

The William T. Evans Exhibition and Sale.

Dear Courier:

"Men will praise thee when thou doest well unto thyself;" in other words, a certain amount of self-assertiveness is laudable; it indicates the consciousness of worth and it promises to give necessary evidence in due time. The American art world has established its existence in the modern firmament, its orbit or right of way is recognized and respected at home and abroad, its precise proportions relative to other such worlds are yet unknown, but they are of looming importance in the minds of the reflecting, and it is a good sign that the metropolis of America is giving the place of honor this winter to exhibitions of native work. Last season phases of French impressionism seemed to be the feature in prominence—De Monvel at the American Art galleries, Claude Monet at the Union League club, Sisley at the Durand-Ruel galleries, Monzelli at the Avery gallery, Renoir, Pissarro, Cassatt, Chavannes—such names represent the character of last winter's exhibitions; few amenities, indeed, and leaving out two or three names, very little beauty, some of us thought. It was a relief to descend from this cheerless boulder-strewn summit to the less aspiring impressionism of our own kith and kin who, as spring drew near, spread their canvases before us—Robert Reid, Tarbell, Child Hassam, Lungren, Walker, Mrs. MacMonnies—culminating in the Clarke collection treasures.

Let us confess that the work of our Americans is fairer in our eyes than the works of the children of strangers, and it is with deep satisfaction that we find ourselves gravitating this winter, to our own again. The impulse which gave direction to the present movement was no doubt furnished by the most interesting incident of last February—the exhibition at the American Art galleries and subsequent sale at Chickering hall of the Thomas B. Clarke collection, representing exclusively American artists. It was a notable event and established most satisfactorily the growing pecuniary value of our national art. The sale of the Evans collection, accomplished this week at Chickering hall, is a second apprising of our art product, which shows that American pictures have acquired the proud virtue of being safe investments for unemployed capital. Mr. Evans' handsome mansion in Seventy-fifth street was known to be crowded with this sort of treasure; the favored had seen his white and gold music room—a setting for the fancies, sportive or symbolic, and in attenuated tints like tapestry designs, of F. S. Church; it was rumored that he had a unique collection of splendid landscape pieces and New Yorkers have greatly enjoyed a glance at these things. About sixteen years ago Mr. Evans sold all his European pictures, to replace them with American ones, and it is hoped that he will continue his enthusiastic patronage of native art, thus re-investing the proceeds of this sale, which amounted to one hundred fifty-eight thousand five hundred dollars.

Your correspondent, in visiting the exhibition at the American Art galleries on Saturday, did not experience anything quite equal to the surprise and pleasure, almost describable as a delightful shock, which some features of the Clarke collection last winter produced, especially the magnificent Winslow Homer canvases. The galleries were comfortably filled, many intending purchasers being in evidence who discussed by twos and threes points of merit, marking catalogues with memoranda in anticipation of the evening auction; for Chickering hall is vast, back seats are a disagreeable possibility,

and opera glasses do not always bring a picture into focus.

One of the two small galleries was devoted to F. S. Church; his canvases are all small, about the scale used in work intended for illustration. The second picture, "The Madonna of the Sea," kneeling angels, a flight of innumerable doves swerving down and almost touching the group, others preening their plumage at the feet of the Virgin, was conspicuous in the loan exhibition of the Lotos club last winter. Most of the Church pictures, "Pandora," "Sea Sirens," "White Swans and Pink Lilies," "Una and the Lions," "Evening," "The Dance," were sold the first evening of the auction at a total of three thousand three hundred and sixty five dollars, and the remainder at four thousand one hundred and twenty-five dollars—a somewhat disappointing endorsement of Mr. Evans' discrimination in making a special favorite of F. S. Church. Work about to be submitted to the public verdict of an auction sale, on trial of its merits, its vogue or its fame, excites a sort of romantic interest; the public, too, is on trial and will be judged by its judgment. I jot down some very impressionistic recollections of the exhibition. Some of the enjoyment I felt entitled to was turned into exasperation by sheets of glass which refused to be transparent. In the upper gallery was an Ochtmann "Evening on the Miamus," a phantom landscape at best, where a figure seated at the foot of a pine trunk seems to be gazing with you across moon-lit waters at a wooded point. While searching distractedly for the focus of this painting, twelve of the canvases on the opposite wall were seen distinctly mirrored in the glass reflector. Nearby hung Dessar's "Return to the Fold" of rugged quality; one lived in seeing that, through a sultry moment of summer, no promise of change unless the threat of thunder by and bye, a flock of sheep in lee of a hay stack and under one common fleece. In contrast, presented itself Carlton Higgins' canvas, showing nineteen sheep by count, and a pleasant pasture withal, worth the nibble. Wiggins' "Evening After the Rain" has sheep again, under way to the fold, shepherd in front, dog in rear, and a splendid sky, laboratory of sunshine and rain-sweep, with wells of blue deepening black from the cloud-rifts. Next characteristic Inness "Meadowland in June;" cattle, water, meadow, homesteads, another sky drama, "the stately ceremonial of sunset" just impending—a marvel of delicate aerial perspective in focus which becomes brutal impasto at close range. The Innesses, numbering seventeen, are the most important feature of the exhibition and include the famous "Georgia Pines," the artist's favorite among his pictures. There are "Winter Mornings" and "Summer Mornings" and "Gray Days," "Hours" arrested in their flight and put under a spell of enduring enchantment, "In the Adirondacs," "The Catskills," and "Near Florence," and night hours, as "Nine O'clock," when silence and darkness are made visible. "Sunset on the Passaic," which Benjamin Constant called "an apotheosis," and "Mount Clair by Moonlight," a scene which I think Inness' spirit must love to haunt. Inness has formidable rivals now. Twenty-five hundred was the largest sum realized on any of his canvases at this sale, while Wyant's beautiful "In the Adirondacs" brought six thousand one hundred dollars. But that disparity tells more against the public than against Inness. Homer Martin's "Westchester Hille" brought four thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars and his "Old Church in Normandy" three thousand two hundred dollars—splendid examples of landscape, both.

Mr. Evans seems to have been especially fascinated by Henry W. Ranger's

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First Publication Feb. 10-2

NOTICE OF PARTITION SALE.

Whereas, on January 3, 1900, the undersigned referees in partition, caused a notice to be made and published for five (5) successive weeks next thereafter in the "Courier," a legal newspaper of Lancaster county, Nebraska, therein giving notice to all persons concerned that on the 8th day of February, 1900, they would sell at public auction in the manner provided by law, to the highest bidder for cash, the real estate hereinafter described; and

Whereas, upon the day named for said sale, it appeared to said referees that by reason of the inclemency of the weather, a postponement of said sale should be had and that by such postponement, said lands could be sold to greater advantage than at the time and place fixed; and

Whereas, the said referees did at said time, upon request of the parties in the said partition proceedings, postpone said sale until Saturday, 17th day of February, 1900, at 2 o'clock p. m., standard time.

Now, therefore, notice is hereby given that under and by virtue of an order confirming report of referees and directing a sale of the property hereinafter mentioned, made and entered in a cause entitled "Amer. A. Burd, plaintiff, vs. Omer O. Burd, et al., defendants, 25-196," pending in the district court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, we, the undersigned referees in partition, duly appointed by the said court in the said action, will offer for sale, to the highest bidder for cash, in the manner provided by law, at the east door of the county court house in the city of Lincoln, in said county and state, on the 17th day of February, 1900, at two o'clock p. m. standard time, the following described real estate:

- 1. The south one-half (s 1/2) of the south one-half (s 1/2) of the northwest quarter (nw 1/4) of section thirty (30), township ten (10), range five (5) east.
2. The east one-half (e 1/2) of the east one-half (e 1/2) of the southeast quarter (se 1/4) and the east one-half (e 1/2) of the west one-half (w 1/2) of the east one-half (e 1/2) of said southeast quarter (se 1/4) section thirty (30) township ten (10) range five (5) east, being the east sixty (60) acres of said southeast quarter (se 1/4) of said section thirty (30); and
3. The west one-half (w 1/2) of the northwest quarter (nw 1/4) of section thirty-two (32) township ten (10) range five (5) east, all of said land being situate in Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Dated this 8th day of February, 1900.

J. C. F. MCKESSON, J. H. McMURTRY, H. C. YOUNG, Referees in Partition.

First Publication February 10, 1900.

Notice to Creditors.

In the County Court of Lancaster County, Nebr. In the Matter of the Estate of Charles R. Millington, Deceased.

To The Creditors Of Said Estate: You are Hereby Notified, That I will sit at the County Court Room in Lincoln, in said county, on the 2nd day of July 1900, and again on the 2nd day of October, 1900, to receive and examine all claims against said estate, with a view to their adjustment and allowance. The time limited for the presentation of claims against said estate is six months from the 2nd day of April A. D. 1900, and the time limited for the payment of debts is one year from the 2nd day of April A. D. 1900.

Notice of this proceeding is ordered published four weeks successively in The Courier, a weekly newspaper published in this State.

Witness my hand and the seal of said county court this 7th day of February, 1900.

Frank R. Waters, County Judge.

First Publication February 3-3.

NOTICE OF FINAL REPORT.

In the County Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska: In Re Estate of Pauline Kuhn Frisholz, E. 1290.

The state of Nebraska to Augusta Holk and to any other heirs or next of kin of the said Pauline Kuhn Frisholz, deceased.

Take notice that William Holk has filed a final report of his acts and doings as administrator of said estate of Pauline Kuhn Frisholz, deceased, and it is ordered that said matter be set for hearing on the 28th day of February, A. D. 1900, before said county court, in the court house at Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, at the hour of ten o'clock a. m., at which time any person interested may appear and contest the same; and notice of this proceeding is ordered published for three weeks consecutively in The Courier, a weekly newspaper of general circulation in Lancaster county, Nebraska.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused to be affixed the seal of said county court, at Lincoln, this 31st day of January, A. D. 1900.

FRANK R. WATERS, County Judge. By WALTER A. LEESE, Clerk County Court.

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