

SIGNOR SALTINI'S WORK.

SOME OF THE ARTIST'S NOTABLE PAINTINGS PURCHASED BY AMERICANS.

Signor Pietro Saltini, an Italian artist who is well known in Florence, is at present in this city on a brief visit, and is staying at the house of Mr. W. J. Ehrich, No. 306 West Fifty-eighth-street. Signor Saltini has 10 pictures in this country. They are scattered about in Philadelphia, Chicago, Milwaukee, Colorado Springs, and this city. They are all figure works, to which Signor Saltini devotes himself. The object of his present trip to America is to visit his friend Mr. Ehrich, but he brought with him his latest work, "Jealousy," which was promptly purchased for a good price by a well known broker. The painting represents an old Italian and his wife, evidently on a journey, eating a frugal meal in a humble cottage. They are waited on by a plump and blooming young girl, who, as she leans over the table, is caught by the arm by the old man. The wife becomes promptly jealous, kicks the old man's leg under the table, and scowls violently at the girl.

Signor Saltini is anything but an impressionist. On the contrary, he is a realist of the extreme type. His work is noticeable for the finish of its detail. The broader effects are well managed also. The drawing of the three figures is faithful, and the faces are full of character and expression. The flesh tints are treated with admirable skill and feeling. The contrast between the firm and white arms of the girl and the flabby brown hands of the old woman is excellent, and is heightened by putting the girl in light and the woman in shadow. The clothing of the two female figures is finished with a fineness of detail that reminds the spectator of Vibert. The whole work is strong and expressive. Signor Saltini will start for Italy on Saturday, but expects to make a longer visit to America next year.

Signor Saltini was born in Florence, and his artistic talent made itself known at an early age. His father was at first opposed to his devotion to painting, but in later years became reconciled to it and put him under the tutorship of Prof. Pollastrini, a well known Florentine painter. In 1863 King Victor Emmanuel, after visiting the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, ordered six historical paintings, of which the most admired was Signor Saltini's "Simon Menni, of Avignon, Painting Laura's Portrait." This picture was publicly exhibited and attracted wide attention and favorable criticisms from the papers. In 1867 the artist exhibited a *genre* picture entitled "The Story of the Grandmother," which also was regarded with great favor. It represents an old woman seated by a big fireplace telling a ghost story to several children. The faces are close studies from nature and are full of character. Among other *genre* pictures by Saltini are "The Father's Pipe," "Declaration of Love," "Household Pleasures," "The Cobbler," "Soap Bubbles," "Between Two Friends," and "Between Two Enemies." Among his notable historical paintings are the "Meeting of Dante and Beatrice," "Guido Reni Painting Beatrice Cenci," "Galileo Before the Inquisition," and "Dante in Giotto's Study." All the pictures mentioned were bought by Americans, Englishmen, and Germans. Mr. W. J. Ehrich owns two charming *genre* pictures by Saltini, called the "Humorous Paper" and "A Game of Cards."

The New York Times

Published: October 22, 1886

Copyright © The New York Times