

## 60 MASTER PAINTERS

TWO great pictures by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Two, with others ; but these alone worth many an entanglement among the cross-roads of the West, to see for half-an-hour by spring sunshine:—the *Holy Family*, and the *Graces*. . . . Great, as ever was work wrought by man. In placid strength, and subtlest science, unsurpassed ;—in sweet felicity, incomparable.

If you truly want to know what good work of painter's hand is, study those two pictures from side to side, and miss no inch of them (you will hardly, eventually, be inclined to miss one) : in some respects there is no execution like it ; none so open in the magic. For the work of other great men is hidden in its wonderfulness—you cannot see how it was done. But in Sir Joshua's there is no mystery ; it is all amazement. No question but that the touch was so laid ; only that it *could* have been so laid, is a marvel for ever. So also there is no painting