

oly Family. — Peter Paul Rubens one of the most celebrated of painters, and the first among Flemish painters, was born in 1577. Tall, well-made, of good family, with a strong constitution, at the same time gentle and

proud, noble in his manners, distinguished in his clothing, he was sought by kings and princes. His life was but one continual triumph in every way. The facility of this artist was prodigious; the number of his works reproduced by engraving amounts to over 1300. He painted everything: fables, mythology, history, allegory, portraits animals, flowers, landscapes, religious subjects and he excelled in every style. He formed a great many pupils, in the first rank of whom must be mentioned Van Dyck, Jordaens and Téniers. He died at Ant werp in 1640, full of honors and wealth. His grateful country raised a statue to him