

**THE DRESDEN GALLERY
IN PHOTOGRAPHS AFTER
THE ORIGINAL PICTURES**

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The Dresden Gallery in Photographs After the Original Pictures by Julius Hubner

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JULIUS HUBNER

**THE DRESDEN GALLERY
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THE
DRESDEN GALLERY

IN
PHOTOGRAPHS AFTER THE ORIGINAL PICTURES

WITH COMMENTS THEREON BY

JULIUS HÖBNER

DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL PICTURE GALLERY IN DRESDEN.

TRANSLATED BY J. PONS.

STROEGER & KIRCHNER.

NEW YORK.

1875.

Madonna di San Sisto, by Raphael.

(Cat. No. 67. On canvas, 2.65 high, 1.69 wide.)

The Virgin Mary with the Infant Christ borne up by clouds. On her right, St. Sixtus in a kneeling posture; on her left, St. Barbara. Below, two cherubs. In the background between two green curtains, a glory of angelic heads.

This world renowned picture, the gem of the Dresden Gallery was, according to Vasari, painted for the High Altar of the Benedictine Convent of S. Sisto in Piacenza probably in 1518, and purchased in that place for Augustus III., King of Saxony through the painter Carlo Cesari Giovannini in 1753 for 20,000 ducats, or 40,000 Roman scudi, — about 60,000 Thalers. Since its removal to Dresden, the admiration of this immortal work has increased from year to year, and it is rightly regarded as the most ideal creation in the whole range of painting.

On clouds enthroned, the Virgin and the Infant
With looks of earnest love, the world are greeting;
The earth in cloud enshrouded lies beneath them,
And veil and vesture float in heavenly breezes.

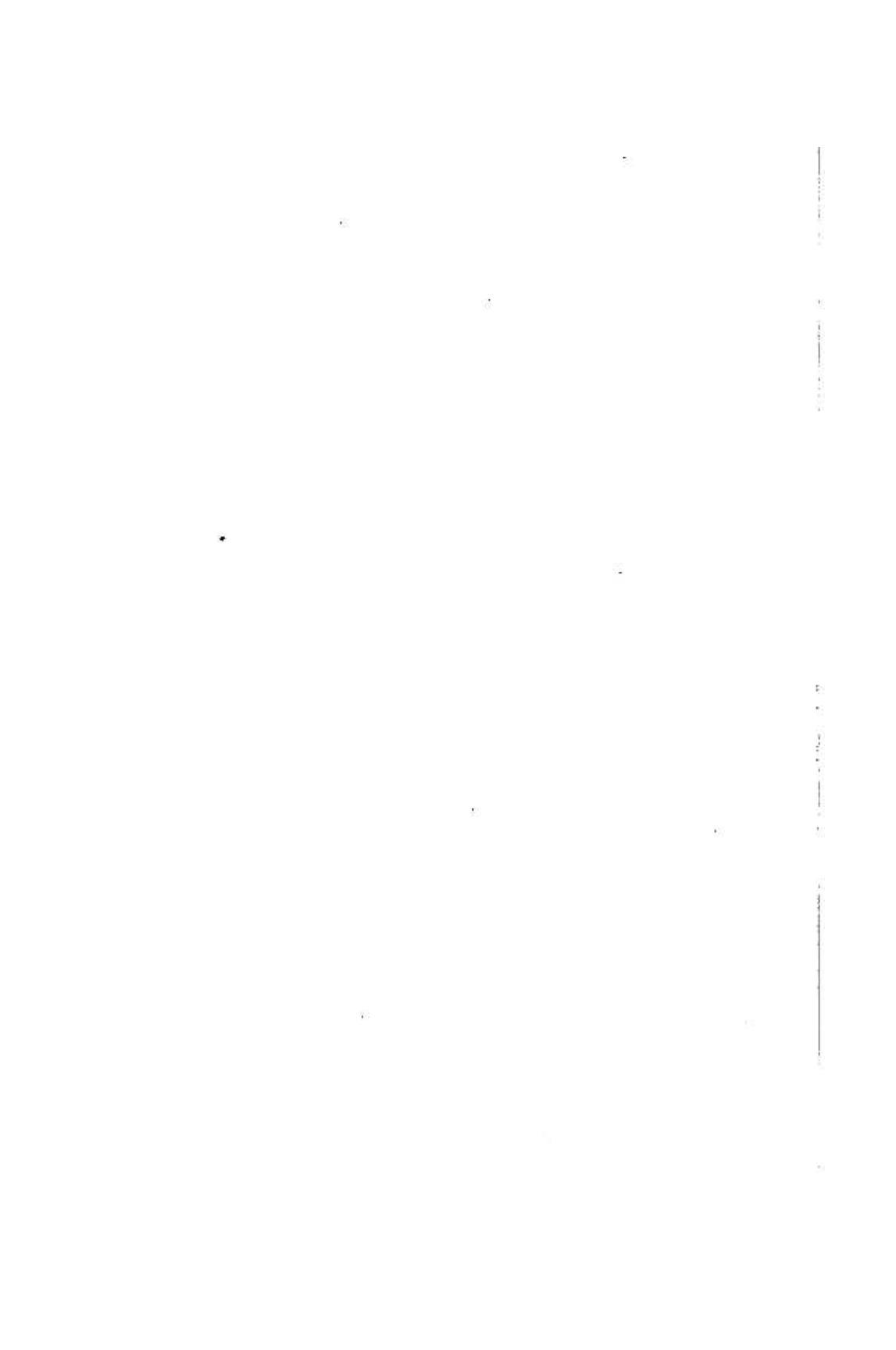
Humbly, St. Barbara, on bended knee, inclineth
Her beauteous head, in humble adoration;
St. Sixtus lifts his eyes, by faith transfigured
In holy trust that man with God finds favour.

And with the angels let us too look upward;
In tuneful choirs resound His praise eternal,
Who took the form of man for our salvation.

So Raphael, thou, the angel of the announcement,
So saw'st thou her, and thus may we regard her,
«The Queen of Heaven, and the Queen of women!»







2

The Virgin with the Family of Burgomaster Meyer,
by Hans Holbein, the Younger.

(Cat. No. 1809. On wood, 1.60 high, 1.045 wide.)

This celebrated picture was painted for Jacob Meyer, Burgomaster of Basel, whose family it represents as being under the protection of the Virgin Mary. On the right of the Virgin, kneel the father and his two sons (the youngest, a naked child); opposite to them, his wife Dorothea Kannengiesser with her mother and daughter. This beautiful painting was for a long time in Venice, and purchased there by order of King Augustus III. of Saxony, by Count Algarotti, Sept. 4th 1743 of Mr. Zuane Dolfino for 1000 sequins, whence it came to the Dresden Gallery. When in 1871 our picture was placed side by side with the so called Darmstadt picture of the same subject in the possession of Her Royal Highness, Princess Carl von Hessen, the formerly expressed doubts as to the genuineness of our painting were strengthened, and it was pronounced by many learned connoisseurs to be a later copy, while, on the other hand, equally celebrated authorities, especially among artists, were of the opinion that it is an original work. There is, however, no proof of the exact truth of either assertion, and it must be left as heretofore to each to decide for himself as to the correctness of either opinion.

A picture of the good old time — the pious
Earth's purest flower here charms the eye delighted,
Bright prototype to us of love maternal,
Maria! guardian of the earthly household.

The mother with her heavenly Child is present,
Protectress of the father, mother, children;
Her mantle shields them wrapt in adoration,
And now in deep repose all fear is banished.

With folded hands they kneel in silent worship,
Each for the others' welfare humbly pleading;
Where love resides all sin has been forgiven,

There must the house become a silent temple;
And here thou showest us on earth a heaven,
Thou German master, in simple German manner.
