

When in 1847 there was a similar commission contemplated by the Eoglish Government, it was said that the sum Mr. J. H. Robinson was to receive for engraving 'The Raising of Laza- rus' was £5000. A publisher will often spend several thousand pounds in bringing out a first- class engraving. The "copyright" alone is a most serious item. Landseer got for the "Peace and War," now in the Vernon Gallery, £2650. The prices charged for the impressions must of course be in proportion. For instance, when Colnaghi published Doo's engraving of the "Raising of Lazarus," there were 100 artist's proofs at 20guincas, 100 proofs on India paper at 15 guincas, 200 prints on India paper at 10 guincas, 200 prints on India paper at 6 guineas, whilst the prints themselves were charged 5 guineas each.

The same writer says:-

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The same writer says:— The subject of engraving leads us naturally to the sister subject of painting. No collecting mania is anything like so popular or so exten-swely practised as that for pictures. They have come to be considered as indispensable articles of furniture in every well-appointed house; and it is no uncommon thing, in consequence, to meet with a collector who falks and evidently thinks much less of the gems that ornament his gallery than of the checks by which they were secured. And how grossly the "old masters" are belied in many of these collections! They had no more to do with the productions to which their names are appended in all the splendor that gilt letters can give them than the purchaser himself. But if a man will order a Chause five feet by three and a half, because he has a spare corner of iffose dimensions, he had better not inquire too closely, any more than in the case of a St. closely, any more than in the case of a St. Anthony's tooth, us to what animal it originally belonged. In London alone there are, I suppose, sold every year more pictures by the "old masters" than are left to us of their paintings altogether. Let me mention two facts. In the year 1845 the number of pictures imported into England amounted, according to the returns of the Custom House, to 14,091. In one month of the same year there are more did be used on the the same year there were sold by auction in London alone, with out reckoning those included

in furniture sales, though the number of these must have been considerable, 4617. The difference between the prices at which such pictures are acquired and those they fetch The difference between the prices at which such pictures are acquired and those they fetch when brought to the hammer, is amusing. A Baphael, declared in the and in room to have cost its late owner 1000 galaceas, sells at £37! A Yorkshire geniteman bequeaths twelve of has pictures to the National Gallery; they are re-jected, every one. The whole collectron is brought to the hammer: it had cost £3000; it produces £150-about the value of the frames. Nor is it only in Envland that a man sells a horse for a gross o green spectarles. A French collector insures his gallery for 3,339,500 france. It is sold some years afterwards, nume-rous additions having meantime been made to it, for 535,435 frances. And one canoot imagine in these cases that there is now such possible explanation as in the case of the Earl of Sut-fok's ten pictures-Guido's "Ecce Homo' amongat them-that were stolen so mysteriously from Chariton Park in October, 1856, and not recovered till the early part of 1868, when some of them had been haveging in a small public house and an old picture shop, but failed to meet with purchasers, as they were considered auch very inferior productions!

INSTRUCTION.

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