LINNELL (JOHN).

B. 1792. D. 1882.

John Linnell was born in London in 1792, and, having shown an early taste for art, entered the schools of the Royal Academy in his fourteenth year, by the advice of Benjamin West, then President. He also studied under John Varley, and made so much progress that in 1807 he was able to contribute two works to the Royal Academy Exhibition, viz., "A study from Nature" and a "View near Reading." In the same year he gained a medal for modelling from the life at the Royal Academy, and in 1809 the British Institution awarded him a prize of fifty guineas for a landscape entitled "Removing Timber."

While quite a young man he formed an intimate friendship with Mulready, and for some time the two artists lived together. At this early period of his career Linnell devoted himself to more than one branch of art, including engraving and portrait painting in miniature. He also gave lessons in drawing. In 1810 he exhibited "Fishermen waiting the return of the Ferry Boat, Hastings," and the following year "A Scene from Nature," at the Royal Academy, but for ten years afterwards no work of his appeared at Somerset House. From 1818 to 1820 he contributed to an exhibition opened in Spring Gardens by the Society of Painters in Water-colours, which, for a short period, admitted works executed in oil. Linnell's name has of late years been chiefly associated with landscape painting, but half a century ago his portraits were well known. Among the persons more or less distinguished who sat to him were Lord Ingestre, F. Baring, Samuel Rogers, Sir H. Torrens, and Lady Lyndhurst in 1830, Lord King and Sir Augustus Callcott in 1832, Mulready and Matthews in 1833, Lord Lansdowne and Lord Monteagle in 1835, Sir Robert Peel in 1838, W. Collins, R.A., Whateley, Sterling, and Carlyle in 1844. Some of these portraits were engraved in mezzotint by the artist and published.

Red Hill Surry
March 7. 1859

Dear Sir

I want a light easy chair with a hood to it due to be drawn about our garden by a donkey we have great hope that such a thing will be of service to an invalid Lady here As you are on the Spot where I am told such things are to be had in great variety I shall be much obliged if can give me an account of what is to be had at a reasonable price & if any illustrated Calatogue is to be had all the better -

yours truly
John Linnell Esq

When we know what it is to be had some one will probably come.

I chuse a Bath Chair that I mean though for one person only, as the Bath Chairs are drawn by men - whereas the Chair of basket work shewn by the Drawer by a small donkey through the wood or any where the

Apl 1881

old J. Linnell
the Landscape Painter

in France with

Linnell
Mar 1852