

very best obtainable, whatever that may be. Hence our portrait collection is, and ought to remain, primarily an historical collection, influenced, enhanced, but not dominated by rules and reasons of high art.

Of course our highest aim is a portrait done in oil at the height of the vigor and fame of the subject and the best in point of fame, style and medium of the artist.

But it is impossible to fix, and unwise to desire, an absolute standard of art merit in a collection, or to disparage the acquisition and display of the inferior in art value of portraits of men whose lives and labors are worthy of commemoration. Of standards there are almost as many as there are critics. The point to be considered is whether a given portrait of a given man is the best portrait of that man and not whether that portrait be a work or in a class esteemed alone by the art connoisseur. The art value, it must be remembered, is not an element of indifference; far from that. It is indeed, scarcely even secondary. But where the consideration is for the subject and not for the artist, the loftiest thought is: Does it, of all available records, the most permanently and fairly represent the face, form and spirit of the subject.

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VISIT FROM THE INDIANS.—On Tuesday forenoon last the quiet stillness of our city was somewhat disturbed by a visit from a band of Sioux Indians, numbering about fifty, and accompanied by Chief "Mad Bowl." They entered the city in regular order, marching in straight lines, and keeping step to a rude, wild song, accompanied by an instrument somewhat resembling a tambourine, beat upon with a stick. They were arrayed in their best blankets and woolen leggings, their faces painted with gaudy colors, and their heads decorated with flaunting feathers. Their chief was seated upon a fine pony, and rode with all the dignity of a monarch. It was altogether the best representation of our Dácotah neighbors we have ever seen, and the appearance they presented was truly novel and interesting.

They visited Kennerly, of the firm of Frost, Todd & Co., a gentleman widely known and much respected among the Sioux Indians, who gave them about \$30 worth of provisions. They also visited other stores, and in the afternoon departed, laden with about one hundred dollars' worth of provisions given them by our merchants.—*Sioux City Eagle*, Dec. 12, 1857.

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