A FAMOUS FRENCH PORTRAIT PAINTER

THE OREGONIAN'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDIES FOR GIRLS

BY CHARLOTTE BREWSTER JORDAN.

IV.-MME, LE, BRUN.

(1765-1842.)

When a reader happens upon the name of Mme. Le Brun he is aware of a pleasurable feeling at first indefinable, but which, traced to its source, is generally found to have been produced by some one of the many pleasing portraits of herself now so widely and favorably known. Each gives an impression of a vivacious and winsome personality, whether it be the portrait which she painted of herself as a turbaned young woman looking out with a smiling countenance from her easel—the one which, in the Uffizi gallery, Florence, elicited so much notice from Goethe-the similar painting in the Hermitage at St. Petersburg, or those charm-ing pictures of herself and daughter known as the "little idylls on canvas,"

which hang in the Louvre. In her ingenious autobiography she has supplemented these brush portraits with accounts of the brilliant court pageants which she witnessed in the various coun-tries of Europe, in sharp contrast to the meager poverty of her home surround-ings, of the terrors of the Revolution, of the wit or peculiarities of those whom she met, together with shrewd little char-actor sketches and impressions of her travels. This self-fillustrated autobiography is something unique in the history of art, and throws a curious side light upon the circumstances attending the painting of the immense number of pic-tures, nearly 1000 in all, which make the best monument to the lifelong industry of Mme. Vigee Le Brun.
A less pretentious painter than her fair

contemporary, Angelica Kauffman, the greater beauty and simplicity of her work has better stood the test of time. Daughter of a third-rate Parisian copy-

Daughter of a third-rate Parisian copy-ist whose chalk studies and pastels after Watteau were pleasing, but strikingly devoid of originality, Mile. Vigee at-tracted notice by her precocity while a yesy tiny child. At the time of her father's death, a girl of 13, she was a por-trait painter of no mean ability, already beginning to fulfill her father's prophecy: "You shall be a painter, my daughter, or there never was one!" Vernet, the eminent marine painter, urged her to present an excellent portrait of her mother, which she finished at the age of 15, for admission to the Academy; but her ap-plication was refused on account of her extreme youth.

Besides the fond encouragement of her father, the young girl was favored in father, the young girl was favored in having Briard, Davesne, Doyen and Claude Joseph Vernet as her teachers. The last named frequently cautioned her against following the methods of any particular school. "Only consuit, my child, the works of the great Italian and Flemish masters; but, above all." he urged, "do as much as you can from nature. Nature is the best master. If you study it diligently, you will never get you study it diligently, you will never get into mannerisms." This sensible advice had much to do with the formation of Mile. Vigee's original style which was quite apart from the contemporary aca-demic influence. Her self-improvement was largely due to her untiring copying of Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Rubens (whose chiaroscuro she considered miraculous) and Greuze. Much of this work was quickly sold in order that the young ar-tist might support her beautiful but indolent mother and clothe and educate her younger brother.

In order to satisfy that longing for expensive wardrobe and amusements which Mme. Vigee considered necessary to her the widow married a wealthy jeweler. This man proved to be a miser, who greedily wore the old clothes of the dead artist, but refused to provide the necessaries of life for his new family, compelling the already overworked Elise to redouble her efforts for their mainhealth which enabled her to work uneasingly until her death in her 87th year, the young girl's beauty did not fade un-der this ill treatment, but developed so charmingly that betweeen the ages of 14 her orders multiplied amazingly, chiefly that her admirers while posing might en-joy her vivacious society. This implied flattery never cost the young artist the loss of her simplicity or reputation, her mother's enforced presence preventing any suggestion of stain upon her name.

At that time the family lodged in the house of a picture dealer, Jean Baptiste Pierre Le Brun, a man whose judgment upon pictures was considered the most reliable in Europe. His unusually fine collection of paintings and prints was obligingly placed at the service of the eager young portrait painter. When Le offered himself in marrriage six months later, Mile. Vigee yielded to the persuasions of her worldly mother, who fancied the picture dealer to be very rich, and reluctantly consented to a secret marrriage until Le Brun could clear himself of certain obligations to the daughter of a picture trader in Holland. Meanwhile the influential friends of the artist, not knowing of this, strongly urged her not to marry the man, insisting that she would better cut her throat or drown herself than ally her interests with those of a man whose low tastes would make happiness an impossibility. All too late the young wife learned the bitter truth of their predictions, and found that she had simply exchanged her slavery to her stepfather for a lifelong servitude even more galling. Her husband compelled her to take pupils and gambled away her money as fast as she earned it, so that in 1789, 13 years after her marriage, she

left France without 20 of the 1,000,000 francs which she had meanwhile earned. The birth of her little girl, Jeanne, two years after her marriage, was the one ray of sunshine in the deplorable life of this fill-treated wife, who worked uncomplain ingly from dawn until dark, declaring voted to two objects, her daughter and

During the infancy of little Jeanne th artist-mother while walking in the park was accosted by Marle Antoinette, who invited her to paint her portrait. This Mme. Le Brun accomplished so successfully that she was commissioned to paint 29 more portraits of the gay young Queen. As painter and subject were about the they soon discovered many common. Mme. Le Brun had tastes in common. a elivery voice and frequently sang duets with the Queen when the latter was weary of sitting for her numerous port-Marie Antoinette soon became truly fond of the unassuming, simply dressed little artist, who in turn felt the most romantic affection for her royal patron, who she declared to walk "better than any woman in France, holding her head upright with a majesty which denoted the sovereign in the midst of her court, without this majestic bearing defracting in the least from the sweetness and grace

f her whole aspect."

Mme: Le Brun's friendship with royalty naturally subjected her during the Revo lution to many terrifying experiences. Sul phur was thrown into her cellar, and ominous murmurings and fist-shakings plainly hinted that if she would escape the scuffold she must leave France at once. Her husband being fortunately absect, she took 100 louis, which she has just received for a portrait, and, in the disguise of a working woman, arrived pen-

ntless in Rome. Here her busy brush reaped for her th nered in Paris Orders for portraits of distinguished foreigners poured in upon her, not least among which was one from the Pope, Pius VI. When Mme. Le Brun learned, however, that she must be velled snow to be over four inches deep,

while painting his holmess, she doubted her ability under such trying circum-stances to do justice to the subject, and therefore declined the honor. Besides many other famous portraits, she painted two noteworthy once of Lady Hamuton, one as a bacchante reposing on the sea-shore, another as a sybil-fine pictures of a beautiful subject, which as works of art afterward sold in London for many times their original value. In Rome she also met Angelica Kauffmann, with whom

she was most favorably impressed.

Leaving the Eternal city, the artistexile traveled over Europe, everywhere received with distinction, and admitted

into the membership of the Academies of Parms, Rome, Bologna, Berlin, Geneva, St. Petersburg, Rouen and Paris.



MME. LE BRUN'S PORTRAIT OF HER SELF.

much-beloved Queen Louise. In Brussels she had painted (1783) the famous portrait of herself in a straw hat after Rubens' much - admired "Chapeau de Paille," which gained her admission to the French

In Russia a palace was placed at her disposal, and here she painted many portraits of the royal family. The Empress Catherine the Great also engaged a portrait of herself, but was stricken with apoplexy before the day appointed for her sitting.

England was not behind the rest of the Continent in conferring honors upon Mme. Le Brun, whose portraits Sir Joshua Reynolds declared "as fine as those of any painter, not excepting Van Dyck." Georgiana, the witty and beautiful Duchess of Devonshire, Mrs. Siddons, Herschel and his gifted sister, and the Prince of wales, after George IV, also showed her great

In spite of all the distinction and wealth heaped upon her, she was never truly happy, although invariably cheerful. She who was reported to be so rich that she lit her fire with bank notes and fed it with aloes wood was in reality always poor, dressing most simply in the muslin gown and kerchief popularized by her portraits, because of the immense sums which she constantly sent home to sup-port her husband, mother or daughter. In Russia she managed to save during the first month of her stay 45,000 francs, but the banker with whom she deposited them failed, and she lost all. Later on, 15,000 francs were stolen from her. Her greatest grief, however, was the

unfortunate marriage of her only daughter, to whose education she had devoted so much time and money. This child had always been a great comfort to her mother, because of her sweet disposition, but at the age of 17 she conceived a romantic affection for an impecualous retary. When Mme, Le Brun assured her that the man was merely attracted by her beauty and was "without talent, fortune or family," the daughter became so ill that the mother was forced to consent, giving her as a marriage portion the result of her St. Petersburg earnings. Within five years this daughter ceased to care for her husband, refused to return to Russia with him, and lived a gas life in Paris, while her mother was work-

ing on the Continent. She died five years before her mother, and grief over her death, preceded by that of the artist's mother and brother, so preyed upon the strength of Mme. Le Brun that she died at the age of 87, after a life of extraordinary energy. In spite of the drudgery of her unap-

preciated servitude for others, Mme, Le Brun was always generous and cheerful, ovable in her old age, as in her youth, and, like her picture, always pleasing.

Note.-The next study will be devoted to Caroline Herschel.

THE ALSEA COUNTRY.

Homeseekers Invited to Take Note of Its Advantages.

WALDPORT, Or., March 6 .- (To the

Editor.)-Many people are coming to this state with a view of getting homes, and I think that justice demands that they have a chance to know as much as posfible about Alsea Bay and vicinity. The country around here is somewhat hilly, the hills being low near the coast and averaging higher as you go inland, and generally covered with timber, most of which was killed by fire—no one seems to know when, but probably in the '40s. There is a good part of it standing yet with the tops above a growth of young tlinber that has come on since. The land is nearly all fertile, and suited for grow-ing various kinds of hay and grasses, po-

tatoes, onlone, cabbage and a number of other kinds of vegetables. Fruit also grows well here. Apples in particular, I think, are destined to be one of the lead-ing products of this part of the country. By putting them in on favorable slopes and with proper care, the fruit is as large, finely flavored and highly colored as anywhere. They are not infected with scale, codlin moth or any other kind of fruit parasite. Pears, plums, prunes and cherries promise favorably, as also do small fruits and berries.

The opening for cattle and dairy business is as good as a person could ask. The range never dries out in the summer or freezes out in the winter. Cattle, except milch cows and calves, will keep fat all the year without being fed. The Angora goat industry is about 20 years old here, and is generally considered one of the best businesses we have, but at present there are not more than 2 or cent of what the range would sup-

At this writing there has been no snow,

approach of the reent hard times, and, having no good market for their prod-ucts, have gone away. Others of a seminomadic nature have also gone. In conclusion, I would advise conten plative homeseekers to come and look over the country for themselves, as I con-sider no description as good as a persona observation. M. RUBLE.

and wallflowers are now blooming out

the chief occupation during the salmo

We have daily mails, except Sunday,

FOSTER FOR EXPANSION.

Pacific Const to Be Greatly Benefited and Should Appreciate It.

Another of the letters requested by The Oregonian on National expansion has come to hand, it being from Senator Fos-ter, of the State of Washington. It speaks for expansion in very clear tones as fol-

"As the Pacific Coast will reap the greatest direct and immediate benefit from the Republican policy of expansion, it seems to me that it is but fair to pre-sume that all persons and parties having an actual and positive interest in the prosperity of the Coast will lend a hand-and at the proper time a vote, also-in sustaining and upholding this policy.

"There are men who have actual in-terests in the Coast, but who do not feel justified in supporting what they con-sider 'expansion' means and will lead to. But when we face the proposition that territorial control or expansion is now the only means of paving the way for successful commercial expansion in certain quarters of the globe, are we not bound, from a merely practical standpoint, to sustain expansion? And if our institutions are the best in the world, if we lead in education, invention and the like-as we certainly do-why should we not extend to the less favored the benefits of our great advantages?

"We must expand or shrink and cor tract, for we will not stand still. great commercial powers of the world are active and advancing in those quarters of the globe where expansion will bring the greatest benefits to the United States. We must find markets for our manufactured products. Home consumption is not sufficient, and we must look elsewhere and create and capture new markets. And, inasmuch as some of our friends in the East and of the Atlantic are not pleased with the prospect of the Pacific enjoying the fruits of expansion to the extent promised in the direction of Oriental untries, because they fear the growing ower and possibilities of the Pacific, secause of these considerations it seems to me our Coast people should stand unit-ed. This is the golden opportunity, and I have reason to believe the active and awake people of the state to north of Oregon fully realize it and will so declare when given clearly defined is-sues to decide at the polls. Oregor, in June, will undoubtedly go overwhelmingly for expansion and Republicanism. Surely people residing in somewhat disinterested sections of the East might be expected to regard the question of expansion with indifference if the first state on the Coast to declare its convictions does not indicate that its familiarity with the great issue warrants it in sustaining it. This ques-tion interests the Pacific Coast more diectly than the Atlantic Coast and, therefore, the East will look to the West, so far as fair-minded men are concerned, for an indication of what seems best for those most concerned."

How Com Paul Didn't Get the Dia

monds. (Air. "Yankee Doodle.") om Paul Kruger had a mind To capture Cecil Rhodes, str. Haul off his Kimberley dia One hundred wagon londs, air. For Uncie Paul he needed them To buy some lend and powder: nunttion for his mer Twould make their guns go loude

This army to command, sir;
"The Lord was with them," Kruger said;
"They would possess the land, sir,"
Though Cooli Rhodes had built a wall
His clamond mine around, sir,
Com Paul he told the Boers 'twould fall,
It would come the below the beauty of the said come. It would come tumbling down, sir

But Cecil's wall stood up, they found.
Before them strong and bold, sir;
Com Paul did telegraph to wait.
Twould take a few days longer
To oatch King Cecil up to date; Their faith must grow some stronger

The British Lion, strong and great,

One night it gave a spring, sir, And landed in the Orange Free State, And didn't do a thing, sir, But put its paw on Cronie, the Boer, And held him firm and fret, eir; And when he could not finht no more, ind when he could last, sir.

The gave it up at last, sir.

-D. F. Newland.

or to lay on the ground longer than 36 THE INFLATION SCARE

in the open. The country is traversed by numerous streams that are cold and clear as crystal, and abound with trout and salmen in their season. Salmen is an important factor, and fishing forms ABSURD PREDICTIONS ON EFFECT OF REFUNDING MEASURE.

> Remarks of Well-Known Person, Who Pretends to Have Devoted Years to Study of Finances,

from two places, and twice a week from two others. Freight between here and San Francisco has been from \$2 to \$4 as ton, but seems to be fluctuating a little above that now. Freight to Portland might be cheaper on the establishment of a little of A writer in the New York Sun has recently raised a hue and cry over the awful consequences which he believes will flow from the refunding measure, in the of a line of transportation.

If asked about the chances to take up Government land or get a home, I would form of an inflation of the currency. We have condemned this measure as one of the most vicious that could be proposed, say that the choicest places that are handy to get at have about all been taken, though there are some to be had by going a little further back. But I can call to mind over 60 places that are vacant, and remarks the United States Investor, but we must confess that the ev.ls foreseer by the writer to whom we have just al I do not doubt but what they are nearly luded have altogether escaped our notice, as they undoubtedly have that of most other intelligent persons. The situation is

lescribed as follows:
"The amount of national bank notes secured by government bonds is now about \$210,000,000. In exchange for \$197,000,000 of these bonds the banks are to receive about \$20,000,000 in cash premiums, paid out of the Treasury hoard, and \$197,000,000 in 2 per cent bonds, against which they are to be permitted to issue \$197,000,000 of their own notes instead of the \$177,000,000 they now have out. They will also be allowed, on \$29,000,000 of nonconvertible bonds against which they now have out in notes only 80 per cent of their par value, 10 per cent, or, say, \$4,000.000, more. The volume of the country's currency is thus to be swelled at least by these additional \$24,000,000 of bank notes, as well as by the \$20,000,000 of cash premiums paid by the Treasury, making an inflation of \$44,000,000 altogether. If this were all, it would not be a very serious matter, but since the total issue of new bonds is to be \$840,000,000, on which \$530,000,000 additional bank notes may be issued, besides a cash premium of \$90,000,000, the bill threatens a possible addition to our currency of \$720,000,000."

Certain Modifying Factors. The writer of the above has aired his logic at the expense of his good sense. He seems to have a glimmering of this fact, for he proceeds to enumerate cer-tain possible modifying factors, although in the end he returns to his idols, and raises a cry which, if any one is foolish enough to believe what he says, is calculated to produce an immense amount of harm. He says: "To what extent the possibility would became a reality is, of course, a matter of conjecture. The whole \$840,000,000 of old bonds may not be con-verted into new ones, and if they are, it is scarcely to be expected that the banks will be able to buy them all. The bill, noreover, limits the issue of notes by each bank to the amount of its capital, and the total of national bank capitals is at present only \$608,000,000. Then, too, the otes are to be only of comparatively large enominations, which will to some extent restrict the demand for them, and 5 per cent must be allowed for the fund rejuired by the national bank act to be naintained at Washington for their re-temption. If, too, the new bonds should, as it seems likely they will, command a premium in the market, that also will have to be considered.

The Profit on Circulation.

"Nevertheless, that the inflation of bank currency under the proposed bill, if it should be passed, will be very great, is not to be gainsaid. On the basis of existing conditions it will be, as we have sen, at least \$44,000,000, and with the inducements held out for promoting it, it cannot fall to be many millions more. Even if the new bonds should bring 105, and the tax on the circulation issued against them should be made, as proposed, ½ per cent, the net profit would not be less than 1½ per cent per annum." The agony increases as the writer in the

Sun proceeds. For he says:

"It is also to be remembered that inflation by means of bank circulating notes,
under the proposed bill, will not be subject to the same check as inflation by an ncrease of bank loans and disce Against undue credit entries on bank ledgers there is the barrier of the require-ment that the bank shall hold against them from 15 to 25 per cent in lawful s a reserve. At present, also, the high price of government bonds re-stricts the issue of bank notes. With \$840,000,000 of bonds procurable at par or a little above it, the case will be quite different. The reserve which the banks will have to keep against notes issued the security of bonds will, indeed, as has been said, be 5 per cent, and perhaps a little more, but, in comparison with the 25 per cent against deposits now required of banks in large cities, this is a small mat-

The Conclusion of the Matter. What will be the conclusion of this ireadful process? It is described in the llowing language:

"The danger from the increase of bank currency with which we are threatened by the new currency bill will not consist of any liability to loss by those to whom currency is paid. That danger is fully guarded against by the Government's guarantee of its redemption. What is to feared is the rise in prices of all kinds of property to which an increased volume of currency invariably leads, the wild speculation it stimulates, and the colla with which that speculation is followed in due course of time. The banks, under the proposed law, will take out all the cir-culation that they can, and they will lend as much of it as they can. Borrowers. tempted by the facilities thus upon them, will begin to buy stocks, merhandise and real estate, and at first will sell them again at a profit. Then the new holders will resell to new purchasers, and prices will go on rising higher and higher until the tide turns and a collapse and a panic put an end to the business. The ountry will be fortunate if foreigners do not take advantage of the craze while it lasts, and of the high prices that accompany it, to sell us goods and take in ex-change money for which, as soon as the collapse comes, if not sooner, they will demand gold. The gold payments by the Treasury, for the ma'ntenance of which the new bill is supposed to provide beyond question, will thus be rendered difficult, if not impossible, and if they should be suspended, the discredit into which the gold standard will be brought in conse-quence may revive the saitation for the pany it, to sell us goods and take in exquence may revive the agitation for the free colnage of silver, which now slum-bers as if it were dead, and give it a chance of success."

The Cash Premium.

Such nonsense as the above would never have been accorded a place in these col-umns, were it not that the writer is a well-known personage, who pretends to have devoted many years to the study of the financial situation, and that his remarks were printed in one of the leading papers of the country, and have been wide-ly copied and commented on. There is so much that 's ridiculous here that one is at a loss to know where to begin in pointing out the folly. Let us start with a fact which in itself we should consider rather important but which in comparison with others stated by the writer in the Sun is of little significance. He assumes that the currency will be inflated by \$20,000,000 taken from the Treasury to pay the cash premiums on the bonds exchanged. But if this amount should, as a matter of fact, be paid out of the \$105,000,000 of Gov-ernment deposits in the National banks. thetwould materially change the situation there would then be no increase in the money in circulation by reason of the payment of the cash premiums.

The Available Bonds.

Then, too, what warrant have we that he hanks will be able to 'ncrease their age in any such measure as the writer In the Sun reems to sunnose? Some speculetton in the new bonds 's likely to take place at the start, because of the gen-eral impression that they will so to a prerium. But the chances are that the nec-ple who now hold the bulk of the bonds of this Government will continue to do so after the exchange. Most of the National Three

Foes

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THE STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH

lebt is held today in a fiduciary manner. National banks, for example, hold a part of it against their circulating notes; sav-

depositors; insurance companies hold part in trust for their policy-holders, and vari-ous other kinds of trustees have also large

holdings. They hold Government bonds because these are the safest investment they can make, and they will probably

continue to hold them for the same reason. It is absurd to suppose that hereafter most of them will relinquish the bulk

of their holdings to the National banks. Barring such exceptional times as we have

been passing through in the last year, the tendency of money rates is down-ward in th's country, and the holders of

the public debt undoubtedly realize that

United States bonds will be an even more attractive investment a short time hence

A Deterring Feature.

But even if the banks have the opportunity to buy up the bulk of the bonds, it is inconceivable that they should care to avail themselves of it. A moment's re-

flection ought to have convinced the writ-

er in the Sun that the banks would not be so fool'sh as to bite off their own

uses, as would most certainly be the case if they should pursue the policy which he outlines for them. He figures that at

105 the new bonds would net the banks

which bought them for circulation 114 per cent. But if even a fraction of the amount named by him should be bought as the basis for circulating notes, the currency would be inflated to such an extent as to break the rate on every bank loan now outstanding. In other words the

now outstanding. In other words, the profit to the banks from the increased circulation would be in smiftcant in com-parison with the loss which would follow

Unquestionably the refunding measure

will be productive of a large increase in the amount of National bank notes out-

standing; but that it will lead to any such

state of affairs as has been outlined by the writer whose remarks we have been

discussing is entirely outside the range of

Location Secured for Scouring Mill.

The scouring mill proposition, which has

been before our citiens for the past few weeks, is soon to be a reality. J. M. Russell has decided to build the plant on

the Sherar property, which is situated di-rectly back of the building occupied by

the First National Bank. This property is

00x120 feet, and is located adjoining the

railroad track, which will make it very

onvenient. The old brick building on the orner will be repaired and used for an

office and a storage warehouse. On the

adjoining property will be built a two-

story corrugated iron building, which will

paratus necessary for the successful oper-

ation of the plant. Work is to be com-menced at once, and the building will be

Sheep Sales in Wasco.

John Little, a prominent sheepman of

Antelope, has purchased 2300 head of sheet from Ewen McLennan, paying # per head

for them. They are on the way to The

Sheep are beginning to move some in

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ontain all the machinery and other ap-

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probability. Such utterances are mischie

a general lowering of the money

than they now are.

from a gener market rate.

AND THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PERSON OF THE P Henry Jones, of Zenas, Ind., says: "My sufferings were almost unbearable, and only persons having

been afflicted with this rare and dreaded combination of diseases can imagine what they were like. I was confined to my bed almost all the time. My doctor finally acknowledged that neither he nor any one else could cure me. I would not give up, so tried different medicines, and finally began the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale Prople. The first box of pills helped me some, and I took some more. The second box began to produce the desired result, and before I had finished the fourth box I was at last a cured man. That was last March, and I have not been troubled with these diseases since."-From Banner Plain Dealer, North Vernon, Ind.

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