

Art Lover's Page

AN EPIC OF THE FIELDS

By ART LOVER

During the last few months we have often read how the women of Europe are doing the work in the fields, taking the places of the men who have become soldiers. No picture could portray this

Millet had a hard struggle to get his education in art, but patient and constant effort brought about the desired result. After some years he finally settled at Barbizon, a little village on the



THE GLEANERS

phase of life better than Millet's Gleaners, and so we will take it for our subject this month.

Jean Francois Millet was born in the little hamlet of Gruchy, not far from Cherbourg, on October 4, 1814, and lived and worked upon the farm of his parents until nearly eighteen years of age. He began his first art work by sketching the sheep and geese upon the farm. When about eighteen, Millet made a wonderful sketch of the bent figure of an old man, which so impressed his father that he took his son to Cherbourg to learn the art of painting.

edge of the forest of Fontainebleau, about thirty miles from Paris. During the twenty-seven years that he spent there Millet painted almost every variety of peasant life; and he painted the bent, toil-worn figures, not as a gentleman artist come to the country in search of picturesque subjects for his brush, but as a man who lived among these people and knew them and loved them.

Millet passed away on the twentieth of January, 1875, a man of sixty-one years of age, whose work was not recognized as great until nearly the end of his life, but whose pictures bring