

Arthur Wm Davis

1765 - 1822

Autos

arranger of voyage of J. L.
Mason on Pelow Island
exhib at Rich

DEVIS, Arthur William, *de'-vis*, an English painter, who received, when very young, a silver medal from the hands of Sir Joshua Reynolds, then president of the Royal Academy, for proficiency in the arts. He was employed by the East India Company, when only twenty years of age, as draughtsman on a voyage of discovery; but the ship despatched on the expedition was wrecked on the Pellew Islands, and Devis, after much privation, succeeded in reaching Bengal, where Sir William Jones and other distinguished individuals received him kindly, and warmly patronized him. He returned to England in 1795, and successfully practised his art for many years. His most important pictures are — "King John Signing Magna Charta," "Lord Cornwallis receiving the Sons of Tippoo Sahib as Hostages," and the "Battle of Trafalgar." Before executing the last-named work, Devis went on board the *Victory*, and made a sketch of the cockpit where Nelson died, and likewise took portraits of the officers and others who surrounded the hero in his last moments. B. Aug. 10, 1762; D. Feb. 11, 1822.