

our purchase, we miss some of the joy derived from a personal find.

By paying periodical visits to the various art collections to which we now fortunately have access, it is easy to acquire a knowledge of art which should prove of material assistance to us when exploring in search of treasures.

Having found something at a curio dealer's sale room, or elsewhere, and made sure of the artistic merit of our picture, the next thing to be done is to search for a signature. Should it be that of Marillo or an equally famous artist we should obtain further advice before parting with our money, for as yet we are not qualified to judge authoritatively as to the genuineness of our find, and the chances are it is only a copy.

On the other hand, it may prove to be a name unknown to us, in which case a reference to the art books at a local library may show the artist to be one of considerable standing, although his name was hitherto unfamiliar to us,

a famous artist whose works are hung in most of the leading Continental galleries. In this case the picture, although badly discoloured, was bought solely on its merits and for the artistic work on the canvas.

In attending a sale, if a picture is catalogued and guaranteed as the work of a well-known artist, it will probably realise a larger sum than we are prepared to pay. A visit to the sale-room a day or two previously, however, will give us time to look up an artist whose work appeals to our fancy and with whose name we are unfamiliar, or we may, in the course of our inspection, have discovered a signature not included in the catalogue, and which has apparently been overlooked. This will probably be owing to the fact that many artists had a curious habit of signing their pictures in the most unlooked-for places, and a discovery of this kind may prove a profitable one.

We must, nevertheless, bear in mind that many pictures, each by the greatest artists, are consigned and



"HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER."

Henry Barraud (1812-1874). Engraved by W. T. Davey.

Many of this artist's later pictures, including the above, were engraved and became very popular. In addition to exhibiting in the provinces he had 186 pictures in the Royal Academy and leading London galleries.

and in this case we are less likely to be deceived.

If we can get the painting for a reasonable price it is well to secure it, and if at any later period the opportunity occurs and we can afford to add one or two of the much-coveted masters to our collection we can still retain our earlier purchases as, having bought nothing but good work, the original purchase will not suffer to any appreciable extent from its proximity to a finer effort.

If our picture is discoloured it will pay us better to take it to a restorer's to have it cleaned than to attempt to do it oneself, as by so doing the treasure may be irrevocably ruined. Those of us, however, who are determined to clean our own pictures, should be careful to practice for sometime on canvases to which we attach but little value, as we shall probably spoil one or two before our efforts are even fairly successful.

It may then be worth considering if we shall have our picture glazed and, if an old one, it is certainly advisable, as it undoubtedly preserves both paint and canvas, and by following the example set by leading picture galleries we cannot be far wrong.

Not long since the writer came into possession of a picture which at a recent sale was catalogued as "artist unknown." It was bought for a comparatively small amount, and the process of cleaning discovered a signature which it was impossible to detect previously, and which proved to be that of

their authenticity can only be decided by experts familiar with the work and method of the various painters, although even amongst these there is frequently a diversity of opinion.

Whale Hunting.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST FISH-POND.

The world's greatest fish-pond is so far within the Arctic circle that the fishermen who venture there must sometimes be shut off from the rest of the world for years, since Hudson Bay is held so long in the grasp of winter that it is impossible to enter or leave it after the season of what is called midsummer in the temperate zone. In the waters of Hudson Bay, however, are found the great bowhead whale, one of the largest of all marine creatures. Years ago the bowheads were hunted in the North Atlantic Ocean, as they were numerous in the vicinity of Newfoundland and off the coast of Labrador; but they are so valuable that the whale-fishers of the world searched for them, and vessels from nearly every country in Europe as well as Newfoundland and America were fitted out for their capture. Consequently they are seldom seen in any ocean, and have gone in to this Arctic sea, which is almost inaccessible.

So difficult and so dangerous is the quest for the bowhead that only a few whale-hunters now pursue them. Most of these come from the old town of New



MRS. R. C. HAWKIN,

Who was Miss Marie Botha, sister of General Botha, Premier of the Transvaal.

Bedford, in Massachusetts. Here steamships are built and equipped especially for the service. In addition to powerful engines, they carry a full suit of sails, while their hulls usually consist of two skins of heavy oaken plank bolted to the frame-work of oak or steel. Great strength is necessary, because they may be obliged to force their way through hundreds of miles of icefields, and during the long, bleak Arctic winter they are so embedded in the ice that its movement would crush the vessels if they were constructed in the ordinary way.

ing from the home port perhaps six months before. As the ship must round Cape Race, it is exposed to the winter gales of the Atlantic and the dangerous passage through Hudson Strait. Reaching the bay, the ship is navigated to some berth where the remainder of the winter is spent; for sometimes the entrance to the bay is free from ice only a month or six weeks during the entire year, and, as already stated, the summer season is very short in this latitude. The crew pass the long months amid the snow and ice as best they can until the temperature loosens the ice and the south winds drive it from the bay. Then they start upon their hunt, losing no time, for they may not have two months of open water before they are again embedded in ice and snow until the next

When a whaler leaves for the long voyage to Hudson Bay the captain calculates on reaching its entrance some time during the month of August, sail-



LADY VINCENT,

A much-travelled Englishwoman, the author of several interesting books.