

STUDIES IN ART.*

I.

THE accomplished author of the work mentioned in the footnote has, for many years, enjoyed a distinguished reputation as one of the most accomplished and accurate art critics of America. Her writings on the subject of art have been numerous and valuable. In this portly volume are collected three distinct works, treating the kindred subjects of painting, sculpture, and architecture. The study of art is becoming more fully recognized as an important part of a liberal education. As such it occupies a prominent place in the Chautauqua course of reading and study. Such a book as this would be an admirable one for Chautauquans, and for all others who wish to obtain a somewhat adequate view of the development of the fine arts. The author gives a succinct, but comprehensive, view of the three great departments of art in ancient, mediæval, and modern times. A brief anecdotal biography of the great artists, a description of their chief works, and a characterization of the different schools of painting, sculpture, and architecture are also given. One of the most important features of the book is its copious pictorial illustrations of the *chef-d'œuvres* of art of every age and country. Many of these engravings are of superior merit, as the fine portrait of Raphael, his exquisite Sistine Madonna, his Saint Cecilia, and others which we give. All of them will give a much clearer conception of the subjects than pages of description. The book is quite a library, or encyclopædia, on the subjects which it treats.

We purpose briefly to review some of the great art periods described in this book, on which we shall draw largely for both text and illustrations.

Michael Angelo, great in sculpture and in architecture, is no less great in painting. He stands out in the history of art like some one of his prophets in the Sistine Chapel, a man by himself, unlike his predecessors, and leaving behind him no descendants who resemble him. He learned the technical part of his art in the school of Ghirlandajo; but his Titanic creations were his own.

* *A History of Art for Beginners and Students: Sculpture, Painting, Architecture.* By CLARA ERSKINE CLEMENT. 8vo, pp. 850. New York: Frederick A. Stokes. Toronto: William Briggs.