

141 Birmingham Street
Amond, Thursday.
Feb 9.

Dear Sir

Will you take
a Cup of Tea with me
to-night after Cocherell's
Lecture? I shall be glad
to see you

Yrs. truly

Wm Etty

— Wetherington Esq

P.S. I shall be at the
Lecture

The Bank ⁱⁿ St. Pauls
Wednesday Morning

My Dear Sir

I am sorry I was
obliged to be out when
you and the other Gentlemen
did me the favour to call.
Endeavour, if possible, to come
at 1/2 past eight to-morrow
morning, Thursday, to breakfast.
I have asked them to meet you.

Yours very truly

Wm Etty.

Mr. Etty, the Painter.

ETTY (WILLIAM), R.A. 18740V.2

B. 1787. D. 1849.

William Etty was born at York, March the 10th, 1787; his father was a miller. In 1798 he was apprenticed to Robert Peck, a letterpress printer at Hull, with whom he served seven years' but, says Etty, in his autobiography, "I had such a busy desire to be a painter, that the last years of my servitude dragged on most heavily." In 1806 he removed to London, to his uncle, Mr. William Etty, of Lombard Street, and at once earnestly prepared himself to enter as a student at Somerset House. His first academy, however, was the plaster-cast shop kept by Gianelli, in Cock Lane, Smithfield, where Etty made a drawing of the ancient group of Cupid and Psyche, which procured him admission into the Royal Academy; he and Collins entered it the same week in 1807. By his uncle's generosity, who paid one hundred guineas for him, Etty became the pupil for one year of Sir Thomas (then Mr.) Lawrence, residing at that time in Greek Street, Soho Square, but the incessant occupation of Lawrence left him little leisure to assist his pupil, and Etty's difficulties were so great, that he writes—"Despair almost overwhelmed me, I was ready to run away, I felt that I could not get on, but a voice within said *persevere!* I did so, and at last triumphed, but I was nearly beaten."

When his year was expired, Etty painted from nature, and copied the "old masters" in the British Gallery: this, he says, he found easy, after copying Lawrence. He was also a constant student in the "Life School" of the Royal Academy. His industry was indefatigable, yet he tells us he tried for all medals, gold and silver, and never got any of either. He ventured at one time to send six pictures to the Academy exhibition, all were rejected; this happened year after year at the Academy, and at the British Gallery, but by discovering his defects, and by great industry in endeavouring to correct them, he at last conquered

his evil fortune, and by such works as "The Coral Finders," exhibited in 1820; "Cleopatra," exhibited in the following year, and some others, he established a reputation, and at length entered upon his great career.

In 1822 Etty went to Italy, visiting Venice, Florence, Rome, and Naples, but it was in Venice that he found the greatest attractions;—"Venice, the birth-place and cradle of colour, the hope and idol of my professional life!" He studied in the Academy there, and was elected an honorary member of it.

He returned to London early in 1824. The first picture he exhibited after his return, was "Pandora crowned by the Seasons," in the Exhibition of 1824, for which he was chosen an associate of the Royal Academy; and in 1828 he became a member.

In the autobiography mentioned in this notice, Etty has himself pointed out what he considered his greatest works. "'To the pure in heart, all things are pure,' my aim in all my great pictures has been to paint some great moral on the heart"—"The Combat," *the beauty of mercy*; the three "Judith" pictures, *patriotism*, and self-devotion to country, people, and God; "Benaiah, David's chief captain," *valour*; "Ulysses and the Syrens," the importance of resisting *sensual delights*, or an Homeric paraphrase on "The Wages of Sin is Death"; three pictures of "Joan of Arc," *Religion, Loyalty, and Patriotism*, like the modern Judith. In all, nine great pictures, "as it was my desire to paint three times three."

In the summer of 1849 an exhibition of Etty's works, to the number of 130 pictures, took place in the great room of the Society of Arts, at the Adelphi, in a surprising manner displaying the great powers of this distinguished English painter, especially as a colourist. Etty died in the same year, 1849, in his native place, York, on the 13th of November; he was never married, and having lived a very retired life, he accumulated a considerable fortune.* He contributed one hundred and thirty-six pictures to the Royal Academy exhibitions. 18740V.2