

Artists' Corner.

NO. XI.—SIR PETER PAUL RUBENS.

Peter Paul Rubens was born at Cologne on the 29th June, 1577 the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, on which account he was named after these two Apostles. The parents of Rubens were descended from distinguished families of the city of Antwerp but in consequence of the civil wars, which prevailed in the Low Countries about 1570 they took refuge in Cologne. Here the Father of the artist died in 1597, and his widowed mother shortly afterwards took advantage of the restoration of Spanish rule in Flanders, and returned to Antwerp, where the greatest attention was paid to the education of her youthful son. In his sixteenth year Rubens was appointed page in the household of Lalating but not relishing this occupation he soon returned home, and having manifested a great desire to become a painter, his mother placed him under Tobias Verhaegt, a landscape painter of some note. He did not remain long here, but entered the studio of Adrian Van Oort, a historical painter and celebrated as a colourist. But the private character of Van Oort was not of so high a class as his powers of coloring, and the young artist very soon quitted this connexion, and placed himself under Otho Van Ycen, or as he is styled Otho Venius, who had been appointed court painter to the Infanta Isabella and the Archduke Albert, and was considered one of the most accomplished artists of the Italian school. Venius had received a liberal education, and was a person of refined manners, so that his instructions and society were very valuable to Rubens, who remained with him till his twenty-third year, when he was recommended by his preceptor to visit Italy. He proceeded to Venice, where he remained a short time, and then passed on to Mantua, where his letters of introduction from the Archduke, gained him a cordial welcome from the Duke Vincenzia Gonzaga who offered him the post of Gentleman of the Chamber. This position gave him an excellent opportunity for studying the works of Giulio Romano, an artist whose treasures Rubens held in very high esteem. Having remained here two years, he obtained permission from the Duke to revisit Venice to study a little more closely the coloring of Paul Veronese and Titian, than he had previously done, and on his return to Mantua gave evidence in the production of some magnificent pictures that his journey had not been fruitless. The Archduke Albert having about this time commissioned Rubens to paint three pictures for the Church of St. Croce in Gerusalemme, in Rome, representing "The Finding of the cross by St. Helena, Christ bearing his cross," and the Crucifixion, he repaired to Rome for that purpose and while there copied some pictures for the Duke of Mantua. But we must view the great master of the Flemish School, not merely as a celebrated artist, he was alike "the skillful diplomatist, and the accomplished man of the world—characters that have rarely been combined in any other individual, and which seem in some respects to be inconsistent with each other, inasmuch as the busy world of an artist generally extends but a short distance from his own Studio." In 1605 Rubens was recalled from Rome and despatched by the Duke Vincenzia as an ambassador to the Court of Spain. The Artist set out for Madrid, carrying with him valuable presents for Philip III. and the Duke of Lerma, the king's favourite minister, and having executed the object of his mission with the utmost satisfaction to all parties interested, he occupied with his skill in diplomacy, a touch of the magnificent in art by painting portraits of the King and his courtiers, and then returned again to Mantua. Shortly after his return Rubens again proceeded to Rome where he was joined by his elder brother Phillip, having received a commission to ornament the tribune of St. Maria in Vallicella, in which he painted three pictures after the manner of Paul Veronese. In 1607 on leaving Rome he passed through Milan

to Genoa where he executed several pictures, the most celebrated of which were the "Circumcision" and St. Ignatius Working a Miracle. While here he received tidings of the illness of his mother, and he hastened to Antwerp, from which he had been absent eight years; but although he used all possible speed, he was not in time to see his mother alive. He had no inducement to remain in the Low Country now that his mother had departed, and while he contemplated the propriety of returning to Italy, he yielded to the earnest entreaties of the Infanta, and the Archduke to abandon the project and remain in Antwerp.

Varieties.

GOOD HUMOR is the blue sky of the soul, in which every star of talent will shine more clearly.

NEVER PURCHASE love or friendship by gifts; when thus obtained, they are lost as soon as you stop payment.

AN OLD PROVERB.—"He that hath a prudent wife, hath a guardian angel by his side; but he that hath a proud wife, hath the devil at his elbows."

TO HASTEN A MARRIAGE, lock up the girl and show her lover the front door. A long courtship up town was successfully terminated in this way.

THE GREATER the difficulty the more glory there is in surmounting it, skilful pilots gain their reputation from storms and tempests.

DEAL GENTLY with those who stray. Draw back by love and persuasion. A kiss is worth a thousand kicks. A kind word is more valuable to the lost, than a mine of gold.

CALMNESS is the most abundant origin of all that is keen and deep in the movements of the mind, it is the essence of judgment, the author of penetration, the substitute of invention.

THERE is a large and fertile space in every life, in which might be planted the oaks and fruit-trees of enlightened principle and virtuous habits, which, growing up, would yield to old age an enjoyment, a glory, and a shade.

TO CURE NOSE BLEEDING.—The Scientific American says:—Roll up a piece of paper and press it up under the upper lip. We have tried this plan in a great number of cases, and have only seen it fail on one occasion.

THE POWER OF BEAUTY.—This is universally acknowledged, and may be termed nature's letter of introduction, nevertheless, he might make a sorry bargain who would buy a watch because of the goodness of the case.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL has undertaken to write the life of Thomas Moore, and to edit the Journal which the poet kept. In this undertaking his lordship complies with the request of his deceased friend, as expressed in his will.

"JOHN," said a worthy matron to her better half, one morning. "Get up, the morning's breaking." "Well," replied John, coolly, "let him break, he don't owe me anything," and fell to sleep again.

SOURTNEY says, "I have heard a good story of our friend Charles Fox. When his house was on fire he found all efforts to save it useless, and being a good draughtsman, he went up to the next hill to make a drawing of the fire—the best instance of philosophy I ever heard of."

WHEN THE DOMESTIC virtues display themselves in the midst of privations, and anxieties, and sufferings, then they shine most conspicuously. They are like the snow-drops and crocuses, which unexpectedly peep out of the frost-bound soil, to diversify the depth and dreariness of winter, and give us a cheerful foretaste of the coming spring.

A FIRE BROKE OUT a few weeks since in Billiter Street London, where were deposited some important pictures belonging to a gentleman of Seville, which had been brought over for sale.

They were unfortunately all consumed in the conflagration, among them was a fine Marillo, and other works of considerable estimated value, if we may judge of the insurance effected upon them, amounting to £11,000.—*Art Journal*.

SHAKESPEARE, though one of the most gorgeous of men, was a great biggler. He was often known to dispute with a sheepkeeper for half an hour on the matter of a penny. He gives Hotspur credit for a portion of his own disposition, when he makes him say, "I would cavil on the ninth part of a hair."

Biographical Calendar.

	A. D.	
May 30	1416	Jerome of Prague, burned.
	1431	Joan of Arc, burned.
	1640	Peter Paul Rubens, died.
	1741	Alexander Pope, died.
	1778	Voltaire, died.
	1832	Sir J. Mackintosh, died.
" 31	1739	P. V. Vergniaux, born.
	1809	Joseph Haydn, died.
	1847	Dr. Chalmers, died.
June 1	1581	Nicolas Poussin, born.
	1815	Marshal Berthier, com. suicide.
	1896	J. F. Oberlin, died.
	1811	Sir David Wilkie, died.
" 2	1581	James Douglas, Earl of Morton, beheaded.
	1819	W. Haas Wilson, died.
" 3	1658	Dr. Harvey, died.
	1726	Dr. Hutton, born.
" 4	1738	George III., born.
	1751	Earl of Elton, born.
" 6	1723	Adam Smith, born.
	1731	Dr. Sachererell, died.
	1771	Krnest, King of Hanover, born.
	1826	Carl von Weber, died.

François Marie Aronct de Voltaire, was born at Chatenay, near Paris, in 1694. He was educated at the Jesuits' College of Louis XIV., where he displayed talents which warranted the highest expectations. His father intended him for the law, but he declined to follow that profession, and assiduously cultivated his passion for literature. In 1716 he was imprisoned in the Bastille, on an unfounded suspicion of having written a libel on the government; and while there he formed the plan of "La Henriade" and completed the "Tragedy of CEdipus." A second unjust confinement in the Bastille made him leave France for England for three years, but he returned to France in 1730, and published two tragedies, "Brutus" and "Zara." His next work, "Lettres Philosophiques" gave such offence by its profanity that the parliament of Paris condemned the book to be burned, and the author to be seized. He was therefore obliged to live in concealment for some years, in Champagne, where he wrote his "Elements of Newton's Philosophy," and three plays, the last of which, "Merope," brought out in 1743, was received with such applause, that Voltaire became a favourite at court, and was appointed gentleman of the bedchamber and historiographer of France. In 1746 he was admitted into the Academy of Sciences, and in 1750 went to Berlin at the invitation of Frederic the Great of Prussia. They soon quarrelled, and Voltaire went first to Colmar, next to Geneva, and afterwards to Ferney, where he resided the remainder of his life. Early in 1778 he visited Paris, where he was received with flattering marks of distinction; but his incessant literary labours, and change of manner of living, soon brought on disease, and a too large dose of opium which he took in supposed to have hastened his death, which took place May 30, 1778. His collected works form seventy volumes, octavo. He had stupendous talents but there were many parts of his character, by no means great or estimable.—*Aluquis*.