

**BURLINGTON FINE ARTS CLUB; PICTURES,
DRAWINGS, DESIGNS AND STUDIES, 1883;
EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS OF
ARCHITECTURAL SUBJECTS, 1884;
EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS IN WATER
COLOUR AND IN BLACK AND WHITE**

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Burlington Fine Arts Club.

1883.

PICTURES, DRAWINGS,
DESIGNS AND STUDIES

BY THE LATE

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI.

BORN 1828; DIED 1882.



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DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI.

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI, whose Paintings and Drawings are here for the first time collected together, concurrently with the selection shown at the Royal Academy, was born in London on the 12th May, 1828. He was the eldest son of the Italian Patriot, Gabriele Rossetti, who found refuge in England in the dark time of his country's oppression under Ferdinand of Naples, and of his wife, Frances Polidori, a daughter of Signor Polidori, Secretary to Alfieri, and sister to the Dr. Polidori who travelled with Lord Byron.

Rossetti was never himself in Italy, but, whilst always claiming his birthright as an Englishman, he inherited to the full the passionate fervour and ardent temperament of the South, combined with a mystic imagination, the conjoint influences of which resulted in Poems and Pictures which mark a new departure in Art.

As the intellectual energy of England at the period of Chaucer, and again at that magnificent era of genius, the time of Shakespeare,

Spenser and Bacon, has been shown to have been largely influenced by Italian feeling and literature, so again the renewed interest in Art which marks the latter half of the present century may be due in more ways than are at present recognised to the influence of Rossetti.

From the age of eighteen Rossetti attended for some time the school at the Royal Academy. He painted at this time, 1847, the interesting portrait of his father here exhibited (No. 11,) his first Oil Picture.

He did not, however, find congenial the teaching then given in the schools, and abandoned them for the studio of Ford Madox Brown, his senior by some seven years, who had received his artistic training abroad. Towards this artist the young Rossetti was especially attracted by the fine dramatic qualities shown in the Cartoons which the former had recently exhibited for the proposed decorations of the Houses of Parliament at Westminster.

But Rossetti's mind and temperament were too original to admit of his following in the footsteps of any master, and he soon attracted round himself a band of young and ardent comrades, with whom he formed, partly in earnest protest against the conventions and commonplace of the art then prevalent, but partly also in the spirit of humorous defiance characteristic of youth, the celebrated pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.

This fraternity consisted of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, his brother

William M. Rossetti, J. E. Millais, W. Holman Hunt, T. Woolner, F. G. Stephens, and James Collinson.

In 1850 their views were brought before the world in "The Germ," a Monthly Magazine, of which the existence was only prolonged through four numbers. It contained, though with some crudity, much that was of sterling value, and is now eagerly sought for by collectors.

The same movement found further expression in the "Oxford and Cambridge Magazine," which lasted through 1856, and had the valuable help of Edward Burne Jones, William Morris, and others.

Besides many Poems, Rossetti wrote for "The Germ" (under the title of "Hand and Soul") his story of Chiaro dell' Erma, a supposed Painter of Arezzo, in the 13th century, to whom the Vision, that was his Soul, thus speaks:—

"Chiaro, Servant of God, take now thine Art unto thee, and
 "paint me thus, as I am, to know me, weak as I am, and in the
 "weeds of this time; only with eyes which seek out labour, and
 "with a faith, not learned, yet jealous of prayer. Do this; so shall
 "thy soul stand before thee always, and perplex thee no
 "more."

This is the spirit in which were produced the earlier works now shown.