

that studied and practised their profession mostly abroad. The very first on the list, Benjamin West, though American by the accident of birth, perfected his art and earned his living and his fame in England. Nearly the same may be said of Copley, the father of Lord Lyndhurst. It is certainly too early yet to speak of an American school of painting, though we can clearly discern the promise of one at no very distant day. We believe that the arts and sciences, all the refinements and embellishments of civilization, will find a genial soil in the neighbouring Republic, when the people shall be less exclusively and intently bent on promoting their material interests and objects of mere utility. Our author justly complains of the present conduct of the nation in this respect.

"We have always regarded one characteristic of our nation with regret and surprise. It is their slow appreciation of native merit. Innumerable facts prove that there exists a singular want of confidence in the genuine worth of the intellectual fruits of the soil. Take literature, for instance. What reflecting observer doubts that the foundation of Irving's success was laid in England? No general approbation was awarded the moral essays of Channing, until his transatlantic fame awoke an echo in the minds of his countrymen. One of the greatest historical painters of the age, died a few months ago in an obscure village near Boston. While abroad, his society was deemed a treasure by men of wealth and rank; at home he was scarcely noticed, save by some accomplished foreigners, who sought out his retreat to do homage to his genius. Metaphysicians in the old world say that Edwards on the Will is the ablest work, in its department, which has been produced in a century. Its merit has scarcely been recognized by American philosophers."

In his estimate of the respective merits of the painters, the writer may have wished to be candid; but his notice of West, the Quaker artist, strikes us as being hypercritical, fault-finding, and disparaging, such as could be expected only from a prejudiced mind. Perhaps that artist became too British for the taste of our author, and enjoyed too much of George III.'s favour and patronage.

Notable and instructive incidents abound in these sketches of Artist-Life. We cannot refrain from adducing the following paragraph respecting Morse, by profession an artist, but by an enviable destiny the inventor of the Electric Telegraph, that wonder and triumph of our times. And here we may notice, that similar genius belongs also to his brother, who is well known as the editor of the *New York Observer*, and as the inventor of Cerography.

"A striking evidence of the waywardness of destiny is afforded by the experience of this artist, if we pass at once from this early and hopeful moment to a very recent incident. He then aimed at renown through devotion to the beautiful, but it would seem as if the genius of his country, in spite of himself, led him to this object, by the less flowery path of utility. He desired to identify his name with art, but it has become far more widely associated with science. A series of bitter disappointments obliged him to 'coin his mind for bread'—for a long period, by exclusive attention to portrait-painting—although, at rare intervals, he accomplished something more satisfactory.—More than twelve years since, on a voyage from Europe, in a conversation with his fellow-passengers, the theme of discourse happened to be the electro-magnet; and one gentleman present related some experiments he had lately witnessed at Paris, which proved the almost incalculable rapidity of movement with which electricity was disseminated. The idea suggested itself to the active mind of the artist that this wonderful and but partially explored agent, might be rendered subservient to that system of intercommunication which had become so important a principle of modern civilization. He brooded over the subject as he walked the deck or lay wakeful in his berth, and by the time he arrived at New York, had so far matured his invention as to have decided upon a telegraph of signs which is essentially that now in use. After having sufficiently demonstrated his discovery to the scientific, a long period of toil, anxiety, and suspense intervened before he obtained the requisite facilities for the establishment of the Magnetic Telegraph. It is now in daily operation in the United States, and its superiority