

THE LITERARY DIGEST

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FRANCIS D. MILLET

While Millet did not rank at the very top in journalism or in art, he was early in his career a successful newspaper man, and later a distinguished mural painter. The principal incidents of his life are furnished us by the *New York Evening Post*:

Francis D. Millet, artist and writer, was born at Mattapoisett, Mass., in 1846. He enlisted as a drummer boy toward the end of the Civil War, and was promoted to the post of assistant in the Surgeons' Corps, which he held for a year. When the war was over, he entered Harvard. After graduation, he joined the staff of the *Boston Advertiser*. Later he was city editor of the *Boston Courier*, and a member of the *Boston Saturday Evening Gazette* staff.

In 1871 he took up the study of art at the Royal Academy in Antwerp, where he won a much-coveted prize in his first year. His success obtained for him the position of secretary to Charles Francis Adams when the latter was appointed commissioner to the Vienna Exposition of 1873. Millet managed to keep up his art studies, do his duties as secretary, and report the exposition for two New York newspapers.

He returned to America in 1876, reported the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia for the *Boston Advertiser*, and assisted John La Farge in decorating Trinity Church, in Boston.

In 1877 he became correspondent for the *New York Herald* in the Russo-Turkish War, and his work attracted the attention of the editors of the *London Daily Mail*, who appointed him their correspondent to succeed Archibald Forbes. Millet served with the Russian General, Swobelev, drew graphic sketches, and emerged from the war with no less than six decorations for bravery under fire.

After that he went to Paris and devoted himself to serious art-study. He was chosen a member of the Fine Arts Jury of the Paris Exposition in 1878. Returning to Boston, he married and settled down for a while, but in 1881 he was again on the move, making sketches for the Harpers in Europe. Soon after he settled down in Worcester, England, and made his home there.

Millet was well known in many lands. Once when he was traveling with a friend in a remote corner of Japan, his companion said: "Millet, at last we're in a place where nobody knows you." Almost at that moment a waiter came up and addressed Millet by name. It turned out that he had accompanied the Japanese delegation sent to the Chicago Exposition.

Among the institutions possessing canvases by Millet are the Metropolitan Museum of Art here, the Detroit Museum, the Union League Club, the Duquesne Club of Pittsburg, and the National Gallery of New Zealand. Of late he had been engaged in making mural decorations for a number of public buildings, including the State Capitol at St. Paul, Minn., the Court House at Newark, the Customs House at Baltimore, and the Federal Building at Cleveland.