as first he hath cryed ther is non that fulfilleth, but that comandeth. For ther he is only taught but not delyuerd fro synne, ne holpen by grace, and therefore he was constrayned to crye, ther laketh non to comande

MATERIALS FOR PEN DRAWING

MATERIALS FOR PEN DRAWING

AS I have said before, the making of a pen drawing is the simplest process possible. Only four things are absolutely necessary—that is besides the rather indispensable qualification, ability. First, a piece of white paper ; second, a hard lead-pencil, with its adjuncts, a very sharp knife and a rubber ; third, a pen ; and fourth, a bottle of ink.

First, as to the paper : the photo-engraver will tell you that the only paper to be used is hard white Bristol board, which undoubtedly is excellent, and can be worked on more freely with less practice than any other paper. When I say with less practice, I mean you must have just about the same amount of preparation as a great violinist has before he ever appears in public. The comparison is not out of place, for there are not more great pen draughtsmen to-day than there are great violinists. But Bristol board is at times very cumbersome to take about with one ; when it is more than two sheets in thickness it will not roll without breaking. Though I know every photo-engraver will declare that my advice will “drive him mad,” I can recommend several other kinds of paper on which good results can be had. As to whose Bristol board you use, it is of no particular importance. Goodall’s is excellent, but as good is made by Pierre and Sons, and other firms. I have heard that Reeves’ mounting board is also good. You must only be careful to get a board which is uniformly hard, and has been well dried, and through the surface of which the pen will not cut as it does sometimes on badly made boards. With good Bristol board, a good pen, and great practice, you ought to be able to draw as freely in any direction as with a needle on an etching plate. But you cannot do this after six weeks’ or even six months’ work. The chances are you will never be able to. It is interesting to know that

Vierge uses Bristol board. You can see the trade mark, Bristol A. L., in a garter, a very well-known mark, shining through a drawing on page 64 of *Pablo de Segovia* (Unwin's edition), a book which no one who cares about pen drawing should fail to possess.

Probably the next easiest paper to draw on with a pen is London board, which I believe is Whatman paper pressed into sheets. It is usually very good, but you must be very careful to get it from a reliable dealer, or you will be sure to find soft places. I have always had mine from Newman in Soho Square and have found it excellent. However, any thin smooth paper, mounted and pressed, is extremely good, and if you go to Robertson and Co., Long Acre, they will mount and press it for you better than any one I know of. Turnbull's tablets made in this way are, so far as I have tried them, good, cheap, and reliable.

The next paper I might mention is one against which I know photo-engravers will and do exclaim, that is good, hard, smooth writing-paper without any lines or water-marks. Why they object I do not know, as either they or the artist, after the drawing has been made, can with a little care mount the paper, thus making it as solid as Bristol board. The results are certainly equal to those to be obtained on Bristol board. I have made many drawings on this paper. Moreover, a great convenience is that in making a tracing from an original sketch in which you may wish to preserve its fresh feeling, you can fasten a sheet of thin hard correspondence paper over your original sketch, and the paper being so thin, you can see the drawing right through and work on the top of it. Lalanne and many others used paper of this kind.

Another paper is good hard Whatman paper with a slight grain. The photo-engraver will object to this too, but in the reproduction the result is a broken line, which, in the case of old houses, gives a richness to be had in no other way. This is a point on which most writers on art would give very explicit and elaborate directions. But all I shall say is, if you use Whatman paper, get whatever kind or quality suits you best. It is all very hard to work on at first, because the pen catches in the interstices of the grain, splutters and drags over the paper, and often runs into it, making a great blot very difficult to erase. I find Newman's art tablets, which consist of Whatman paper pasted on both sides of a stiff board, excellent. You can work on both sides and then split the tablet down the middle. It may be well to note that to remove blots, or to tone down lines that are too hard, a very useful instrument is a razor; though there is a French eraser with a curved blade, made for working on *papier Gillot*,

which is still better. The simplest plan, however, is to paste a piece of paper over the blot, and to join the lines at the edges. A neater way is to cut a somewhat larger hole in the paper and paste a piece on from the back.

White crayon papers are used most cleverly by Frenchmen, like Ulysse Butin and Lhermitte, and by Americans, especially by Taber and Lungren; while Reinhart works on Bristol board in the same way. Part of the drawing, which is usually large and bold, is put in with ordinary lithographic crayon, or *crayon conté*, some of the blacks often with a brush, and the delicate work with a pen. The grain, or crayon, leaves ridges, which of course reproduce white. No attempt must be made to use stumps, or to get an even tone by filling up these accidental whites. The result is like a charcoal drawing with pen work on it.

There are various sorts of grained paper, *papier Gillot*, the most popular being that with a horizontal line, which may be taken for the middle tone, as on a grey toned paper; on scratching this with a sharp knife either before or after you have drawn on it, a vertical line in white appears under, doubling the lightness of the light tone; this may be again scratched into pure white. There are three difficulties in using this paper. One is that the effect of these accurately drawn lines in the paper is always more or less mechanical; another, that the drawing cannot be reduced in size very much without blurring and indistinctness; and the third is that there is a great tendency to blots. This paper has been most successfully managed by Vierge, some of whose drawings made on it, and reproduced in *Le Monde Illustré*, are, like all his other work, the wonder and despair of every artist. Adrien Marie and Montalti have also used it very cleverly, and on it Adolf Ringel can perfectly reproduce his own bronzes. I have tried enough just to know how difficult and unsatisfactory the paper is. It is to be had from almost all the French photo-engraving houses in Paris, and from Newman's in Soho Square. There are numerous varieties; some have dots, some lines, and some chalky surfaces on which you draw, or try to draw, and then lighten your drawing by scratching through it. You can also wash with colour and scratch through it. Sandham in America uses this paper to a very great extent. Personally I do not care for drawings made on it, with the exception of those of Vierge, who seems to have succeeded perfectly with it as with everything else he puts his hand to. Some of the drawings in *Pablo de Segovia* seem to have been made on paper of this kind, though the white lines may have been cut through by the engraver, but of this I shall speak later. However, such draughtsmen

as Rico and Abbey use ordinary white paper. The even mechanical grain used as a background to many drawings is not put on by the artist, but by the photo-engraver. The artist indicates with a blue pencil the place where he wishes it to be applied, and the engraver puts it in. Often a very good effect may be obtained in this way.

Of the second necessary, a hard lead-pencil, all I shall say is that you will want it, as well as a rubber; why, I shall explain farther on.

With the pen as with the paper, it is a case of finding out what suits you, and then using it. But I do not think the photo-engraver will object to any sort of pen. Half a dozen different kinds are often useful in the same drawing. The most useful all-round pen I know of is Gillott's Lithographic Crow Quill, No. 659, which, when once you have mastered it, can be used with the utmost freedom for anything, from the boldest to the most delicate line. It is almost like a living thing; it springs and responds to every impulse of your hand, and is vastly more pleasant than the dull heavy etching needle. There are many other crow quill pens, but they are all cheap, and, my experience is, very nasty. A J pen is very useful at times. In fact any pen you like is serviceable, and what you ought to use. An ordinary sharp school pen is as good as anything you can have. A quill pen works beautifully on Whatman paper in any direction, no matter how you hold it, and you can almost wash with the back of it, using it as a brush. Vierge, who has used everything, and men who have made pen and ink copies of Corot's pictures in order to get something of their softness, have used a double-lined pen, but of this I have had no practical experience. Sometimes a quill pen will wear so that you can make this double line with it. The author of the *Excellency of the Pen and Pencil*, published in 1668, recommends "pens made of a raven's quill, which will strike a more neat stroke than the common quill," but for the truth of this I cannot answer. I have endeavoured to use various sorts of stylographic and fountain pens, which theoretically are perfect. But I have found that, unless charged with a very watery writing fluid which is sold with them, but would not answer for reproductive pen drawing, they are practically useless. It is a pity that makers cannot produce a fountain pen which an artist could use. A reed pen is often most useful, and Perry's auto-stylo, which makes large square touches like a brush, is delightful. But the longer I work the less important seem to me to be the tools so long as they serve my purpose—the more important the care one should bestow on each line of every drawing.

Only lately, in trying to find out what ink a certain pen draughtsman

used, I was told it was a profound secret. And yet by the aid of a photo-engraver and the careful analysis of a corner of one of his drawings, in fifteen minutes there was no great difficulty in discovering that it was Winsor and Newton's liquid lamp black, which is sold at sixpence or a shilling a bottle. Of such stuff are made most of the secrets of art. To know what good ink is, and then to get it, means ease in drawing and success in reproduction. I suppose in this regard I am in the same condition as all other pen draughtsmen, each of whom thinks he has the best ink. I might as well give at once the name of the ink I use, and which of course I believe cannot be equalled. It is Higgins' American Drawing Ink, which can be obtained from many stationers and artists' colourmen. There is no ink equal to it, for half a dozen reasons. First, it is put in a sensible flat bottle almost impossible to upset. It has a cork with a quill running through it which forms a handle, and thus keeps your fingers clean, prevents the cork from dropping into the bottle, keeps the ink off anything on which you may lay the cork, so beautifully is it balanced, while there is a pen-wiper attached. I know of no other ink for artists which is put up in so sensible a manner. Every one who draws knows how much ink usually goes on one's clothes and surroundings. As the quill in the cork reaches to the very bottom of the bottle, every time you pull it out, you stir the ink, so that there is no necessity to shake up the bottle, and the ink over yourself, as so frequently happens. Another advantage is that the bottle is filled with ink, and not with dirty water and a solid sediment which settles at the bottom, if it is left alone for half an hour. This ink is just as good at the last drop as when you open the bottle. I never knew but one photo-engraver to complain of it. It is jet black without shine, flows freely, and never clogs the pen. In short, from the time you open the bottle until you have put all its contents on paper, you have no reason to find fault with it. It is made in two qualities, waterproof and not waterproof.

Encre de Chine Liquide is very good, but I do not think it equals Higgins' ink. Liquid lamp black is a dead black and has no shine, and therefore reproduces well. Winsor and Newton's, Newman's,¹ and in fact all made artists' inks I have tried, have this fault: the ink sinks to the bottom of the bottle, leaving a dirty grey liquid. The makers will tell you

¹ Mr. Mills of Newman's has been, at my suggestion, making many experiments. Their ink is now very much better.

P.S.—At the present, if it will do any one any good, I may say I am using Bourgeois's *Encre de Chine Liquide*, and once you get the vile cork out the ink is excellent.

that an advantage of their ink is that it will wash; but what the artist wants primarily is to make, not a wash, but a black and white pen and ink drawing. Of course, theoretically, India ink is excellent. But it not only shines, which is unsuitable for photo-engraving, but it is very tedious to grind it down for yourself, and almost impossible to keep it a uniform black. Almost all the preparations I know of are abominable. Brown inks are very pretty to look at, but of course are utterly worthless for reproduction, because the delicate brown tone is all lost, and your drawing is nearly always printed in black, not in brown.

I do not think there is any other recommendation to be made, except to insist on the fact that good materials must be used if good results are wanted. But enough materials to make several pen drawings can be had for half-a-crown.

TECHNICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR PEN DRAWING

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MOST writers on any branch of art begin by laying down definite laws for working. Mr. Hamerton in his *Etching and Etchers* says that the great value in an etching depends upon the etcher's own individuality in his method of work. He then goes on to give, in the most clear and lucid manner, directions for making an etching. I have faithfully followed Mr. Hamerton's suggestions, and I know into what quagmires they have led me ; not from any fault of his, but simply because his methods were not suited to my needs. I therefore know by experience that a man must work in his own way ; that what is good for one is simply artistic death for another.

One of the truest old artistic saws is that art can be learned but not taught. Therefore I do not intend to give infallible laws or directions on the subject of pen drawing, I only wish to make suggestions which are the result of a considerable amount of experience. But the study of good work is really of more practical value to the student than suggestions, and to show a series of examples of the best is the reason for the publication of this book.

Theoretically, it is very easy to take a piece of white paper, a pen, and any kind of ink, and draw away. This is really what the old men did, not minding blots or anything else, so long as they suggested the idea at which they aimed, and very charming are many of the sketches they produced in this manner. But now, pen and ink drawing is another thing.

I might start by saying, though it sounds as if I were trying to make a bull, that the best way to make a pen drawing is to make a pencil drawing. Whoever can make a good pen drawing without a preliminary pencil sketch of more or less importance, may set himself up for a genius, and be congratulated on his ability to avoid much drudgery. For convenience'

sake it will be better to suppose that my readers are not geniuses, and after all I shall only be ranking them temporarily with men like Fortuny and Rico. I know a study by Fortuny of a man draped, in which may be seen under the drawing, not only the nude figure, but the anatomy as well, drawn in pencil which has never been rubbed out. I have seen Rico on the canals of Venice making a pencil drawing more elaborate than the work which was to succeed it. In *L'Art*, vol. i., 1884, p. 63, there is an unfinished pen drawing by Louis Leloir, which is the strongest proof of what I say on this subject. One side is worked out with pen, the other is in the preliminary pencil. The pencil has all the care and reverence of a hard-working but brilliant student, and the pen, the freedom of an accomplished master, who knows he has a good foundation and goes ahead. Ruskin tells the student to make outlines with a hard pencil, and also that a drawing should be, not only free but right. Other men, Blum and Brennan, I have been told, never make a preliminary pencil sketch. It is to be hoped the reader is, but to be feared he is not, as clever as they are.

The best way is to make a careful sketch with a hard, an H, or HH lead-pencil on the sheet of paper on which you intend to make your pen drawing, in which case, in order to save the surface of the paper, only outline your shadows. In fact, make the sketch in outline as much as possible, as it must be rubbed out afterwards, and much rubbing will spoil the surface and grey the ink. Or make the drawing just as you want it on another sheet of paper, and then transfer it by means of black transferring paper, or else, as I suggested, use thin correspondence paper. When this is done, go to work with your pen. It would be well to study from masters of pen drawing, but you must remember, if you study from reproductions, to choose only masterpieces, and that these, unless they are the same size, do not look like the original drawings, and even if they are the same size, much delicacy, refinement, and greyness of line has been lost. In this book several of the most important drawings are reproduced exactly the size they were made, and can therefore be followed line for line. As a rule, however, the drawings are very much reduced, and you are consequently not looking at the drawing as it was made, but at the reproduction the artist wanted you to see. Therefore it must be borne in mind that the artist made his drawing, not necessarily crude, but with the lines farther apart than you see them, because, if these drawings have to be reduced very much, the spaces between the lines are so diminished that, unless the printing is very careful, as in the best American magazines and books, you have, instead of the delicate grey drawing you expected, a dirty black mass,

owing to the ink filling up the spaces between the lines and to the lines themselves running together.

I hope it will be understood that this is not a manual for beginners, and that I am not concerned with such questions as, "How do you draw trees?" or, "How do you make bricks?" You go to nature and draw them as faithfully as you would if you were drawing with a pencil or painting in oils. As to light and shade, colour and tone, pen drawing is subject to the same laws as crayon drawing, pencil drawing, and etching. There is, therefore, no necessity for my going into detail on the subject.

You must remember that if you want a sharp line, your work must be perfectly black, and must stand out clean and alone on the paper. If you want to get a grey, you will not succeed by putting water in the ink, but by making the lines light—I mean fine and separate. This is the general rule to follow. Of course a master will grey his lines, and run them together, and make a tender grey where the student would make but a muddle, and in fact do all sorts of things that I might say should not be done. You will also find that if you put one solitary line in the sky to mark the outline of a cloud, it will come out in the reproduction three times as strong as you intended it to, for the simple reason that though four or five light grey lines may stand up together, one will not, and will have to be thickened in the type-metal by the photo-engraver. Of course in a photogravure you can get the lines as fine as you choose to make them. In drawing your foreground, do not make it too coarse under the impression that it will be brought by reproduction into proper relations with the delicate distance. It probably will always remain coarse. Though there are few things to be remembered in connection with pen drawing, these few that I have mentioned, such as keeping the lines apart, not getting too many blacks, are of the utmost importance. But these are things which must be remembered in any sort of drawing, if you want a good result.

The size of pen drawings for reproduction is a matter of experience and personal liking. It is not, as the photo-engraver insists, necessary to make the drawing one-third or one-half as wide again as the block is to be. Of course if your drawing is to fill exactly a certain space, you will have to shape it to fit in. But in most magazines or books the space is made to suit the drawing, and all the art editor need do is to reduce the longest side of the drawing to fit his page, and the type will come in around it. As to size, for example I believe in many cases Mr. Parsons' drawings are exactly the same, or very slightly larger than their reproductions, a contradiction—also proven in this book—to the photo-engraver's oft-repeated statement

that drawings must be reduced in order to get fine work. On the other hand, I have frequently seen drawings by Brennan which filled a sheet of Whatman imperial paper, and were reduced—and beautifully—to five inches the longest way. But for general advice, it would probably be wisest for the draughtsman to make his drawing twice the width of the intended reproduction.¹

There are many devices adopted by every clever pen draughtsman, which to the purist are very shocking. As, for example, in putting on in two minutes a flat tone with a brush, which will afterwards be rouletted by the photo-engraver, or by indicating with a blue pencil those portions of a drawing which should be reinforced by a mechanical dotted tint put over the drawing by the photo-engraver. It is really a question of getting what is wanted in five minutes or in five hours. Often, too, one finds that the distance comes entirely too strong, and will have to be toned down by a skilful engraver. Frequently the engravings of French drawings will be cut all over in this way, and are thus given a soft grey misty effect, often very beautiful. Nearly all the better pen drawings in *Harper's* and the *Century* are hand-worked, as it is called, by skilful engravers. All fine work must be cut at the edges if you do not want it to look hard and rough.

The thumb is a very useful auxiliary in pen drawing. By inking your thumb, and pressing it on the paper, you can often get a strong rich effect, the lines on the skin being marked on the paper, and reproducing beautifully.

In Fortuny's work are to be found dear delightfully-smear'd dirty blotches, a trial to the purist, but a joy to the artist, since their value and expression are always just right.

A foreground, old walls of houses, can be richly varied very beautifully by taking a tooth brush, dipping it in ink, and then running a match stick under it, and splattering the necessary parts of the drawing, stopping the others out with paper. The most charming effects are to be had in this way. But any one who goes into pen drawing, will learn all these and more devices in a very short time if he has any facility for it. But he will also learn that pen drawing is an art which requires as much skill and experience on the part of the artist as etching does, and though less treacherous, and much more simple in its actual mechanical operation, is also much less dependent on accidental effects than etching. But the great

¹ I think now, in 1894, that as soon as the draughtsman knows what he is about he had better make the size it best pleases him.

thing to remember is, not to try to draw everything under the sun with a pen, but only those things which by simplification lend themselves easily and naturally to it. I have already said, you must know how to draw before you can make a pen drawing, and after you have learned to draw, you must be able to arrange the most simple lines in the most artistic manner, or else you will never be a great pen draughtsman. It is just this want of artistic feeling for line that makes a man, who may be a great painter, say "Oh, scribble it down anyway," with a bad drawing as the result. While if you take a pen drawing by a great master you will find that, though it may look as if it was scribbled down hurriedly and hastily, it is done with the greatest care.

I hope none of my readers would be so foolish as to follow the calmly-given advice of Mr. H. R. Robertson, to copy woodcuts or steel engravings of any subjects except those done with the pen, and never then if you can help it. As Mr. Hamerton says: "There is a wide distinction in every art between possibility and prudence. A delicate line engraving *may* be so closely imitated with a fine pen that few people, at a little distance, would at the first glance detect the difference; but no artist who knew the value of his time would waste it in such foolish toil." The only sensible course, if you must copy, is to copy pen drawings of the greatest pen draughtsmen, if you can see the originals; if you can only see their reproductions, to remember that these have been reduced. For a man to say that pen drawings are obtained in two distinct methods, one by a few lines drawn slowly, the other by many lines drawn rapidly, and then to cite Rembrandt as a man to be studied for the second method, is to suppose that everybody is an embryo Rembrandt. Had photo-engraving been invented when Mr. Ruskin wrote his *Elements of Drawing*, he never would have made the mistake of advising the draughtsman to cover quickly a space of paper with lines, without troubling himself as to how they are made, and then to place other sets of lines on top of them. Certainly the man who can with one set of lines get the exact grey, which according to Mr. Ruskin is to be produced with many sets, will be not only doing a much more artistic piece of work, but saving much time. The consequence is, if one wishes to get a grey he should cover his paper with straightish lines, troubling himself infinitely to draw them very carefully.

As a matter of fact, what you want to do is to take the French advice and, no matter how good a draughtsman you may be, go slowly at first in order that you may go fast in the end.

REPRODUCTION OF PEN DRAWINGS

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PEN drawings may be reproduced in two radically different ways. First, by what is commonly known among artists as photo-engraving or process, for printing with the type in book, magazine, or newspaper; and secondly, by photogravure on a copper or other plate, for printing like a steel plate or etching. These two processes may be subdivided, the first into innumerable methods, and the second into a dozen or more. In the first, the object is to make a relief block, as I have said, for printing with type; and in the second, to produce an engraved plate for printing separately. The examples in this volume are all produced by the former method.

In the photo-engraving, the drawing is photographed and then directly etched into a zinc plate, or, after numerous processes, finds itself on a gelatine or some other film, the film in relief with the drawing sunken in it. From this film a casting is made, from which electros may be taken in relief just exactly like type. The production of this result would be neither clear nor interesting to any but a photo-engraver or a photographer. It would require a whole book to be explained, as it has been, and very well, in *Modern Methods of Book Illustration, The Photographic Reproduction of Drawings*, by Col. Waterhouse, and other treatises on the subject.

Photogravures are similarly produced by photographing the drawing on to a copper plate, which is then bitten more or less in the same manner as an etching, and worked up afterwards with a graver, or by building up a plate in a bath on a gelatinous film. The result resembles an etching closely.

Reproduction is a purely mechanical process, but so important as to be destined almost entirely to supersede all but the best wood-engraving, and all other sorts of reproductive art. In it no human intelligence comes between the drawing and the result to any great degree, although intelligent

aid can always be given. For example, it is almost impossible for a wood-engraver to cut the delicate grey lines of many a pen drawing. It is equally impossible for the photo-engraver to reproduce them mechanically. But their intelligent co-operation, added to the accuracy of the process, will give the desired effect. I mean the fine line which the wood-engraver cannot cut by himself, and which is so fine that if reproduced accurately it will scarcely stand on the process block, can be cut down to the required fineness on the relief block by the wood-engraver, or by the photo-engraver, if he is artist enough to do it.

Mr. Hamerton sets forth the great economy of process-reproductions as one of their chief advantages. "It so happens," he writes, "that nothing we can draw reproduces quite so perfectly as a clear black ink line on perfectly smooth white paper, and in consequence of this the art of drawing with the pen has suddenly become the principal means of disseminating artistic ideas when economy is an object." But it is very doubtful whether a cheap photo-engraving is really much cheaper than a cheap woodcut. The latter will look better, as it is almost impossible to print a cheap process block. Publishers should reject all but the best reproductions by photographic processes. Otherwise they only lead to carelessness and the ruin of the artist's drawing.

Of course it would do the pen draughtsman no harm, but rather an enormous amount of good, to not only study with the photo-engraver before he sets himself up as a draughtsman, but also whenever his work is being reproduced. No explanation will supply the criticisms which an intelligent photo-engraver will make on a novice's drawings, that is criticising them with a view to their reproduction. Unless men to-day are willing to come out of their luxurious studios—as some of the best do—and go down to the dirty shop of the photo-engraver and try experiments, or intelligently consult with him, we shall never have really artistic workmen and thoroughly good results.

There are certain processes by which results resembling pen drawings are produced. Prepared surfaces of paraffin, or other materials from which a cast can be made, are laid on plates of blackened brass or other metal, and you draw with a sharp point through the film of paraffin, and a cast is taken from the drawing so made. The result is very like a sharp pen drawing. But there are two great difficulties to be surmounted: one is that reduction is impossible, and the drawing must therefore be the size of the desired print; and the other is that the mechanical process is much harder to learn than drawing with a pen, and entirely different. The

technical difficulties are really so great as to be scarcely worth the trouble of overcoming. They have been mastered, however, with some very good results by Herkomer and Dawson, the inventor. Randolph Caldecott also tried this process ; and the late Kent Thomas did some extraordinary things with it. I believe it is excellent for the drawing of maps. The latest development is the reproduction of line drawings by the half-tone process ; by this method, as the Blum drawings show, the softness and fulness of a rich print are given, while thin lines keep their proper place and do not become so prominent as in an ordinary line block.

Since the introduction of photo-lithography, it has not been necessary for an artist who is a draughtsman to become a skilled lithographer in order to have his line drawings reproduced on stone. For though he should understand the process, there is no more reason why he should give his time to it than that he should reproduce his own drawings by photo-engraving. Intelligent supervision of reproduction is one thing ; unintelligent waste of time over mechanical details is quite another.

The real advantage of mechanical reproduction can be easily explained. Unless the artist draws expressly with the thought of the woodcutting of every single line he is making, no wood-engraver can follow him. It will be said that the draughtsmen on wood of Dürer's time did this ; but it really is not likely that they often did. So tedious, so difficult, and so laborious is this manner of working that, not only is it an exploded theory that Dürer cut his own blocks, but I believe he scarcely ever even drew on the wood. It is more probable that he made the studies which we possess to-day, that these studies were traced or enlarged or reduced on to the block by his pupils, or by the woodcutter himself, that the design was then touched up by Dürer and cut by the engraver. It is impossible otherwise that he could have produced such an amount of work. I say this as a practical illustrator, knowing perfectly well the time which must have been given to one of these drawings. Besides, this was the course the old men always adopted in their other art work ; they had a shop full of clever young students, whose hands and brains they used whenever they could. If Dürer, the typical illustrator at any rate of the Middle Ages, drew every line for the woodcutter with a handling utterly different from that which we see in all his etchings, the lesser men who surrounded and followed him and would have been influenced by him, did nothing of the sort. They made their drawings on the block with the greatest care, in inks of different degrees of blackness, and with beautifully arranged lines, and the wood-engraver cut the blocks without the slightest feeling for the

artist's work. It might very reasonably be asked why did I not then use more of the old drawings? Because, made on the wood-blocks, they were cut all to pieces, the engravers not following the artist's lines, but engraving lines which were easy to cut, ignoring all but the main ideas of the design, and being, I maintain, incapable, slovenly, or slipshod, and not to be compared for a minute to the engravers who have been developed since the time of Bewick. When they did follow the original lines, it was only because the artist drew expressly for them, as did the English draughtsmen of thirty years ago. Everything I say can be proved by a reference to the spoiled wood-blocks, the only evidence we have, but all we need, in the Plantin Museum. These drawings were made on the block in exactly the same way as the draughtsman works on paper to-day. But I have not used them for two reasons: they could not be reproduced without infinite labour, since they are spoiled blocks, and, having been made three hundred years ago, are faded; and, moreover, they are no better than work done to-day.

It may be objected that I have elsewhere stated one must draw specially for reproduction. But the requirements in this case are even at the present moment the simplest, and may be done away with in the future; nothing is necessary but a reasonably clean line, good ink and white paper. The reason that a certain number of examples throughout the book are cut on wood is not that process was unable to reproduce them, but either that the engravings were made before the time of process or that the artists were too indifferent as to the quality of their ink or paper. There is not a single wood-engraving in the book from which a process block could not be made so cleverly that it would be impossible to tell, were they placed side by side, which was the original block and which the process. The photo-engraving, however, is really superior to the wood-engraving for this reason: there are not a dozen engravers who can equal the best process. The work of J. D. Cooper, Paterson, Swain, and Hendriksen, I have shown; that of Whitney, Cole, and Collins can be seen in almost any number of the *Century*. Cole's marvellous reproduction of the head of Lincoln after a drawing by Wyatt Eaton in the Scribner collection of proofs from that magazine, now the *Century*, should be mentioned in this connection; and I now give a wood-engraving by the Frenchman, Charles Baude. These men, and probably a few others, are the only engravers who can equal process.

Cole's Lincoln gives Wyatt Eaton's drawing because it was drawn for him; but the portrait by Wyatt Eaton reproduced by process in the American Chapter is far more freely drawn, and there is no wood-engraving

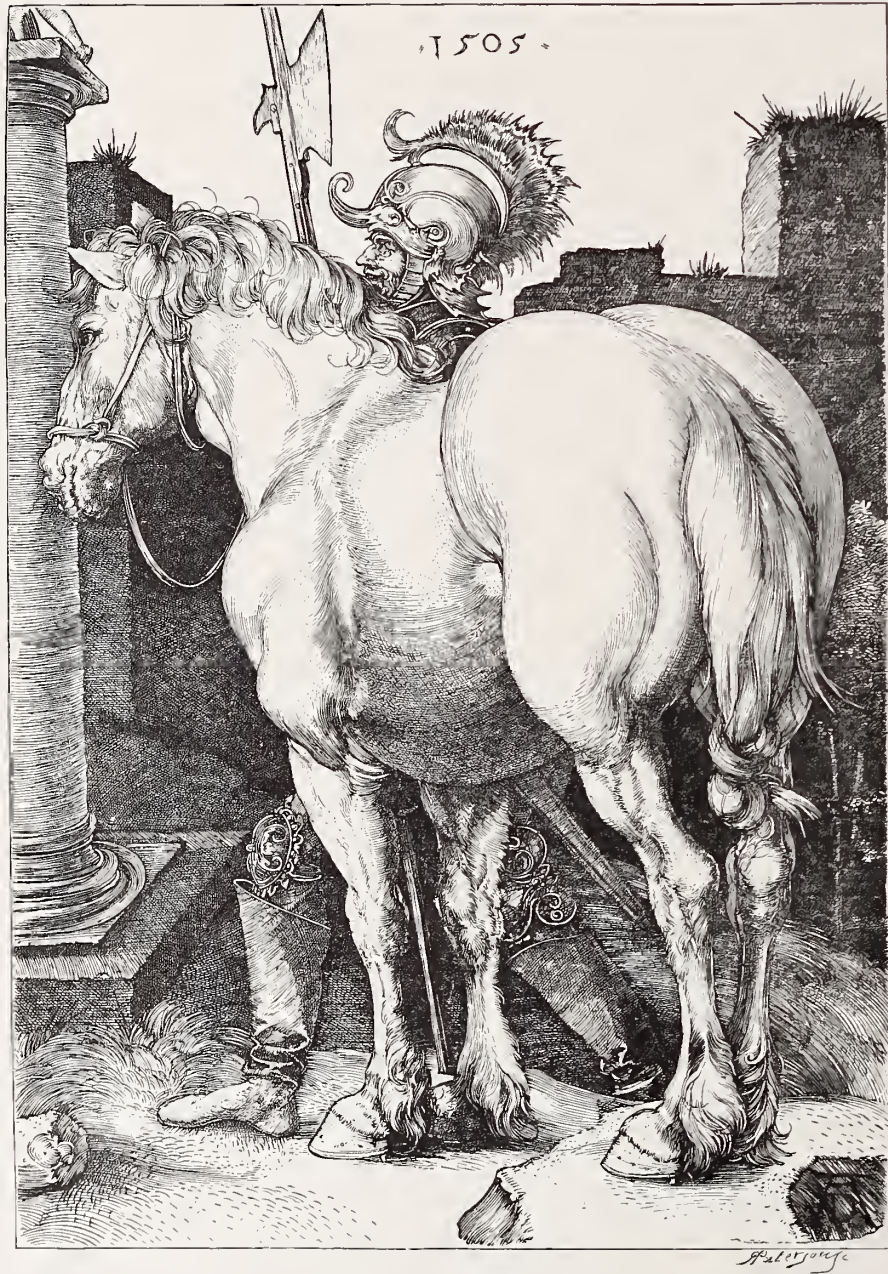
about it. The engraving by Baude after Edelfeldt is most remarkable. Any wood-engraver can show the actual lines, this being the easiest thing possible to do, so long as there is not too much fine cross-hatching in the drawing. But few can give the pen quality of the line, which is



extremely difficult. The men to whom I have referred can. So, too, could some of Meissonier's and Menzel's engravers and some of the English engravers of thirty years ago, though none ever surpassed the work of Baude. But the minute even Baude comes to the elaborate cross-hatching, the delicate greys, or the pencil marks in the drawing, he meets an insurmountable barrier. I say most unhesitatingly that marvellous as is his wood-engraving, I much prefer to it the process blocks after Louis Leloir and Lalauze in the French Chapter.

But suppose that none of this cross-hatching, these delicate greys or

pencil marks existed in the drawing, and that the wood-engraver could cut a perfect facsimile in line and in feeling ; it is a crying shame to put an



artist of such consummate ability to doing the work a machine can accomplish equally well in as many hours as he would take days. There is no more false subjection of art to mechanism in the adoption of process than there was in the substitution of movable types for block types, in the develop-

ment of woodcutting in the time of Dürer, in the resurrection made by Bewick, in the famous white line loved by Mr. Linton, in the use of the



steam press, or in any other development. Why, if we had not made use of these improvements and hundreds of others, we would not even have been apes and winkles! The minute that any real and true improvement is introduced and shown to be an improvement, we are blind and fools not

to adopt it. It is not its cheapness which gives value to process ; neither is it the inability of wood-engraving to obtain the same results—a great engraver almost can ; but it is the fact that unless this great artist wishes to display his power, it is useless to compel a wood-engraver—a vastly different person from a woodcutter—to toil and slave for a result in which a machine so often surpasses him. In a word, this book is merely an exhibition of the best possible pen drawings I could obtain and the best possible mechanical reproductions of them. It is a plea for pen drawing and an exposition of process.

These two prints of Dürer's Big Horse will show the difference in the two methods of reproducing the same engraving better than any amount of written explanation. The first example is a wood-engraving by Paterson. A careful comparison of it with the photo-engraving by the Dawsons, entirely a mechanical reproduction, on the following page, will make clear the points wherein the photo-engraving fails and the wood-engraver has succeeded. But the failures of the mechanical photo-engraving have been less than those of the skilled craftsman, and the results obtained by photography are truer than those obtained by the wood-engraver ; the block mechanically reproduced under the supervision of Alfred Dawson, without any handwork on it at all, has much more of the feeling of Dürer's work than Paterson's engraving. The reason for this is simple. The lines are directly and automatically reproduced by photography, while each one has to be re-made by the wood-engraver. The photo-engraver has reproduced the actual lines of Dürer ; the wood-engraver has had to cut around and produce new ones for himself, which never can be perfectly done. The Dawsons' block contains no more lines than Paterson's engraving,—in fact it does not contain as many, for Paterson has added some that do not exist in the original, and patched up certain imperfections in the original plate, giving in consequence a certain wooden feeling to his block and not the look of metal lines, but this the Dawsons have reproduced in their block, which therefore comes nearer to the original engraving. These differences between the wood-engraving and the process block can only be appreciated by students, though they should be by collectors. To feel them, a long study of the cuts will be necessary, and an examination of the blocks and a comparison with the original is the only way in which they can be appreciated. The reproduction of a line engraving by wood-engraving is one of the most difficult operations possible ; the reproduction of a line engraving by photo-engraving is really absurdly easy.

To have properly shown the absolute difference between these forms

of reproduction and the original, as well as the manner in which they vary from it, I should have given prints from the Dürer plate. This being impossible, I have tried to point out how they differ from each other. But even though I have explained that the plate by the Dawsons¹ is mechanically reproduced, I have no doubt that many people will speak of it as an etching and call the process blocks woodcuts. This wilful ignorance on the part of critics and the public would do no special harm, if it were not that certain publishers and artists are taking advantage of it at the present time to palm off mechanically reproduced plates as etchings, attaching a fictitious value to them, thus perpetrating a fraud. A careful study of the different quality of line and the different points in which the three plates fail and succeed, is the only way in which one can distinguish between an etching and a photogravure, a process block and a wood-engraving.

In all my references to old work, I have mainly used the name of Dürer, but I do not mean to imply that Dürer was the only illustrator in the past. I could have proved what I wished as well by reference to other artists or engravers on steel or wood or copper—to the work of Lucas Van Leyden, Mantegna, Martin Schongaur, Lucas Cranach, Hans Holbein, the Venetians, Botticelli, or even Claude. But just as Adolf Menzel in Germany is the embodiment of modern pen drawing, in fact of modern illustration, so is Albert Dürer of illustration in the past. The motives of other days have been given up; the motives of to-day have replaced them. Which are the greater and which the lesser, I have no intention of discussing. As to technique, of far more importance, it is now infinitely better, and I do not hesitate to maintain that if Dürer were alive to-day, he would do twice as good work as he ever did. For Dürer had to draw directly for the engraver, and then he was not sure of getting the results he wanted; the modern illustrator draws for himself.

Neither have I given another example of that oft-trotted-out Egyptian brick stamp, nor turned up as a trump the everlasting playing card, nor quarrelled over the original Saint Christopher. Indeed, I have purposely omitted all this old work, and begun where the usual authority leaves off. For I hold that if writers would only pay some slight attention to what is going on around them, and stop disputing over the unknowable and undiscoverable in the past, they would at least collect data which would serve as a basis for historians of art in the future. Pen drawing or illustration, the art of to-day, has so far been quite as much ignored as wood-engraving was in its early stages of development. The illustrators of the Middle Ages worked for the people; so do the illustrators of to-day.

¹ See first edition.

HOPES AND FEARS FOR PEN DRAWING

HOPES AND FEARS FOR PEN DRAWING

I HAVE tried to show what pen drawing is, and in conclusion I should like to state my great hopes, and greater fears, for the future of the art. I have already pointed out that pen drawing is supposed to be despised by almost everybody but a few artists and art editors, some of the latter having given it recognition simply because of its cheapness for reproduction. I hope therefore to see an art, which is looked down upon to-day by the same people who despised etching until Mr. Hamerton opened their eyes to its true value, put in its proper place—that is, in equal rank with etching.

A good etching is only a successful pen drawing after all. The qualities of softness, richness, and mistiness can be given by a master of pen drawing, and reproduced in photogravure so cleverly, as to deceive the most accomplished art critic. Smudges, accidental foul biting, and a thousand other things that go to make the value of the state of an etching by Whistler, Haden, or Méryon, can be obtained in ten minutes by a clever man with an old tooth brush and a rough-skinned thumb, while the drawing, the only autographic and valuable part of the production, is exactly the same, and the tone, the softness, and effect of any unwiped plate can be produced by a good printer for a few pence extra. It is really for blemishes and defects, accidental or intentional on the part of the very thoughtful artist, that the collector prizes its rare first state. The value attached to the print from an etched plate is fictitious; the value of a pen drawing is real. The pen drawing is the artist's work; the etching is only a print from it, often not satisfactory to the artist, for though he sees just what he wants on the copper-plate, neither he nor the printer can get it from the plate to the paper. With the etching, as with the pen drawing, there is only one person who can own the original. A print from a photo-

gravure of a pen drawing is really of as much value as the print from an etching. The only difference is that in nine cases out of ten the etching is a failure, the photogravure a success. The collector may own the single pen drawing, but he hardly ever troubles himself to buy the original copper-plate which is owned by the dealer, and which—and not the print from it—is the real equivalent to the pen drawing.¹ But so ignorant are some amateurs and collectors that they pay high prices for artists' proofs of photogravures and autotypes, which cannot even boast of rarity, and are only better than prints inasmuch as an early pull of any plate is of course sharper and clearer, and therefore better, than a later one. I have heard the intelligent collector persuaded into paying £20 for an etching which was quite without artistic merit, and which in a few years will sell for 20s. ; while, for a guinea or so more, he had a gorgeous frame thrown in, which, he was assured, he only got at that price because all the other subscribers were having exactly the same thing!

To value a work of art only for its rarity is a feeling with which I have no sympathy. But it is strange that collectors should not see that an original drawing which they can own and preserve, and which need not be duplicated if they do not wish it, is of more value according to their own standard than a print, which five hundred or fifty thousand other people can own, and over which they have no control. They are in fact influenced by dealers who publish almost all the etchings, and are not willing to encourage the work which would bring them comparatively small profit.

In a recent conversation with a dealer, he admitted my facts to be perfectly true, but in the next breath he said he would fight against them so long as he continued in the print business. For the simple reason that he could purchase an etched plate for the same amount of money he would have to pay for a good pen drawing ; that if the plate proved popular, he could sell thousands of proofs from it, some of which, containing cabalistic and inartistic scrawls, would bring ten times more than others which only contained the artist's signature, while these would sell for twice as much as the ordinary plain prints ; the plain prints themselves being probably quite as good as the first pulls from the plate, because the artist now steels his plate the moment it is finished. Exactly the same result could be obtained by the dealer buying a pen drawing, having a photogravure made from it

¹ Of course the pecuniary value of a work of art is, like that of other things, determined by the law of supply and demand ; but apart from this, the mere ambition to own a thing because no one

else can duplicate it is, as Mr. Will H. Low says, "essentially vulgar, and when exercised in the domain of art excessively so." But then Mr. Low is an artist and not a collector.

and selling the prints. I know that this result is to be had with absolute certainty, while every etching ordered by a dealer is an uncertain speculation. Still, if dealers would go to the leading pen draughtsmen of the day, they would be as sure to get good drawings as they are now certain of getting bad etchings from artless etchers. All that is needed is a little exploiting, but dealers will never do this for themselves. For all business—and etching is no longer an art, but only a business and a trade—is conducted on the most short-sighted principles—principles which are rapidly running it into the ground. But until nothing more can be made from etchings, though the market is flooded with them, dealers will refuse to turn their attention to anything else. I know, as I have said, that if pen drawing can be made to seem worth the financial attention of dealers, the result will be, mainly, more money in their pockets. But still, with so many good pen draughtsmen now at work, it may show the public that there is at the present moment a healthy, flourishing art. However, somebody must compel the dealers to take up pen drawing, if it is to be taken up by them at all, for they will never do so of themselves.

The objection most art editors find to pen drawing is, that it is not understood by the masses. I have made many pen drawings, not only in the house, but among the people, and I have heard from them more expressions of pleasure in a pen drawing, both while it was being made and after it was finished, than I have ever heard given to a pencil or a wash drawing. The reason is easy to explain. In pen drawing the details, the windows of houses, the delicacy of trees or the study of a figure half an inch high, are all worked out carefully, lovingly, and artistically, while in wash drawings these details may be only suggested, and to the average mortal artistic suggestion is absolutely meaningless.

That children like pen drawings needs no proof. The success of Randolph Caldecott's,¹ Kate Greenaway's, Adrien Marie's, and Reginald Birch's drawings,—whether they have a slight wash of colour or not is of no consequence,—answers all arguments to the contrary. Of course, as the educated child grows up, its innate ideas of art are so quickly suppressed that in the end bad drawings are not infrequently preferred to good. It is only wonderful that any one cares in the least for drawing.

That some people do, however, is proved by the popularity of magazines like the *Century* and *Harper's*, and of illustrated weeklies like *Le*

¹ Some people say children do not appreciate Randolph Caldecott's work. But any one who was a child when his books began to come out, as I was, or who knows anything about children, need not be told that such a statement is not true.

Monde Illustré and *Fliegende Blätter*. As far as I know, the utterly inartistic and pseudo-comic papers, which are usually illustrated by pen drawings, have the largest circulation of any illustrated English periodicals—*Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday*, for example, though I ought to add that, technically, the late Mr. Baxter's rendering of Ally Sloper was excessively clever.

Newspapers which really appeal to the masses, and in which there is never mention of the word art, are beginning to use pen drawings, some of which are not bad, though the majority are atrocious. A few of the portraits and little sketches that have appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* are good, but frequently they have been remarkable only for their artlessness. But it is in newspapers that my greatest hopes and fears for the future of pen drawing lie. I hope that some great inventor like Walter or Hoe¹ may turn his attention—as I believe he will—to artistic newspaper printing. If he does he will kill every magazine. For just as literary men are only too willing to work for the newspapers, so would the pen draughtsman be, if he could get his work well printed. And this would merely mean bringing art to the people, where we are told it was in Italy some hundreds of years ago. For just as the people are said to have gone to church to see their art, so many now seek for everything, art included, in the newspapers. But I fear that when this comes to pass, the second state of art will be worse than the first, unless the newspaper office is revolutionised and an art editor introduced. For the news editor would very likely accept whatever came to hand.

Not only can an illustrated newspaper be printed daily, but more than one is published to-day. The New York *Daily Graphic* and the Paris *Charivari* are examples. The last time I saw the New York *Graphic*, however, it was still suffering under the disadvantage of not having any good men to work for it.² Instead of employing good artists, it was content with cheap-looking work, just as the average newspaper, instead of getting a staff of men whose writing would give literary value to its columns, employs people whose special aim seems to be to write stupidly and to enlarge upon the power of journalism—*i.e.* of themselves. That

¹ In fact, in a recent conversation with Mr. De Vinne of New York—the man who has done more to obtain the best results from artists' drawings than any one else, and whose work comes nearer satisfying artists than that of any other printer—he said he had been making experiments continuously for the last few years, in order that when there is a

demand for good illustrated newspapers he will be able to print them.

² It has since ceased to appear. The London Daily which has taken its place, is a success; and the work of several members of its staff will be found in the body of this book.

their power is great, owing to the ignorance of the public, is unfortunately unquestionable. And for this reason, with the general use of drawings in papers, they would be able to bring art down to the same level to which they too frequently debase literature. In the illustrated daily of the future, the plan that will have to be pursued is this : all sorts of illustrated news must be reproduced by the Meisenbach or other process from photographs ; slight sketches could be made by clever men in three or four hours, and reproduced in time to appear in the next, or possibly the same, day's paper ; more important work must be delayed several days or a week, but still the daily would be much ahead of the weeklies with its news.

My greatest fear is only that such a paper would be an instant and phenomenal success, and that its managers would make their fortunes and then, like those of other papers started by a brilliant set of young artists, engravers, and journalists, become merely stockholders, pocket the profits, and allow the paper to fall to a lower level than that of the publications it was going to improve. It is just this, one fears for pen drawing in every direction. The difficulty of keeping to a very high standard is shown in *L'Art* which has very noticeably gone down during the last few years. The only consolation is that pen drawing eventually ruins the people who use it by abusing it. *Our Continent*, an American publication, which started with the most brilliant prospects, was wrecked exactly from this cause ; it began to publish nothing but poor pen drawings and quickly came to grief. Papers which do continue to improve week by week and month by month are the *Century*, *Harper's*, *Fliegende Blätter*. Unless there is an art editor who can draw to himself a clever staff of artists and keep them, an illustrated paper can neither go on, nor maintain the position it has reached.

There is an enormous demand for pen drawing growing daily, and though the supply apparently equals it, pen drawing as an art is not advancing. There are a few artists who really care for it in itself, and endeavour with each new drawing to make something of value, but outside of the larger magazines in which their work usually appears, they apparently make no impression on the majority of pen draughtsmen who are filling books and papers with artless drawings. Any one who will look back, especially through the European magazines and the *Century*, will see that some of the very best pen drawings were made between 1879 and 1883, before this vast army of scribblers had sprung up and found that their wretched work was of value to people as ignorant as themselves.

Just as architects are wanted to restore or ruin whatever little beauty is left in the world, so this ever-increasing army of pen draughtsmen, one might think, is wanted to lower the standard of pen drawing and turn it farther and farther away from its legitimate end.

Because so many pen drawings are now made, it has been said that for artists who work in pen and ink "their only chance of relative immortality is a reputation won in some other department of art." A sufficient answer to this assertion is to be had in the drawings of four men—to mention no more,—Fortuny, Rico, Menzel, and Vierge, which will be known so long as there is any love for art. It might as well be said that because thousands of artless pictures are painted and exhibited every year, a good painter, in order to be remembered, must make his reputation as a sculptor or an architect.

Though it seems as if Mr. Hamerton and Mr. Haden have shown people the beauty and true province of etching, only to make the fortune of print-dealers and to set on pinnacles men who transgress every law governing etching as a fine art, yet at the same time, etchers like Whistler, Haden, and Buhot occasionally produce plates which prove the beauty and province of the art have not been entirely forgotten. In like manner there is a strong saving remnant among pen draughtsmen, and upon it hopes for the future of pen drawing can safely rest. But if good pen drawing is to be confined to these few men, and elsewhere to be used as a medium for disseminating the cheapest and worst art, the outlook is dark enough. Whether the few will leaven the whole is doubtful. But they certainly will never be swallowed up entirely, and their work, like all good art, will live.

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