

**GILBERT, John**, English artist, b. at Blackheath, Kent, 1817. Exhibited paintings in water-colour of 'Don Quixote giving Advice to Sancho Panza,' 1841; 'Peace and War,' 1852. Draftsman on wood for the *Illustrated London News*, the *British Workman*, and numerous other illustrated works.

189.50V.4

**GILBERT** (SIR JOHN), **R.A.**

189.50v.2

B. 1817. D. 1897.

John Gilbert was the son of George Felix Gilbert, a member of a Derbyshire family. He was born at Blackheath on the 21st July, 1817, and from childhood displayed an extraordinary fondness for drawing and painting. Nevertheless, his father accepted an offer of employment for the boy in the office of Messrs. Dickson & Bell, estate agents, in Charlotte Row, London. Yielding at last to his natural bent, he was allowed to take up art in his own way, which included but little advice from others, his only teacher being George Lance, the fruit painter. In 1836 he exhibited some drawings at the Society of British Artists, characteristically illustrating scenes from Shakespeare and Scott, and from 1837 a number of works in oil at the British Institution, including scenes from "Don Quixote," "The Spectator," and the times of the Cavaliers. Gilbert exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1838, beginning with the "Portrait of a Gentleman," and continuing, except between 1851 and 1867, till his death to exhibit there many of his best and more ambitious works. He was elected Associate in 1872, and Royal Academician in 1876. He also sent no fewer than 270 water-colour drawings to the Royal Society of Painters in Water-colours from the time of his election as associate exhibitor in 1852. He was elected full member in 1855, and President of the Society in 1871, shortly after which he was knighted. Gilbert as an illustrator of books, magazines, and even newspapers, produced an astounding number of designs with abundance of energy and invention. His designs contributed to the success of the early numbers of the *Illustrated London News*.

Dear Mrs Self  
I enclose two tickets  
P.V. R.A.

Am too ill to say  
more than that I  
have just now  
had a letter from Henry  
you of Gilbert

Blackheath.

8<sup>th</sup> March 1875.

My dear Sant,

I will look attentively at Mr Chevallier's drawings at the Gallery - Of course the Society has but one object, which is to elect any good man, thus adding to its strength.

Many thanks for your kind invitation - It will give me much pleasure to see you in your painting Room

Subert

with all your works about.  
There is nothing I enjoy more.  
Therefore I will surely come.

as your L<sup>ts</sup>  
Yours truly

James Sant Esq - R.A

I am  
Madam  
Yours obedient Servant  
John Gillett

24<sup>th</sup> July 1879.