

Art Lover's Page

THE GREATEST OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

By Art Lover

"But see the Virgin blest
Hath laid her Babe to rest."

We do not know that these lines by Milton inspired the beautiful painting of the Madonna and Child which Carlo Dolci gave to the world about two hundred and fifty years ago, but Milton

splendid ode written by the great English poet does not matter much, but today as we stand before the lovely picture which hangs in the old Corsini Palace at Rome, the lines come quickly to mind.

The painting does not represent the



THE MADONNA AND CHILD

wrote "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity" in 1629, when he was twenty-one years of age, and Carlo Dolci was then thirteen years old. Whether the young Florentine painter ever knew the

Nativity with its familiar surroundings of shepherds, angels, beasts, and rude manger or shed, which many of the early Italian masters thought appropriate for the subject, but simply the