

Missing Page(s)

"Mother & her Child"
 this is pretty good and
 seems to attract more
 attention than any
 other piece - Venus
 de Medicis fills an
 important position
 among the rest also
 most of the ancient
 Gods & Goddesses I
 guess you have some
 curiosity to see
 what sort of Animals
 they were - as you
 have been reading
 of little else for 4
 years past

But on the whole
 I think it pays very
 well to visit the
 Athenaeum

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Yesterday I went to
 Boston for the first
 time since I have
 been out in Cam-
 -bridge - I went to
 see the Athenaeum
 which is the curiosity
 of Boston - the Library
 is a pretty large one
 having some 100,000
 (hundred thousand)
 volumes - The paintings
 Statuary &c are the
 same that you saw
 18 months ago with
 a few exceptions
 of the paintings one
 by Cole is said to
 be the best in

in the gallery - there
 are 5 paintings in the
 course - representing the
 "Course of Empire" illus-
 -trating a nations rise
 progress, greatness &
 decline, & fall - they
 are said to be very
 fine but I could not
 see the beauty that
 they are said to
 possess. It would take
 too much space for
 me to describe them -
 I will give you the
 name of each one of
 the 5 or rather what
 each represents. The
 first is the Savage State
 second " " Pastoral "
 third " " Consummation

of Empire
 fourth is the Destruction
 fifth " " Desolation of
 empire - if you would
 like to see them you
 can paint just as
 good ones in your
 imagination

The next most celebrated
 is one representing
 "Belshazzers Feast" - but
 I am blind to their
 beauties.
 They have some ^{paintings} 240
 in all & it is said
 to be a first class col-
 lection =

They have but one
 piece of Statuary that
 is at all good
 that is The Shipwrecked