

No. 294. *The Blessed Virgin and Infant Jesus with Saint John the Baptist.*

In a rocky retreat through which is seen a landscape with a mountain, the Blessed Virgin on the left is holding the Child Jesus whilst in front of them is St. John in adoration.

On copper, 12 in. h. x 10 in. w.

BASSANO (Jacopo da—Il Bassano), 1510-1592.

Was born in 1510, in the city from which he takes his sobriquet. He was trained by his father and afterwards at Venice by Bonifazio Veneziano. His mature style however was mainly formed on the example of Titian. He painted historical subjects and portraits, and biblical scenes which lent themselves to genre treatment. He settled at Bassano latterly and devoted himself to painting scenery around his home in which he generally represented figures and animals. He painted a number of such scenes as "The Animals entering the Ark," the "History of Jacob" and "The Adoration of the Shepherds"—one version of the former is in the Louvre at Paris. His works contain a massive breadth of strength as well as a beauty of colour, which equal the best Venetians. He was devoted to painting animals. He died in 1592.

No. 128. *The adoration of the Shepherds.*

Seated beneath the ruins of some Roman architecture, the Blessed Virgin is exposing the Infant Saviour who lies in a wicker manger, to an old shepherd who kisses His feet. He bears a basket of eggs, etc., as an offering. St. Joseph is seated with an open book on his knees and is in the act of speaking to a second shepherd who carries a young lamb; a dog, and some figures in background. Through an open window is seen the head of an ass. Angels and cherubim hover above. The colouring of this work is extremely fine and the draperies well set, and the figure of St. Joseph is grandly painted.

On canvas, 40 in. h. x 32 in. w.