

HERBERT, John Rogers, R.A., a distinguished English historical painter, who, after completing his studies at the Royal Academy, began his artistic career as a portrait-painter. His first work which attracted attention was "The Appointed Hour," wherein a young Italian gentleman lies dead, from the dagger of a bravo, at the bottom of a flight of steps, while his mistress, unconscious of the act, is descending to meet him. This was one of the most popular prints of its day. After having travelled in Italy, Herbert produced a series of Venetian pictures, among

the best of which were "The Brides of Venice," and "Pirates of Istria bearing off the Brides of Venice." On embracing the Roman Catholic faith, his style underwent a very marked change; henceforth he painted only scriptural or ecclesiastical subjects, all of which were wrought in the mediæval manner; "The First Introduction of Christianity into Britain," "Christ and the Daughter of Samaria," and "Our Saviour and his Parents at Nazareth," being among his best works at this period. He was elected a R.A. in 1846, whereupon his style became again modified. In 1848 he was commissioned to paint a picture from "King Lear," which, with some others, was executed in fresco for the new palace at Westminster. He subsequently engaged to paint "Moses Descending from the Mount," for the same building. B. at Maldon, Essex, 1810.

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Prologus Herbert
1410-1490
Pencil. manuscript
Admiral's House, 1475, R. by Henry
painted for Henry VIII. King's house

189.5421

My dear Sir

I am sorry that I was not at home when you called. I have intended to have waited upon you but have, whenever I could prevail upon myself to leave my Station been obliged to attend to a matter of Architecture - as I am having a painting room built. I regret that I should rather have mis-calculated the length of time the picture would occupy but I fear I shall not be able to complete it in the three months, as it is a subject which requires such intensity of feeling that it is impossible to be always equal to it however it is going on, and I think without boasting I may say it will do me immense service.

I know I have a great work to oppose in
the Knox but it does not daunt me. Mine
is a better subject, you will smile when
I tell I mean to treat it as well.

I have admitted no visitors to my studies
and am obliged to you for your patience
in not asking to see the picture. for I feel
very much more at liberty to work out my
own feeling than if suggestions were made
the probability is I might have been ~~put~~^{put} out
let me do nearly all I can first then I will
submit with your opinion & if any improvement
can be pointed out I will give me great
pleasure to make it. I shall get into my
new studies in three weeks & will then have
the opportunity of calling upon you

Believe me
My dear Sir
Yr most obed^t serv^t
J. M. Mearns

7 Melcombe Place
Londⁿ W^c

Twenty Oct^r 1825.