

FINE ART IN NEW YORK.*

THE best time for the lover of art to visit New York is the spring of the year—in April or May. The many artists who make that city and its vicinity their home have, during the winter, completed their paintings, for which, during the previous summer, they had made studies from nature, and have placed them on exhibition in the National Academy, or other art galleries. We know no more pleasant places of resort. The handsome rooms are thronged with the most cultured people of the city—the ladies in their elegant spring toilets. The various paintings on the walls—landscape, still-life, figures, historical pieces, *genre* pictures—are a study of exhaustless delight. One receives new impressions of the grand or beautiful at every turn, and carries away precious memories, to be summoned up at will in the picture galleries of the mind. The chief “place of honour” in the Academy this year has been given to “Elaine,” by Thomas Hovenden, A.N.A. This is a large painting, 54 inches by 72. It bears the following motto:—

“All her bright hair streaming down ;—
And all the coverlid was cloth of gold
Drawn to her waist, and she herself in white
All but her face, and that clear-featured face
Was lovely, for she did not seem as dead
But fast asleep, and lay as though she smiled.”

The barge, steered by “the dumb old servitor,” having paused at the palace doorway, King Arthur

“—bade the meek Sir Percivale
And pure Sir Galahad to uplift the maid;
And reverently they bore her into the hall.
Then came the fine Gawain and wondered at her,

* For the engravings that illustrate this paper we are indebted to the courtesy of Messrs. Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co., who have published an illustrated catalogue of the National Academy Exhibition, containing 135 reproductions of the principal pictures, most of them being photo-engravings from sketches by the artists themselves. In no way can those who have not visited the exhibition gain so good a conception of its character—while to those who have, the book, with its descriptive letter-press, will be a pleasant *souvenir* of their visit.