HORSLEY (JOHN CALLCOTT), R.A.

B. 1817. D. 1903.

John Callcott Horsley was born in London on January 29th, He was the son of William Horsley, the musician. Horsley studied at the Royal Academy Schools, and at the age of nineteen produced the picture "Rent Day at Haddon Hall in the Sixteenth Century," which was praised by Wilkie. Pride of the Village," now in this Gallery, was the first picture Horsley exhibited at the Royal Academy. In 1843 his cartoon of "St. Augustine Preaching" gained one of the 200 guinea prizes in the Westminster Hall competition, and in 1844 he obtained a place among the six painters commissioned to execute further designs for the Palace of Westminster. Horsley, with Cope, a fellow competitor, went to Munich to study fresco painting, and afterwards proceeded to Italy to see the works of the early Italian masters. His fresco in the House of Lords, called "The Spirit of Religion," painted in 1845, may be said to be the result of this journey. Another painting in the same medium is to be found in the Poets' Hall of the New Palace, and is entitled, "Satan surprised at the Ear of Eve"; and "Henry V., believing the King dead, assumes the Crown," a large oil painting of 1847, secured Horsley a premium of the third class. his easel pieces some of the better known are "Malvolio in the Sun practising to his own Shadow," "Hospitality," and two paintings commissioned by the Prince Consort, "L'Allegro" and "Il Penseroso." For two frescoes painted for the Hall of Somerleyton, Horsley went back to early English history, and represented incidents in the childhood of Alfred the Great. 1858 he purchased Willesley, at Cranbrook, in Kent, giving his first commission to Mr. Norman Shaw to restore and enlarge the house. Here he painted some of his rustic pieces, such as "Hide and Seek," children playing in Cranbrook Churchyard.

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