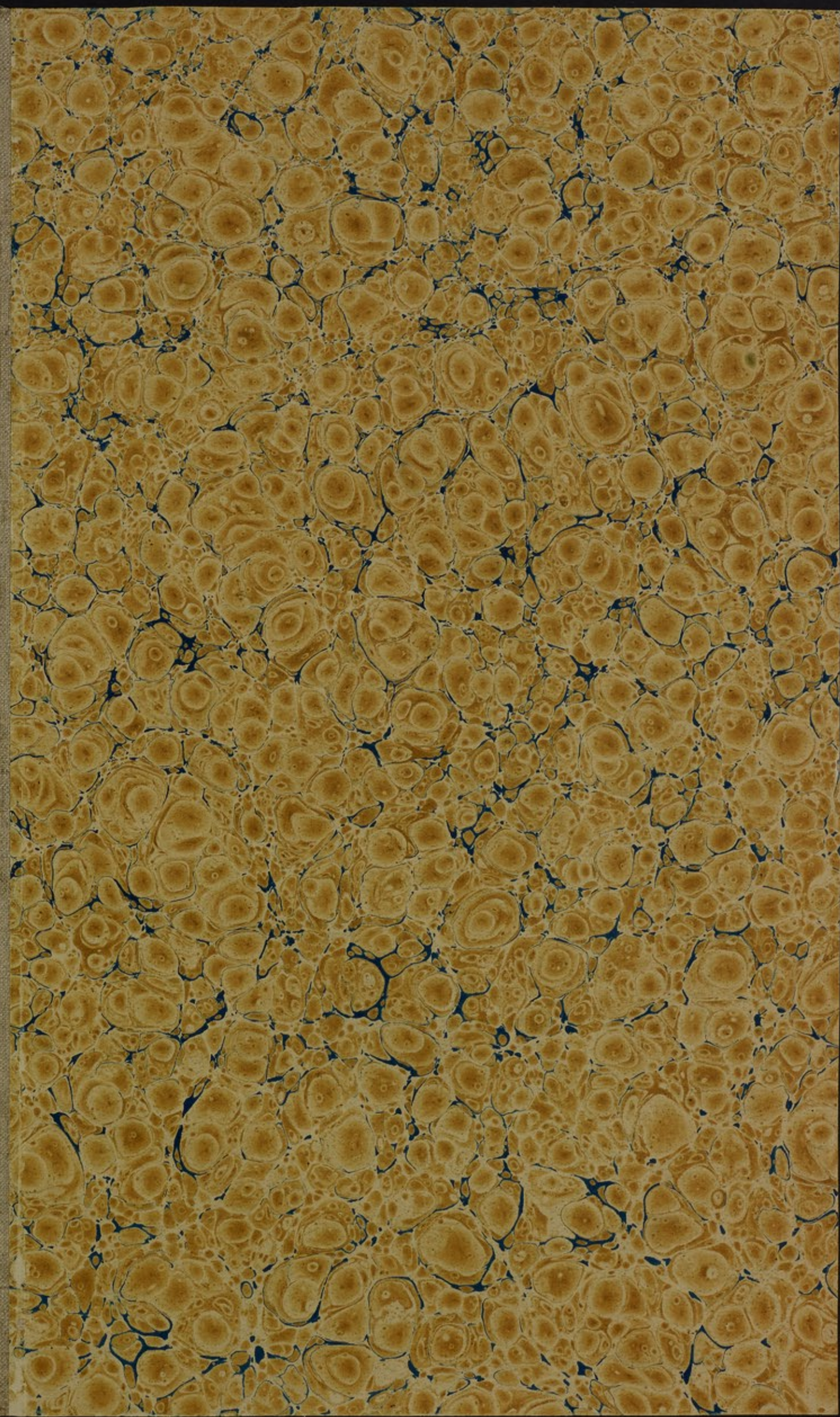
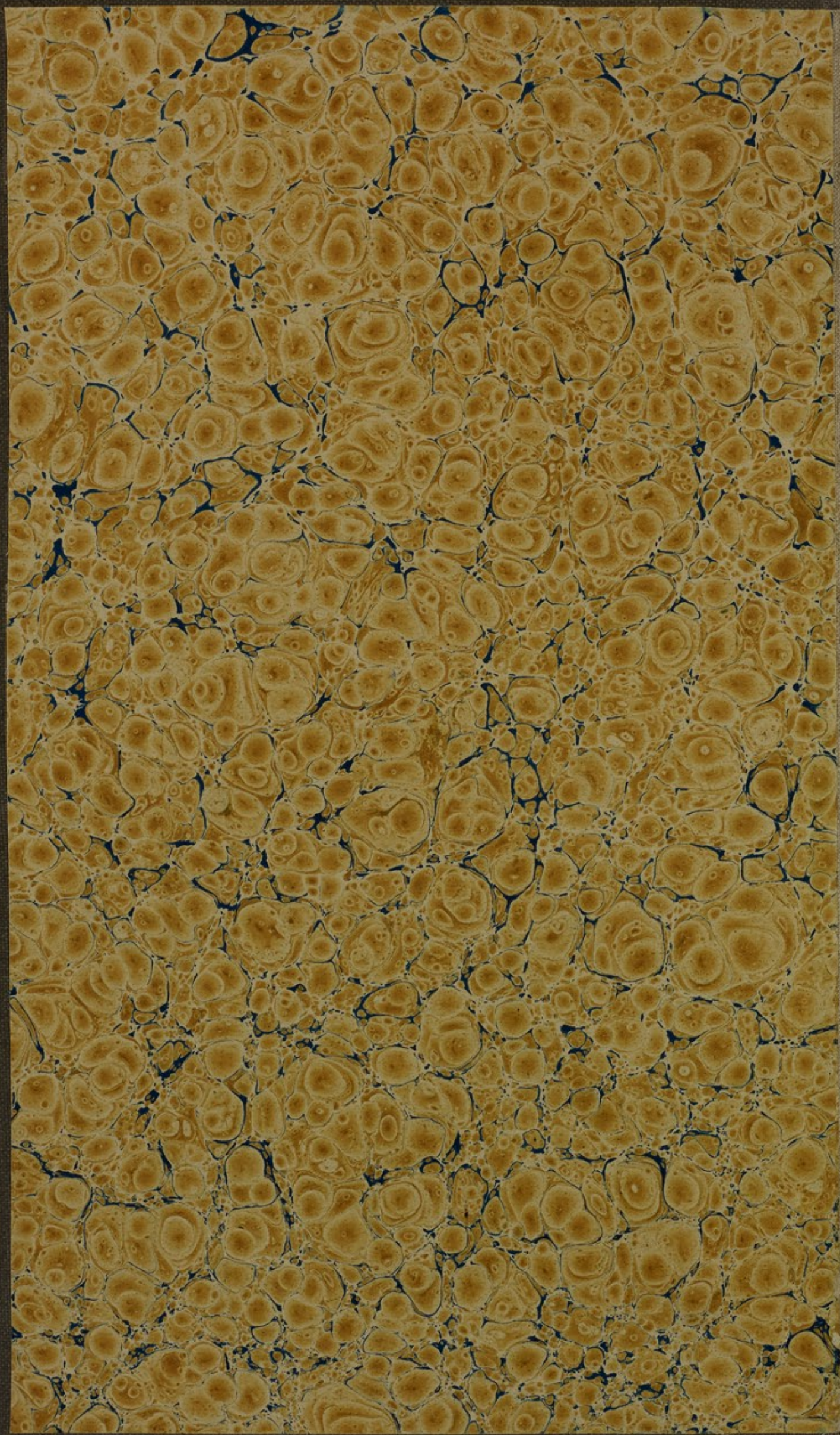


MINUTE BOOK
—
NATIONAL GALLERY



About this publication

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Date	5 Feb 1855-31 Mar 1856

Description

A volume containing the minutes of the Board of Trustees

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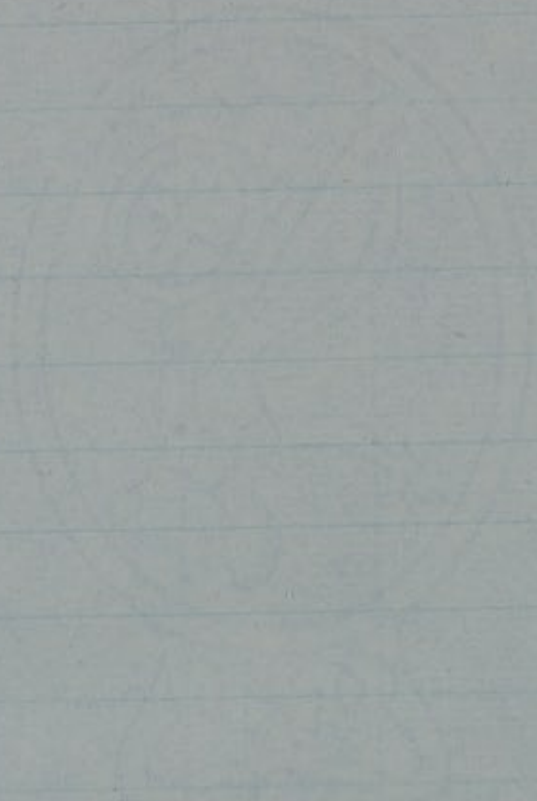
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Trustees appointment to Feb. 4. 1856.

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At a Meeting of the Trustees of the National
Gallery held on Monday the 5th February 1855;

Present

Sir Charles L. Eastlake, Bart. M.P., in the Chair,

The Right Hon. Lord Monteagle,

The Right Hon. Lord Overstone,

William Russell, Esq.

Read, and confirmed the minutes of the last
Meeting.

Mr. Mulready and Mr. Segnier having attended
this Meeting, the Trustees resumed the considera-
tion of Mr. Uwins' Report read at the last
Meeting; the Certificate attached to which being
amended by Mr. Segnier's addition to it of his
signature;

Resolved

That Mr. Mulready and Mr. Segnier
be requested, at such times as may suit their
convenience, and before the next Vacation, to
to inspect the pictures in the Vernon Gallery
to which their attention has been directed
particularly those by Sir David Wilkie, with
a view to ascertain whether the cracks which
they have before noticed in these pictures
indicate

2
indicate any tendency to increase, so as to
be prepared to
report to the Trustees accordingly.

Read

Letters from the Secretary of the Department
of Science and Art of the Board of Trade -
requesting the loan of the undermentioned
Works of Art, part of the Vernon Collection,
for the Exhibition of Works of Fine Art
about to be opened at Paris under the
French Imperial Commission; viz,

Pictures

The Vintage in Medoc by Thomas Uwins. R.A.

The South Sea Bubble - Edward M. Ward, A.R.S.

Sculpture

Ayas, Group, in marble, - John Gibson. A.A.

Resolved

That this Application be referred to
the Lords of the Treasury with an intimation
that the Trustees see no objection to these
Works of Art being furnished for the
Paris Exhibition, provided the approval
and sanction of their Lordships be first
obtained.

The Trustees referring to their minute of
the

3
18th December last on this subject,

Resolved

That, in the absence of Mr. Uwins from
sickness, the Secretary be authorized to cause
the two pictures by Wilkie, the Village Festival
and the Blind Fiddler, to be put under
glass without further loss of time.

Read

Letters from Miss^{es} Pettigrew, and
Brooke, stating, that the late Miss Rule
had desired that a picture, said to be
a portrait of Polly Willis, should be
presented to the Trustees for this Gallery,
and the picture having been submitted
to the view of the Trustees;

Resolved

That they decline accepting this
picture, whilst they acknowledge the
liberal intention of the deceased in making
the offer.

The Trustees, taking into their consideration
the infirm state of the Hooper, resolved, that,
for the present, their Meetings shall be
held once in every fortnight instead

of

4
of monthly as customary.

Read

Letters from the following persons
whose offers of pictures for sale the
Trustees declined;

Mr Waymouth — Mr Armstrong —

Mr Bond — Mr Mason —

Mr R. Pinti — Mr Hackett —

Mr Desbary — Mr Hayward —

Mr Connell.

February 19th 1855

C. L. Eastlake

5
At a Meeting of the Trustees of the National
Gallery held on Monday the 19th February 1855;

Present.

Sir Charles J. Eastlake, P.R.S. in the Chair,

The Rt Hon. Lord Montagu,

The Rt Hon. Lord Overstone,

William Russell, Esq.

Read and confirmed the Minutes of the last
Meeting.

Read

A letter from the Treasury of this date
conveying the sanction of the Lords
Commissioners of the Loan to the Committee
of Privy Council ^{for Trade} of three works of Art, part
of the Vernon Collection of the National
Gallery, applied for by their Lordships for
the Exhibition in Paris under the French
Imperial Commission, on the understanding
that they will be included in the Insurance
to be effected by the Department of Science
and Art

Resolved

That a letter be addressed to the
Secretary, for the information of the
Committee of Privy Council, ^{stating} that the Trustees
are

6
are now prepared to hand over to their
Lordsships the following pictures and
sculpture: viz.

Pictures.
The Vintage in Iledoc, by Tho: Uwins, R.A.,
the South Sea Bubble. " Edw^d. M. Ward, A.R.A.

Sculpture
Hylas (Marble) by John Gibson, R.A.,
on the conditions stated in their Lordsships'
letters, and, further, on the understanding
that they be included in the Insurance
to be effected by the Department of
Science and Art, as specially directed
by the Lords of the Treasury.

The Secretary reported that the two
pictures by Wilkie, "The Village Festival,"
and the "Blind Fiddler," now at
Marlborough House, have been placed
under glass, as directed by the Trustees
in their Minute of the 5th Instant.

C. L. Eastlake

March 5. 1855

7
At a meeting of the Trustees of the National
Gallery held on Monday March 5th 1855;

Present

Sir Charles L. Eastlake, in the Chair,
The Right Hon. Lord Overstone,
William Russell, Esq.,
Thomas Baring, Esq.,

Read and confirmed the Minutes of the
last Meeting.

Read

A letter from Mr. Hudson, Surin, to the
Earl of Claremont, (forwarded by the Chancellor
of the Exchequer) stating that the Collection
of Count Vallardi of Milan are at present
offered for sale; the consideration of which
letter was postponed.

Read

A letter from Mr. Suckling, Birmingham,
offering to the Trustees for sale a picture
by Titian;

Resolved

That the Trustees are not desirous that
this picture should be forwarded to London
specially for their inspection; but that Mr.

Suckling

be requested, if at any time he shall have occasion to send it there on his own account, to give notice to the Trustees, in that case, where it may be seen.

Lansdowne

At a meeting of the Trustees of the National Gallery held on Monday the 12th March, 1855;

Present

The Most Hon. the Marquess of Lansdowne, in the Chair,

The Right Hon. The Earl of Aberdeen,

The Right Hon. Lord Ashburton,

The Right Hon. Lord Overstone,

Sir Charles L. Eastlake, F.R.S.

William Russell, Esq.

Thomas Baring, Esq.

Read and confirmed the minutes of the last meeting.

The Trustees having taken into consideration the state of the Trust consequent to the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons of 1853;

Resolved

That the Marquess of Lansdowne be requested to address the letter to the First Lord of the Treasury of which the following is a copy:

National Gallery,

My Lord,

March 12th 1855.

I have been requested by the Trustees

of the National Gallery at a meeting held this day, at which I was desired to take the Chair, to express to your lordship, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, their hope that, if you approve of an arrangement for the most effectual and satisfactory administration of the trust now confided to them and communicated to you, with the sanction and at the request of Lord Aberdeen, by Mr. Gladstone, you will direct the necessary authority to be given for carrying it into effect and removing the difficulties under which the trust is now administered; or that if you think it expedient that this arrangement should be in any respect altered, you will do the Trustees the favour of communicating to the Trustees your views on the subject.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

Lansdowne.

The Right Hon.

Lord Viscount Palmerston.

C. L. Eastlake

At a Meeting of the Trustees of the National Gallery held on Monday the 2^d April, 1855;

Present

Sir Charles L. Eastlake, P.R.S., in the Chair,

The Most Hon. The Marquess of Lansdowne,

The Right Hon. Lord Overstone,

William Russell, Esq.

Read and confirmed the Minutes of the last Meeting.

Sir Charles Eastlake stated that he had received a communication from Mr. G. Cornwall Legh informing him of the wish expressed by Cavaliere Valtati to present for the National Gallery a picture by Pordenone;

Resolved

that this picture be accepted.

Read

A letter of the 26th Ult^o from the Treasury conveying the sanction by the Lords Commissioners of the ^{treasury} Loan to the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, Department of Science and Art, of a picture of the Vernon Collection, "Sancho Panza" and the Duchess by C. R. Leslie, R.A., for the Paris Universal Exhibition, - on the same conditions

conditions as to Insurance, &c, as were to be observed in the case of works already authorized to be lent;

Resolved

That the application made to the Treasury for the sanction of the Lords Commissioners of the before mentioned further loan of a picture by Mr Leslie, and the loan itself are authorized by the Trustees.

Read

A letter from Mr W. C. Long, whose offer of a picture for sale the Trustees declined.

Montague Chairman

At a meeting of the Trustees of the National Gallery held on Monday the 16th April 1855;

Present

The Right Hon. Lord Montague, in the Chair,

Sir Charles Eastlake, P.R.A.

William Russell, Esq.

Read and confirmed the Minutes of the last meeting.

Read

A letter from the Executors of the late Miss Ride urging the Trustees to rescind their decision whereby a picture, said to be a portrait of "Polly Willis", offered according to the last request of the deceased, was declined by the Trustees;

Resolved

That a letter be addressed to the said Executors informing them that, whilst the Trustees by no means desire to undervalue this picture, they do not consider it, as a work of Art, desirable as an addition to the National Collection and must, in consequence, adhere to their former resolution.

Read

Letters

Letters from the following persons whose offers of pictures for sale the Trustees declined;

Mr. G. Benjamin - Mr. Frostick -
 Mrs. Smith.
 C. L. Eastlake

At a meeting of the Trustees of the National Gallery held on Monday the 7th May 1855;

Present

Sir Charles L. Eastlake, in the Chair,
 The Most Hon. The Marquis of Northampton,
 The Right Hon. Lord Overstone,
 Thomas Baring, Esq.

Read and confirmed the Minutes of the last Meeting.

Mr. Uwins submitted to the Trustees the following bill for frame-makers work done in the Galleries since November last;

H. Critchfield - bill for frames and plate-glass for 3 pictures by Wilkie, cleaning frames &c. 20.13.6

Resolved

That the charges in this bill are moderate and approved by the Trustees; and that Mr Uwins is hereby authorized to pay the same and charge the amount in his Accounts with the Treasury.

Mr Uwins having resumed his duties

at

the Gallery, the Trustees do not consider it necessary to hold meetings oftener than monthly, unless on special occasions.

Read

Letters from the following persons whose offers of pictures for sale the Trustees declined;

M^r. de Goremans — M^r. Slinn —
 M^r. Williams — M^r. Bennett
 M^r. Stone — — M^r. Braithwaite,
 C. L. Eastlake

At a Meeting of the Trustees held on Monday the 11th June 1855;

Present

Sir Charles L. Eastlake, P. R. A., in the Chair,
 William Russell, Esq.

Read and confirmed the Minutes of the last Meeting.

Read

Letters from the following persons whose offers of pictures for sale the Trustees declined:—
 — la Comtesse de Neuchez — M^r. Creber —
 — M^r. Parish —

Wm Russell.

Published to this date

Pursuant to an order of the House of Commons dated 30th July 1855, for a copy of the Minutes of the Trustees, who were present, since May 1853 down to the present time.

At a Meeting of the Trustees of the National Gallery held on Monday 2nd July 1855;

Present

William Russell, Esq., in the Chair,

The Most Hon. The Marquess of Northampton,

Sir Charles L. Eastlake, P.R.A.

Read and confirmed the Minutes of the last Meeting.

Read

A Report from the Keeper of which the following is a copy:

"I beg to report to the Trustees that the picture by Barocci called the Madonna del Gatto is in a state which, in my opinion, requires immediate attention in order to save it from decay. The whole surface is covered with more or less projecting cracks - in some places these projecting portions have evidently become partially detached from the cloth, and in one or two points, fortunately not in important parts, small pieces have chipped off, leaving the cloth bare."

(Signed)

Thos. Uwins.

The Trustees having, in company with Mr Uwins, inspected the picture,

Resolve,

That it is desirable for the purpose suggested in Mr Uwins' report, to have the picture examined by Mr Sedham in order that he may report upon the practicability of securing the surface, ^{from further injury} - resolve further that Mr Uwins be requested, to invite Mr Mulready and Mr Bentley to give their opinion as to the expediency of the operation. The Trustees resolve that it is proper to provide immediately a glass for the better preservation of the picture, and that in the event of the relining of the picture being with the sanction of the Trustees of the British Museum recommended, the work be undertaken in the vacation. - The operation is to be confined, as in the case of the Velasquez recently lined by Mr Sedham, to relining with a view only to the preservation of the picture.

Mr Uwins is requested to report to the Trustees the result of the inquiry.

Read

A letter from the Home Office, of the 23rd ult, requesting the Trustees to furnish the Secretary of State in pursuance of a Resolution of the House of Commons of the 25th; Returns, -

20
1th Of the number of Visitors admitted to the National Gallery for each year, from 1806 to 1854 inclusive;

Of the number of Students for each of the above years;

Of the number of Catalogues printed, number sold, cost of paper and printing, and sum realized by their sale in each year;

And, Copy of the Rules and days of Admission to the National Gallery;

And the Keeper having reported that these Returns were prepared;

Resolved

That the Returns be forthwith transmitted to Mr Waddington to be submitted to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Read

A letter from Mr. Wright to the Lords of the Treasury (referred by My Lords to the Trustees) offering a picture for sale and requesting that a person may be sent to St. Heliers, Jersey, to examine it;

Resolved

That a letter be addressed to

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Mr. Wright acquainting him that the Trustees are not in the habit of deputed persons to examine pictures that are offered for purchase ~~and which are~~ at so considerable a distance from London; and that, not having themselves an opportunity of viewing ^{his} your picture, they are compelled to decline recommending its purchase.

And, that a letter be addressed to the Treasury informing the Lords Commissioners of the views of the Trustees on this question, and stating that an answer had been given to Mr. Wright's letter to the above effect.

R. Russell,

At a Meeting of the Trustees of the National Gallery held on Monday the 1st August 1855;

Present

William Russell, Esq., in the Chair,

Sir Charles Eastlake,

Thomas Daring, Esq.

Read and confirmed the Minutes of the

last Meeting

Read

A letter from Sir C. E. Trevelyan of the 31st Ult^o in which the Lords of the Treasury called for a copy of the Minutes of the Trustees since May 1853 down to the present time with the names of the Trustees who were present at each Meeting - in pursuance of an Order of the House of Commons; and the Secretary having reported that such Copy had been prepared;

Resolved

That the same be immediately transmitted to the Treasury.

Read

A Report by Mr. Uwins of this day's date of which the following is a copy;

National Gallery

August 6th 1855.

In

In obedience to the instructions of the Trustees I obtained the attendance of Mr. Mulready Ret., Mr. Bentley, and Mr. Sedham, who entered into a particular examination of the Baroccio. These Gentlemen agreed with me as to the necessity of guarding against the injury which is going on, and which threatens the picture with destruction. As a present remedy it was proposed that the picture should be protected by relining, and with this view they mutually signed the paper which is appended to this Report.

Mr. Phelps, Solicitor to the late Mr. Vernon's Estate made a communication that Mr. Jacob Bell on the part of Sir Edwin Landseer had applied for the remainder of the money due to him for the picture of "the Duke of Wellington on the field of Waterloo", and Mr. Phelps was ready to pay the money so soon as I had certified that the picture was in good condition, and had sustained no injury while in the hands of the Engraver - For this purpose I went to the house of Mess^{rs} Jennings, Print Sellers, Cheekside, to examine the picture, and afterwards to Mr. Phelps' Office in Red Lion Square.

At

At Mr. Jennings' I had learnt that Mr. Graves (the Publisher) had further claims of of time, and that he meant to show the picture in different provincial towns. On this I told Mr. Phelps that I could not answer for the condition of the picture till it was entirely out of the hands of the Publisher, and that I thought the payment should be withheld till then. In this he entirely agreed.

I went to see the pictures offered to the Gallery for sale by the Chev.^e de Ribiero, of the Portuguese Legation - The account of this picture by Dr. Waagen I append to this Report. The picture is painted by Bartholomew de Bruys in 1520-50. Dr. Waagen's opinion of its originality is sufficient, but I doubt if the Master be of sufficient consequence to make a work of his desirable in the National Gallery.

A Watteau and a Teniers were offered by Monsieur Raphael, 126 Jermyn Street. The first has an air of originality but has been much worked upon by other hands. The Teniers is a weak copy.

Signed J. Uwins.

Reports & appended to the foregoing Report.

"Having inspected the picture by Baroccio in the National Gallery, and having observed the defects noticed in Mr. Uwins' Report dated July 2. 1855, we are of opinion that the picture requires to be carefully relined, and as it appears that Mr. Leedham, whose ability in relining is well known, thinks such relining can be accomplished with safety, we recommend the operation should be confided to him.

(Signed) W. Mulready,
National Gallery
10 July 1855
Letter of Dr. Waagen.

Copie. 43 Gerrard Street Soho, ce 14 juillet 1855.
Monsieur le Chevalier. - Vous desirez d'avoir mon opinion sur le Maître d'un tableau à volets, représentant le Christ à la Croix, avec les Maries et les Guerriers, et sur les Volets dans un fond de paysage le donataire et sa femme. La voilà! Le maître de ce Tableau est d'après mon avis - Bartholomew de Bruys, qui a vécu et peint à Cologne, à peu près, dès l'an 1520-1560. C'est un oeuvre de son meilleur temps qui a beaucoup de ressemblance avec

son chef-d'œuvre sur le Grand Autel
de l'Église de Xanten petite Ville au
Bas Rhin. Sa conservation est en général
bonne.

agreed &
(signed) D^r G. Waagen.

The Trustees again took into consideration
Mr. Uwins' Report read at their last Meeting
on the unsatisfactory state of the picture
"The Madonna del Gatto; by Caraccio;
Resolved

That the Trustees of the National
Gallery beg to draw the attention of the
Trustees of the British Museum to the
Report made by Mr. Uwins of the unsafe
condition of the picture by Caraccio (numbered
3-29 in the List of pictures deposited in
the National Gallery by the Trustees of the
British Museum.)

The Trustees of the National Gallery
have thought it expedient for the safety of
the picture to place a glass over it - and
they wish to invite the Trustees of the
British Museum to consider the fitness of
taking

further steps to prevent its increased deteriora-
-tion.

The Trustees of the National Gallery have
made inquiries of Mr. Mulready and Mr.
Bentley whom they consider competent
authority upon this subject, and they beg
to transmit to the Trustees of the British
Museum a copy of their Report as well
as of that of Mr. Uwins to enable them
to consider and determine on the propriety
of directing permanent measures for the
preservation of the picture. If the Trustees
of the British Museum should be of opinion
that any such steps are to be taken the
approaching vacation in which the Gallery
will be closed will be the most convenient
period for undertaking them.

Resolved further, that ^{copies of} the Reports referred
to in the foregoing minute, be transmitted
to the Trustees of the British Museum for
their information and guidance.

Read

A letter from Mr. James Deppes, Solicitor, of the
28th Ult^o accompanying a Petition by him to the
Trustees to allow the Deed of Gift ^{executed by} the late Mr.
Vernon of his Collection of pictures to be produced
by

by one of their Officers in the Court of Chancery on the hearing of a suit instituted by the next of kin to the late Mr. J. M. W. Turner, and to have the Deed inspected, and a Copy made of it.

Resolved

That this Petition be referred to the Solicitor of the Treasury for his opinion as to the propriety of the Trustees granting this request.

Read

A letter from Sir Charles Eastlake of which the following is a copy;

National Gallery,

5th August 1855.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the general directions in the Treasury Minute recently laid before Parliament respecting the duties of the Director of the National Gallery, and referring more particularly to the directions, page 7, requiring that, in the event of its being desirable that the Director should travel with a view to the interests of the Gallery, a statement of the object should be submitted to the Trustees in the first instance, and afterwards

to the Treasury, - I have to request that you will be pleased to authorize me, subject to the approval of the Treasury, to proceed to the Continent, as soon as I shall have been enabled to place the new arrangements in the National Gallery on such a footing as to insure the transaction, with regularity, of such business as may require to be attended to during my absence.

The object I have in view is to inspect various pictures and collections, and, if I should think fit, to enter into negotiations for the purchase of the pictures mentioned in the annexed list, at prices not exceeding the amounts named.

As it is essential to the success of such negotiations that my intentions should not be prematurely divulged, I submit, for your consideration, whether it is necessary that the particular works of art which I have indicated need be known, for the present, except by this Board. The same observation, at least as regards pending or contemplated negotiations, may require to be borne in mind, in the event of the Minutes of the Trustees - in which, I assume, the list I submit will be inserted - being hereafter called for by Parliament.

I do not contemplate the necessity

of completing purchases on a large scale immediately, but as opportunities, at present unknown to me, may present themselves, where the offer of immediate payment might remove difficulties, or secure works not later to be obtained, I submit that a certain available sum, to be determined by the Trustees, should be placed at my disposal to meet such possible cases.

I have also to request that you will be pleased to sanction my application to the Treasury for an imprestment of one hundred pounds, to be accounted for on my return, for travelling expenses. I propose to submit on my return a Report of my proceedings for your information.

With reference to the Travelling Agent, Mr. Mindler, as this will be the first occasion of employing such Agent, and as it is desirable that he should clearly understand the objects I have in view, and the services he will hereafter have to perform, I propose that he should meet me, during the Autumn of the present year, at certain places on the continent which I shall point out to him. His stay on the continent will probably be considerably longer than my own, and I therefore propose that it should be recommended to

the

£ 200. - Treasury that the sum of two hundred pounds, should be imprested to him for his travelling expenses; and for such application to the Treasury I request your sanction. For this sum Mr. Mindler will account on his return, furnishing at the same time to this Board a Report of his proceedings.

I have further to request that you will be pleased to authorize my application, through the Treasury, for a general letter of introduction and recommendation, from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for foreign Affairs, to Her Majesty's Ministers and Consuls on the continent, in order that both myself and Mr. Mindler may be duly accredited in any transactions which we may, under proper authority, undertake; that assistance may be rendered to promote the accomplishment of the objects proposed, and to obviate difficulties incident to the exportation of Works of Art from various continental States.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

C. L. Eastlake.

The Trustees of the
National Gallery.

List of pictures proposed to be purchased,

under

under certain conditions for the National Gallery.

The sum named in Estimate is in every case the extreme amount proposed to be offered: it being understood that the pictures may possibly be obtained for less.

St. Sebastian, the head being a portrait of Ludovico Sforza, life size, attributed to Leonardo da Vinci: but probably by Beltraccio.

Now in the possession of M. Moreau a dealer in Paris.

Price asked 100,000 francs. 1,500

A Madonna and Child, about the size of the small Correggio in the National Gallery. Unquestionably by Leonardo da Vinci. In

the possession of Duke Sitta of Milan. Seen. 3,000

An Altar-piece in three compartments by Perugino. The center compartment representing the Madonna and Child with Angels; the left compartment representing the Archangel Michael; the right the Archangel

Carried over 4,500

Brought over

Archangel Raphael with Tobit. Figures under life size. This is the chief

portion of an Altar-piece, originally in six compartments, painted by Perugino for the Certosa, at Pavia.

Described by Vasari. Supposed by Ruanohr and Pappavant to be partly painted by Raphael. In the possession of Duke Melzi of Milan. 3,500

seen.

An Altarpiece by Domenico Ghirlandajo representing the Madonna and Child enthroned,

Angels and various Saints: now in the Church of La Calza in Florence.

Originally painted for the Church of S. Giusto alle Murate, described by Vasari. Figures under life size. 1,500

not seen.

It may be necessary to purchase, together with this a picture in the same Church (La Calza) attributed to Perugino, representing the Crucifixion with various Saints; described by Vasari as having been originally painted

Carried over 9,500

1 Brought forward 9,500.
 painted for the Church of St. Giusto
 all'Altura.

Some writers question whether it is
 really the work of Perugino, & conceive
 that Vasari may have been mistaken.

Other high authorities namely
 Romoer and Pappavant, think it by
 Perugino when studying in Florence.

Figures under life size. Not seen. 500

£2,000 for the two is proposed only
 in case the proprietors should refuse
 to separate the pictures.

10,000

Of the above pictures there is little probability
 at present of obtaining the St. Sebastian, as
 the possessor has an exorbitant idea of its
 value.

There is also little probability of obtaining
 the Little Leonardo. The price asked by Duke
 Melzi for his Perugino, on my offering
 £2,000 for it in November last was
 100,000 francs.

Of the sum voted by Parliament, £10,000 -
 there would therefore probably remain
 £4,000 or £5,000.

The

The Picani Paul Veronese (at Venice) is I fear
 not likely to be at present obtained, as no
 less a sum than £15,000 - is asked for it.

With respect to the collection of works of
 early Italian Masters in the possession of
 Signor Donabardi at Florence, not yet seen,
 as the price asked is rather more than
 the sum now voted, I propose only to inspect
 the Collection and report on it to the Trustees.
 Any negotiation into which I might enter
 with a view to the acquisition of the Collection
 could only therefore be conditional.

(Signed)

C. L. Eastlake.

Resolved

That the Trustees concur in the views
 expressed by Sir Charles Eastlake in the letter which
 has been just read. With respect to that part
 of it in which he invites the Trustees to name
 a certain sum to be placed at his disposal, they
 find that, although the negotiations contemplated
 would absorb the £10,000 voted by Parliament
 for the purchase of pictures, yet as some of
 those negotiations may not take effect, they
 think that the portion of that sum to be
 placed at his disposal, under such circumstances,
 should be three thousand Pounds.

£3,000.

Resolved

Resolved

That a copy of the letter referred to and of this Minute be transmitted to the Treasury.

Sir Charles Eastlake explained that the whole of the Attendants formerly received their pay during the six weeks vacation in September and October, but that, subsequently, a regulation was adopted to the effect that Attendants appointed after the date of such regulation should not receive any pay during the vacation.

One individual only, Nathaniel Palmer, an Attendant at Marlborough House, appointed under such circumstances, is paid at the reduced rate. Sir Charles Eastlake recommended that Palmer should be paid like the rest, and that, in future, the Attendants should not be deprived of their pay during the short period of the vacation.

The Trustees approve of such recommendation.

Sir Charles Eastlake represented further that an Attendant at Marlborough House, Robert Rudland, the resident Attendant and Porter had petitioned to be allowed full. After

hearing

hearing a statement of the facts, the Trustees recommended that the petition of Rudland should be granted.

Resolved

That a copy of the above Minutes be transmitted to the Treasury.

The Trustees then Resolved

That among other precautions for the due conservation of the works of art in the National Collection, the backs of the pictures, both in the building in Trafalgar Square and in Marlborough House, be cleaned during the next vacation: but that the backs be not concealed with any covering till the Report of the Director respecting the outward condition and general state of the pictures be completed.

Read

A letter dated 5. August, and addressed to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury by Mr. Miers, submitting a claim, on his part, for compensation in consequence of his being superseded in the Office of Keeper of the National Gallery; The Trustees beg leave to recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the

Lords

38
Lords of the Treasury;

Resolved

That a copy of this Minute be forwarded, with Mr. Urwin's letter, to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Secretary to the Trustees and Assistant Keeper of the National Gallery, Major General G. S. Thwaites having, since his resignation in June 1854, continued to fulfil the duties of the above Offices in consequence of the new arrangements for the direction of the establishment not having been completed, and having so continued to act to his own great inconvenience, and to the prejudice of his health, the Trustees consider that such extra service, under such circumstances, entitle Major General Thwaites to remuneration accordingly.

Resolved

That the thanks of the Trustees be given to Major General Thwaites for having consented to undertake the extra duties referred to; as well as for the conscientious and unremitting care with which he has, for a long series of years, attended, as Resident Sub-Keeper, to the safety

of

39
the National Gallery.

Resolved

That a Copy of the above minutes be transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury.

As certain alterations and repairs appear to be necessary in the Apartments to be occupied by Mr. Wormer in the National Gallery, the Trustees, referring to the observation on that subject, p. 7. in the Treasury Minute before mentioned leave it to the discretion of the Director to make such applications or recommendations to the Treasury, respecting such alterations as he may think fit.

Read

Various letters from persons offering pictures for sale which the Trustees did not consider desirable for the National Gallery.

For
R. Russell

At a meeting of the Trustees of the National Gallery held on Monday the 12th of November 1855

Present

William Russell Esq, in the Chair,
Sir C. L. Eastlake, Director, and
The Secretary.

Read and confirmed the Minutes of the last meeting.

Reconstitution of
the Establishment
of the National Gallery

Sir Charles Eastlake stated that he had been appointed Director of the National Gallery by Treasury warrant dated the 2nd of July 1855 and that the warrants appointing Mr R. N. Wornum to be Keeper and Secretary, and Mr Otto Mündler to be Travelling Agent, bear the same date. That the duties of the Director, and of the other officers, are generally set forth in the printed Treasury Minute dated the 27th of March 1855, and that by the same Minute the Director is required to "prepare and issue with the sanction of the Trustees, rules and instructions for the guidance of the Officers and attendants, in their duty," as well as to "frame regulations for the admission of students and others to make copies in the galleries".

Sir C. Eastlake stated that he had prepared such instructions and regulations accordingly. He observed that the Trustees who had acted under the

the previous constitution of the National Gallery, had, according to a declaration in the Minute referred to, been invited to continue to act, and it appeared that all those Trustees who were not prevented by unavoidable causes had consented to continue to act accordingly: but as no formal notification on the subject, had as yet been received from the Treasury, he stated this only from hearsay.

Resolved that the reading of the instructions and regulations referred to, be postponed till the ordinary meetings of the Trustees shall be resumed.

Sir H. Ellis on the Relining of the Baroccio, No 29

Read a letter from Sir Henry Ellis, on the part of the Trustees of the British Museum, authorizing the Trustees of the National Gallery to take such measures as they might think requisite for the relining of the picture by Baroccio, No 29.

Read the following letter from the Director
National Gallery
of Nov^r 1855

My Lords & Gentlemen

Referring to your minute of the 2nd of July last respecting the relining of the picture by Baroccio

The Baroccio relined

No 29; and to the correspondence on the subject with the Trustees of the British Museum; I have now to report that, in accordance with such sanction the picture has been relined, as proposed, by Mr Francis Leedham; and that such relining has been performed to my entire satisfaction.

Wiping the surface & dusting the pictures during the vacation

I have further to state that I had authorized Mr John Bentley during the vacation, to wipe the surface of all the pictures in the National Gallery, including the pictures at Marlborough House, provided the operation could be performed with perfect safety. The object being not merely to cleanse the surface from dust and damp, but, as far as possible, to renew the lustre of the varnish. I instructed Mr Bentley to avoid adding any fresh varnish to the pictures at present, except where it might be deemed absolutely necessary. My instructions to Mr Bentley to the above effect were in writing and are open to the inspection of the Trustees, now or at any future time, if required.

I have now to report that the effect of Mr Bentley's careful operations, has been to restore the due lustre of the surface of the pictures in almost every instance. Two pictures only having appeared to require fresh varnish - the adoration of the shepherds, by Velazquez, No 232, and a portrait by Albert Dürer,

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Dürer, No 245. Those pictures have been varnished according to my instructions, with an essential-oil varnish.

Having been perfectly satisfied with the manner in which Mr Bentley has attended to my instructions I have requested him to be ready, as occasion may require, to wipe the surface of the pictures with a soft material, so as to keep them free from dust and to preserve as far as possible the lustre of the varnish.

Surfaces of Pictures to be constantly attended to

I have &c
(Signed) C. L. Eastlake
Director National Gallery

Read the following letter from the Director
National Gallery
12 Nov. 1855

My Lords and Gentlemen

I have the honor to acquaint you that I wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury on the 14th of August last respecting the means of protecting from fire the portion of the building in Trafalgar Square in which the National Pictures are placed. The subject was referred by the Treasury to the Office of Works; from which office a report, after a careful inspection of the

On greater security against fire

45
alteration of the Wall in the West Room

Building, had been returned to the Treasury. In consequence of such report measures had been taken to render more safe the flue of the furnace which heats the building and which passes through the East wall of the West room in the Gallery. In carrying out the alterations so required, the wood-work had been entirely removed from a portion of the surface of the wall, and consequently the pictures which were before hung there could not be conveniently replaced, from the difficulty of fastening the suspending rings &c to the brick-work. The large picture by Sebastian del Piombo, which extends on both sides beyond such unboarded brick-work, had therefore been placed there. By this change that picture is also exhibited in a much better light.

With regard to other precautions directed by the Treasury to be undertaken in consequence of the Report from the Office of Works, I beg to refer the Trustees to the copies of correspondence between the Treasury, the Office of Works, and myself; and to the Report furnished to the Office of Works by Mr Braidwood the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade.

Read the following preliminary Report from the
Director

46
Director.

National Gallery
12 Nov^r 1855

My Lords and Gentlemen

I have the honor to acquaint you that I am preparing a detailed Report respecting my late visit to the Continent, and that I shall be ready to submit it, at the first ordinary meeting of the Trustees. For the present I beg leave to give an abstract of that Report for the information of the Trustees and in order to assist them in deciding on some questions to be at once laid before them

Referring to the list of pictures with estimates which I submitted to the Trustees in August last, I have to state that I have not thought it expedient to make any offer for the so-called Leonardo da Vinci, at Paris, representing St Sebastian; nor for the very fine small picture also attributed to Leonardo in the Litta Gallery at Milan: the first named being, in my opinion, decidedly not by Leonardo, and the Litta picture, though of almost unquestioned reputation, being also as I am now persuaded not by the hand of the master.

Director's Report on his visit to the Continent

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Negotiation for picture by Pietro Perugino.

For the Perugino in the possession of Duke Melzi at Milan, estimated by me in the list referred to at £ 3.500, I have offered 80.000 francs - about £ 3.200. That negotiation is still pending.

I have also made an offer for a Mantegna now in the possession of the Somaglia family of Milan. The ultimate sum proposed for this work, was 40.000 francs, about £ 1.600, but the negotiation has been entrusted to a confidential agent in Milan, and it is probable that the picture may be obtained for a less sum. This picture was not in the list submitted in August last.

For the Ghirlandajo at Florence I have offered 5.400 francesconi - about £ 1.240 - my estimate for the picture, in the list before mentioned having been £ 1.500. That offer has been accepted but upto this time I have not obtained the consent of the ^{Tuscan} government to take away the picture. I hope however that through the influence of Lord Normanby the permission will be ultimately obtained. My private correspondence with Lord Normanby on this subject, together with other documents relating to it, are submitted confidentially to the Trustees for their inspection.

Refusal of the Tuscan Government to allow the export of a picture by Domenico Ghirlandajo

Purchase of a picture
by Sandro Botticelli.

I have further to state that I have purchased, at Florence, a picture by Sandro Botticelli for, bankers' charge included, £ 331..13.. - a Benozzo Gozzoli for £ 137.16.8 - a Cosimo Rosselli for £ 114.17.. - and, at Bologna, a second Sandro Botticelli for the equivalent of 750 Roman crowns - about £ 160 - making in all about £ 745. The pictures purchased in Florence have been left there in order to have a frame made for one and the old frames of the others repaired and regilt; the art of frame-carving being practised with great ability in Florence. Some of the pictures also required partial restoration. Having been fully satisfied with the skill evinced by Signor Ugo Baldi in various instances of restoration in the Lombardi collection, I have intrusted the pictures to him for the purpose of being restored accordingly. This would also serve as an experiment of the cost, and of the result of such operations in Florence: expenses of the kind, like those of packing and carriage, will be considered as incidental expenses.

It will be in the recollection of the Trustees that £ 10,000 was voted by

Other purchases left
with Signor Ugo Baldi
for restoration.

Parliament, for the purchase of pictures for the current year. The actual expenditure as regards that sum, is thus at present limited to about £ 745. Of the principal liabilities - amounting in all to about £ 6,040 - none can be considered at present certain. Even assuming them to be certain, more than £ 3,000 remains for other purchases. But the number of fine works on the continent, attainable at fair prices, is such that it is hoped a further outlay may, if occasion should arise, be recommended.

I have the

(Signed)

C. L. Eastlake

The Trustees of the
National Gallery

Sir Charles Eastlake having submitted the above report of the purchases made, and of the negotiations entered into, by him, for further purchases of pictures on the continent:

Minute of Trustees
approving the Report
of the Director.

Resolved, that the Trustees ~~desire to express~~ ~~their confidence in the judgment of the Director~~ ~~and to state that they have no objection~~ to offer to the course pursued by ^{the Director} him as described in his report. They understand that should the pending negotiations referred to, be concluded

measures will be taken for the payment of the pictures so purchased, in such mode and under such conditions as the Treasury may be pleased to direct.

Resolved, that a copy of this minute be transmitted to the Treasury.

As it appears highly desirable that Mr Mündler should continue on the continent for some time longer, in order to conclude, if possible, certain negotiations for pictures already entered into, and to collect the requisite materials for Reports required by the Director for the information of the Trustees.

Resolved that it be recommended to the Treasury that a further imprestment of one hundred and fifty pounds be issued to Mr Mündler for his expenses, and that the Director be empowered to receive such sum in order to transmit it to Mr Mündler.

Read a letter from Sir C. Eastlake proposing to purchase for the National Collection, a celebrated picture, under certain conditions, for a sum not exceeding three thousand two hundred pounds.

Further imprestment to be issued to Mr Otto Mündler for travelling expenses.

£ 150

£ 3,200.

Copy

National Gallery

12 November 1855

My Lords and Gentlemen

I beg leave to submit to you a proposal for the purchase of a celebrated picture by a Venetian master, should it be for sale, and should I, on examining it, be sufficiently satisfied with its state of preservation.

On arriving in Venice about the middle of October last, I found that a well known picture by Paul Veronese, formerly in the church of San Silvestro, had become private property, and that with the consent of the government, it was about to be exported. I heard at the same time that the person who had the disposal of it, intended to take it to Paris and offer it first to Baron James Rothschild. Under such circumstances I considered that the picture would in all probability become the property of so opulent a collector.

I understood that the picture was generally in good condition but that in some unimportant parts it required restoration. On applying for the purpose of seeing it, at the "Accademia delle Belle Arti," where I heard it was, I found, to my disappointment, that it was already packed

Proposal to purchase a celebrated picture by Paul Veronese

Formerly in the Church of San Silvestro at Venice

packed up to be sent to Paris.

I left Venice a very few days afterwards. Soon after my arrival in London, I received letters, dated the 27th and 29th of last month, from Mr Mündler, whom I had left in Venice, giving a high character of the picture from competent authorities whom he had seen, transmitting a note from Signor Della Rovere, a friend of the proprietor, certifying that there was no pledge whatever to Baron Rothschild, and finally informing me that, by the advice of persons desirous of seeing the picture well placed, he had authorized Signor Della Rovere to write to the proprietor who had accompanied the case to Paris, recommending him not to stop in Paris at all, but to take the picture on to London; promising that the additional cost of carriage would be defrayed by me.

This work of Paul Veronese represents the Adoration of the Magi, and is about eleven feet six inches high, by about ten feet six inches wide. It was formerly in the church of San Silvestro in Venice, and is noticed in the highest terms in all the early guide books for Venice which I have consulted. ~~A very good judge~~

Subject - The
"Adoration of the
Magi"

~~of the master described it as equal in quality to the celebrated Pisani picture.~~ As the proprietor was said to be intent on offering the picture to a very wealthy purchaser of works of art, I confess I have not much hope of being able to secure it for the National Gallery, but as such an opportunity should by no means be neglected while there is the slightest chance of success, I beg to propose that, in the event of my approving of the work as a specimen of the master, and in the event of its being still for sale, it be recommended to the Treasury that I should be authorized to purchase it for a sum not exceeding three thousand two hundred pounds.

To be purchased for
a sum not exceeding
£ 3,200

I name this sum because, reckoning the purchases already made, and even the liabilities known to the Trustees - I allude to offers made but which may or may not be accepted - it will still be within the grant of £10,000 for the current year; and also because it is in my belief that the picture may prove to be worth quite as much or more than £3,200.

I feel certain that, under the conditions before specified, this would be, on every account, a most desirable acquisition, and I cannot therefore too strongly recommend the purchase.

Should

Should the proprietor acting according to his first intentions, refuse to proceed to London, I shall still hope to take measures for purchasing it in Paris.

I have the honor to be

My Lords and gentlemen

Your most obedient servant

(Signed)

C. L. Eastlake

Director National Gallery

The Trustees of
The National Gallery

Resolved, that, should Sir C. Eastlake on a careful inspection of the picture referred to, be satisfied with it as a fine work of art, as a genuine, and on the whole well preserved specimen of the master, and as being identical with the particular specimen described and extolled by many writers on art, the Trustees approve of and recommend such purchase.

Resolved that a copy of this minute be transmitted to the Treasury.

Resolved, further, that a copy of Sir C. Eastlake's letter on the subject, be transmitted, as a confidential communication, to James Wilson Esq, Secretary of the Treasury

Purchase conditionally recommended by the Trustees.

The Keeper submitted the following Report respecting operations which he had attended to during the vacation.

National Gallery

12 November 1855

My Lords and gentlemen

In accordance with the directions

Report of the Keeper on operations attended to during the vacation

in the minute of the Trustees of the 5th of August last - "that the backs of the pictures, both in the Building in Trafalgar Square, and in Marlborough House, be cleaned, during the vacation" - I have the honor to report that such cleaning has taken place, as far as was practicable in all cases; but on account of their great size, three of the pictures - the "Raising of Lazarus," by Sebastiano del Piombo, and the "Vision of St Jerome," by Parmigiano, in Trafalgar Square; and "Christ healing the sick," by West, at Marlborough House, were not taken down from the wall, on this occasion. ^{back of the} The "Raising of Lazarus," has, however, been since cleaned, on the occasion of the recent removal ^{of this picture} to another position in the gallery. The other pictures of the National Collection were all removed from the walls and thoroughly dusted. After this operation, when the pictures were

Removal of the "Raising of Lazarus" by Sebastiano del Piombo

were replaced, all their surfaces were carefully wiped by Mr John Bentley and assistants. Mr Bentley also stopped in some ^{minute portions where the completion of the surface rendered it absolutely necessary to} varnish, the Velazquez, No 232; and he ^{also} varnished the Albert Dürer, No 249.

The "Barocci" No 29, was lined by Mr Leedham; who also put down some ~~small~~ ~~pieces~~ of the Claude No 6, and of the Julio Romano, No 144.

Pension to Mr Wynn

£ 100

Gratuity to Thwaites

£ 150.

Letters have been received from the Treasury, ^{notifying the} grant of a pension ^{of one hundred pounds a year} to Mr Wynn; and ^{the donation of} a gratuity for extra services, of one hundred and fifty pounds, to Major General Thwaites, which has been paid to ^{the latter} ~~him~~ accordingly.

Messenger appointed

I have further to Report that George Laskey has been appointed Messenger at the National Gallery, by a Treasury letter dated September the 3rd. And arrangements have been made with the Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police for the attendance of a constable at the Gallery, during the day; for which a charge will be made of 24/6^d per week: he will not be required during the vacation. A constable has accordingly

Police Constable to attend at the Gallery

£ 1 " 4 " 6

been in attendance since the 22nd of October last.

I have the honor to be
My Lords and Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant
(Signed) R. N. Wornum
Keeper and Secretary

The Trustees of the
National Gallery

Room at Marlboro' House lent for the Service of the Fine Arts Commission.

Read a letter from Mr Redgrave requesting that a room in Marlborough House, in which a portion of the Vernon Gallery had been originally placed, and which has lately been occupied by the senate of the London University, might be lent for a time, for the use of some students employed under the superintendence of Mr Burchett, to make some studies for the use of the Fine Arts Commission.

Resolved, that the room be lent accordingly, but, on the distinct understanding that it is to be used by the students referred to only for the special object mentioned and for a limited time.

Northampton
Only one trustee having attended on the 12th I desire to express my entire concurrence in the resolutions arrived at.

for the purchase of which Sir C
had made an agreement

At a meeting of the Trustees of the National
Gallery held on Monday the 19th of November 1855
Present

The Marquis of Northampton, in the chair,
William Russell Esq
The Director, and
The Secretary.

Read and confirmed the minutes of the
last meeting.

Correspondence of
the Marquis of
Normanby with
the Duke of
Casigliano, at
Florence

Read a copy of a correspondence between the
Duke of Casigliano and the Marquis of Normanby,
relating to the refusal of the Tuscan Government
to suffer the exportation of a picture by Domenico
Ghirlandajo, ^{for the} purchase of which ^{for the National Gallery} Sir Charles Eastlake
had made an agreement ^{at Florence, for the National Gallery.} This
correspondence ^{having} been forwarded by the Treasury
for the Depost of the Trustees;

Resolved:—

Resolution of
the Trustees on
the subject of the
correspondence

The Trustees, expressing their deep regret that
the negotiations for the removal of the difficulties
which have prevented the completion of the contract
into which Sir Charles Eastlake had entered, for
the purchase of the "Ghirlandajo" have hitherto
been without success, wish to observe that they
are of opinion that it is very desirable to conciliate
the good offices of the Tuscan Government with

reference to future negotiations for the acquisition of works of art on the part of the agents of the British government in connexion with the National Gallery. As regards the case of the "Ghirlandajo", virtually purchased by Sir Charles Eastlake for the National Gallery - It is suggested that if the consent of H. J. & R. Highnes the Grand Duke could be obtained as an act of grace, such a conclusion of the discussion, would in accomplishing the object proposed, not prejudice any future negotiations of the kind. But should it be impossible to obtain such consent it would then be allowable to express ^{a hope} that the sort of promise held forth in the Duke of Casigliano's letter of the 24th of Oct^r last to assist any views ^{of the} British Government might, in other negotiations of the kind having no relation to Church property, be depended upon.

Resolved that a copy of this minute be transmitted to the Treasury.

Overstone

At a meeting of the Trustees of the National Gallery held on Monday the 14th of February 1856.

Present

The Marquis of Lansdowne, in the Chair
Lord Overstone,

The Marquis of Northampton

Lord Montague

W. Russell Esq

J. Baring Esq

The Director, and

The Secretary.

Read and confirmed the minutes of the last meeting.

Read Treasury Warrant, re-appointing the Trustees of the National Gallery, as follows: -

Treasury Warrant re-appointing Trustees of National Gallery
To all to whom these Presents shall come, The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury send Greeting.

Whereas the following Noblemen and Gentlemen were duly appointed Trustees of the National Gallery of Pictures at the dates set against their names respectively, and have continued to act as such Trustees up to the date hereof, and Whereas by a Treasury Minute dated the 27th of March 1855, We did reconstitute

the Establishment of the National Gallery, and did make alterations in the functions of the Trustees of that Institution. And Whereas We are desirous of continuing the said Noblemen and Gentlemen in their said Office under the altered system now established, Know ye, that We do by these Presents continue the said

	Date of first Appointment
Earl of Ripon	2 nd July 1824
Earl of Aberdeen	Do
Marquis of Lansdowne	11 th March 1834
Duke of Sutherland	26 th February 1835
Lord Montagu of Brandon	Do
Sir James Graham Bart	Do
Lord Overstone	13 th August 1850
Lord Ashburton	Do
William Russell Esq ^r	Do
Thomas Baring Esq ^r	25 th October 1850
and Marquis of Northampton	11 th April 1851

as Trustees of the National Gallery. And We do hereby direct that all acts and matters done by them in their capacity of Trustees aforesaid up to the date hereof shall be as valid and effectual as if this Warrant had borne the date of the Treasury Minute aforesaid.

Given under our Hands at the

Treasury Chambers Whitehall this 3rd day of January 1856.

(signed) Palmerston.

G. Cornwall Lewis.

Complaints of the
catalogue sellers
on the steps of the
Building

The Keeper stated that visitors had complained of being annoyed by the sellers of Catalogues on the steps of the Building, and produced a letter of the Chief Commissioner of Police, of a former period, calling the attention of the Trustees to this public annoyance and obstruction. The Keeper requested the instructions of the Trustees on the subject.

Resolved:

Keeper authorized
to take measures
to abate the nuisance

That the Keeper be authorized to take the necessary steps to abate the nuisance.

Mr E. Paine
soliciting an
appointment

Read, a letter from Mr Edmund Paine, enclosing a recommendation from the late Mr Rogers, soliciting an appointment in the National Gallery. — Mr Paine to be informed that there is no vacancy in the National Gallery.

A picture by
Domenichino
offered for 2000^l

Read, a letter from Mr C. H. Beddoes, executor of the late Rev John Eagles, offering, in accordance with directions in the will of the deceased, a picture of St Catherine by Domenichino, for the sum of £2,000.

offer declined offer declined by the Trustees.

Regulations for the Establishment submitted by the Director.

The Director submitted for the sanction of the Trustees, certain regulations for the Establishment which he had prepared in accordance with directions in the Treasury Minute of the 27th of March 1855; the consideration of such regulations having been postponed from a former meeting.

Committee appointed

Resolved that a committee of the Trustees be appointed to examine and report upon such regulations and that Lord Overstone and Mr Russell be requested to act as such committee.

Committee appointed accordingly.

Inscriptions placed on the frames of the pictures

The Director reported that, in accordance with the suggestion of Mr Ewart in Parliament on the 20th of July last - a suggestion which appeared to receive the approval of the Government - he had caused inscriptions to be placed on the frames of all the pictures in the West room of the National Gallery.

The main object, that of providing information for the public, was easily accomplished; but as it was desirable that this object should be combined with a due attention to the effect of the pictures, and with a tasteful appearance, - he submitted

that before proceeding further it would be desirable that a committee of Trustees should be appointed so that he might have the advantage of consulting them on the general question and in particular cases. Lord Northampton and Mr Russell ^{were} appointed a Committee accordingly.

Committee appointed.

arrangements against fire, in progress

The Keeper stated that certain arrangements which had been made, under the direction of the Office of works; with a view to the better protection of the Building from fire, were in progress, and that he would take an opportunity of reporting further on the subject when those arrangements should be completed.

The Keeper also reported that, in accordance with the instructions of the Director, and under the general sanction of the Treasury, more effectual means had been taken to ensure cleanliness and the absence of dust, in the rooms, Mats and scrapers by placing large scrapers and additional mats placed under the Portico - at the entrance, under the portico.

Mats and scrapers placed under the Portico.

Proposal to open the windows in the two small rooms

As it appeared that the skylights in the smaller rooms at the head of the stairs were not contrived to be opened, and that no circulation of air was ensured in those rooms except by the ventilators, which in close weather

were found insufficient - The Director proposed that application should be made to the Office of Works, ~~through the Treasury~~, in order to have the defect referred to, remedied in both rooms.

The Keeper reported that he had received from the Messrs Graves the large picture of the "Dialogue at Waterloo" by Sir Edwin Landseer, forming part of the Vernon donation, and that the picture had been placed with the other works of that collection, in the rooms at Marlborough House. With Sir Edwin Landseer's concurrence the Messrs Graves had also furnished

£26.5. - a frame for the picture, at the price of 25 guineas.

The Keeper further reported that the group in marble, ^{by Mr Gibson} and the three pictures by Messrs Leslie, Uwins, and Ward, which had been lent for the Paris Universal Exhibition, had been safely returned, with the exception of a slight injury to the sleeve of one of the figures in the picture of the "South Sea Bubble" by Mr Ward. The accident had been efficiently repaired.

Sir E. Landseer's
"Dialogue at Waterloo"
placed with the other
Vernon pictures

Marble group &
three pictures returned
from Paris Exhibition

(no. 272)
Picture by
Pordenone to
be added to the
collection.

hung Feb 6th

a picture by Pordenone, a portion of a seated colossal figure, on canvas, ^{said to have come} from a church near Venice, presented to the National Gallery by the Cav. Vallati of Rome, was approved by the Trustees, and ordered to be placed in the Gallery, with the usual acknowledgement.

Petition of Curators
for an increase
of salary
Read, a petition from the Curators of the collection in Trafalgar Square, praying for an increase of salary.

The consideration of the petition was postponed to the next meeting of the Trustees.

Read the following Report of the Director on the purchase of a picture by Paul Veronese: -

National Gallery
4 February 1856

My Lords & Gentlemen

Report of Director
on the purchase
of a picture by
Paul Veronese

Referring to a letter which I had the honor to address to you, on the 12th of November last respecting the proposed purchase of a large picture, representing the "Adoration of the Magi," by Paul Veronese, from the church of San Silvestro in Venice, I have now to report that the purchase of that picture was completed on the 24th of November last for the sum of

Bought Nov 24th
1855

for £1977... £1977; a frame for it having then to be provided.

To complete the information before submitted I beg to state that among various documents furnished to me by the vendor, Signor Angelo Toffoli, is, a narrative drawn up by him, and subsequently confirmed by the Parroco, or vicar of San Silvestro, by which it appears that in consequence of the necessity for extensive repairs in the church of San Silvestro, all the pictures were removed from its walls in 1837; that in the course of the repairs and the alterations the internal design of the church had been so much changed, that when the time arrived for replacing the works of art, not one of the larger pictures could be fitted to the new altars and spaces; and that therefore, after considerable delay, a Papal decree, as well as an order of the local authorities, had been obtained for the sale of such pictures.

Another document furnished by Signor Toffoli is a declaration signed by Angelo Cerchioni, the Parroco above mentioned, certifying that, from the 1st of September 1835, Signor Toffoli became the legal proprietor of certain pictures,

including the Paul Veronese above described, which had been formerly in the church of San Silvestro.

A third document consists in a statement addressed to me by Signor Toffoli to the effect that he was under no pledge whatever to offer the picture in the first instance to any other persons. After the picture had been sent to London he received from the continent a much higher offer for it than that which had been accepted, together with an undertaking to repay all expenses of carriage; and it appeared that the person making such offer had before endeavoured to come to an arrangement for the purchase. As regards such proposals also, Signor Toffoli, in the communication referred to, states that he was under no promise, and that he expressly reserved to himself an entire independence with regard to the sale.

Removed to the
Gallery Nov^r 26th

The picture was removed to a room in the building in Trafalgar Square on the 26th of November, and was soon afterwards transferred to a proper stretching frame.

On the sale of the picture in Venice at the end of August last, it ~~had been~~^{was} placed in the hands of a Venetian restorer. Besides

being, it is said, much obscured by the accumulation of dust, and the smoke of candles and incense the picture had been partially injured by having been folded horizontally in two places, when it was removed from the church in 1837. The first precaution of the Venetian restorer, was, therefore to have the picture carefully lined: ^{lined and cleaned} he then cleaned the surface, and appears to ^{at Venice} have done this judiciously; he also stopped & more or less successfully repaired the traces of the foldings before described.

I employed Mr John Bentley to examine, and if necessary further to repair, the surface. The operation of lining having been found to be satisfactorily performed, a repetition of that operation was considered quite unnecessary. It also appeared that no further cleaning was required. The careful revision and occasional amelioration of the previous restorations ~~to the smallest possible extent~~ were the chief objects of Mr Bentley's attention, and necessarily occupied some time. The result of his scrutiny and operations, in accordance with my directions, has been the reduction of the previous restorations to the smallest possible extent. He pronounced

Revised and
Restored by Mr
Bentley

the picture to be singularly well preserved, and it is only to be regretted that the upper part cannot be more closely seen.

I beg to add that having witnessed the conscientiousness and care with which Mr Bentley has treated this picture, I should have no hesitation in confiding similar undertakings to him in future.

The picture in its new frame, which, from the freshness of the gilding does not as yet harmonize with the low tone of the painting, was placed on the West wall of the West room of the National Gallery on the 1st of this month.

Placed in the
Gallery Feb 1st
1856

I have the
(signed) C. L. Eastlake
Director National Gallery

The Trustees of the National Gallery

* The new edition of the Catalogue (the sixteenth) with a description of the picture, ^{inserted,} was submitted.

Resolved:

Thanks of the
Trustees to the
Director

That this Report be received, and that the Thanks of the Trustees are due to Sir Charles Eastlake for the full and satisfactory information afforded by him respecting the picture referred to.

Request of three
pictures to the gallery
by the late Samuel
Rogers Esq

The Director reported that he had received a letter from the Executors of the late Samuel Rogers Esq, dated the 21st ult^o, officially notifying the request by Mr Rogers of three pictures to the National Gallery: - the 'Noli me tangere', by Titian; a 'Man in armour', by Giorgione; and the 'Ecce Homo', a head of Christ by Guido.

Also that the three pictures referred to had been removed to the National Gallery on the 28th ult^o and had been placed in the West room on the 29th; and that a receipt for them signed both by the Director and Keeper, on the part of the Trustees, had been left with one of the executors. Further that by command of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the pictures had been received, as on similar former occasions, free of Legacy duty.

The Director recommended that the three pictures referred to should be placed under glass.

The following extract from the will of Mr Rogers, was forwarded by one of the executors: -

' Extract from the Will of Samuel Rogers of
St James's Place Westminster

"To the Trustees of the National Gallery I give for
that Gallery the following pictures, namely:
"Guido's Ecce Homo, Titian's Noli me tangere,

Placed in the gallery
Jan^r 29th 1856.

"and Giorgione's Man in Armour."

Dated 21st day of Sept^r 1852

Probat granted 16th Jan^r 1856.

The new edition of the Descriptive Catalogue, submitted, contained ^{notices} ~~descriptions~~ of the three pictures mentioned.

Resolved:

That a letter of thanks be written to the Executors with the acknowledgement of the Trustees of the valuable bequest of their late colleague Mr Rogers.

Letter of acknowledg-
ment to the Executors.

Murdock

74
At a meeting of the Trustees of the National Gallery held on Monday the 3rd of March 1856.

Present

Lord Montagu, in the chair

Lord Overstone,

William Russell Esq.

Thomas Baring Esq.

The Director, and

The Secretary.

Read and confirmed the Minutes of the last Meeting.

An estimate of the probable expenses of the Establishment ^{for the ensuing year} was submitted by the Director.

Ordered to be referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The petition of the Curators in Trafalgar Square read at the Meeting of February the 4th, was again taken into consideration, and the following Resolution thereupon, was passed by the Trustees:

"With reference to the petition which has been read, the Trustees venture to suggest that a power might be vested in them by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to raise the salaries of the attendants and servants of the Institution, at the discretion

75
of the Trustees, according to length of service, and within such fixed maximum as the Treasury may determine."

Resolved that a copy of this minute with the petition referred to be transmitted to the Treasury.

Read a letter from Mr William Smith of 20 Upper Southwick Street Cambridge Square, offering to present to the National Gallery, a portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller, of John Smith the Mezzotinto engraver. The picture having been inspected and approved by the Trustees

Resolved, that the offer be accepted, and a letter of thanks be written to Mr Smith.

Read a letter from Mr W. B. Wilkins of Cambridge presenting to the Trustees the original Working Drawings of the National Gallery and Royal Academy, which had been used by his late brother William Wilkins Esq., in the construction of the building.

Resolved that the present be accepted, and a letter of thanks be written to Mr Wilkins.

Read a letter from Mr George T. Dox

soliciting from the Trustees the favour of being allowed to place threads before the picture of the "Raising of Lazarus" by Sebastiano del Piombo, with a view to making an engraving of that picture, and to be permitted to carry on his work on the public days -

Resolved that the permission required, to place threads before the picture in question, be granted for the students days only, until the vacation, when every day in the week will be available. That a letter stating these conditions be written to Mr Doo.

Read by the Director his annual Report.
Ordered to be transmitted to the Treasury.

Lansdowne

At a meeting of the Trustees of the National Gallery held on Monday the 31st of March 1856

Present

The Marquis of Lansdowne, in the Chair

Lord Montagu

William Russell Esq

Thomas Baring Esq

The Director, and

The Secretary

Read and confirmed the Minutes of the last Meeting.

Read a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury in answer to a resolution of the Trustees respecting a memorial of certain of the Curators of the Gallery, to the effect that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury are not of opinion that they would be justified in sanctioning an increase to the salaries at present received by the Memorialists.

The Keeper reported the death of an Assistant Housemaid, in the Gallery, Margaret Adlard.

Ordered that the consequent vacancy in the establishment be reported to the Treasury, with the recommendation of the Trustees, that Mrs Cox who has for some time performed the work of the deceased, is a fit and proper person

to succeed her as assistant Housemaid in the Gallery.

Read a letter from Mr William Robertson requesting that the portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence presented to the National Gallery by his father, might be restored to him.

Ordered that a reply be forwarded to Mr Robertson, explaining that the Trustees have not the power to restore the picture.

Read a letter from Mr G. D. Ward, offering to the Trustees, for the sum of three thousand guineas, a large cattle piece by his father James Ward Esq. R.A. Various testimonials commending the picture were laid before the board.

Resolved that The Trustees cannot undertake to recommend the purchase of the said picture, to the Treasury.

The Director stated that Mr Doo had placed a frame with threads before the Sebastian del Piombo, on the private days. That he now petitioned to be allowed to leave such frame before the picture, as, if it were to be frequently removed, it would lead to inexactness in his copy. It appeared also

that if the frame were permitted to remain the work would be sooner done, and the inconvenience, such as it is, would be sooner at an end.

Resolved that the threads be permitted to remain up on the public days.

The Director represented that the two assistant Posters at Marlborough House received only eighteen shillings per week which appeared to be insufficient, in addition to their other requirements, to keep them in decent clothing. And that the attendants of the same class at Trafalgar square received twenty-four shillings a week each.

He suggested that the pay of the assistant Posters at Marlborough House, might be increased to twenty one shillings per week, which would make an annual increase of £7.16. each, or £15.12. in all, which for the present year, as there was no provision for it in the estimate, might be provided for from the fund for incidental expenses.

Resolved that a letter containing the above recommendation be transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Director reported the safe arrival of the Mantegna purchased at Milan, and of the Sandro Botticelli purchased at Bologna. He stated that before having the Mantegna lined, as he had proposed, he consulted Mr Bentley and Mr George Richmond; they expressed their opinion in a written report, a copy of which is subjoined, that the picture required to be lined; and recommended Mr Francis Leedham for that purpose.

Copy

"Having been requested by the Director of the National Gallery to examine a picture by Mantegna (representing the Virgin and Child enthroned; with St John the Baptist and the Magdalen standing, one on each side), with a view to determine whether it would or would not be advisable that such picture should be lined, we have carefully examined the picture accordingly.

We found that it is painted on a kind of twilled cloth fastened on a board of walnut wood. The picture is nailed to the board at the edges but does not appear to be otherwise attached, or glued to the board. We presume, therefore, that it

could be removed without difficulty.

The picture is, on the whole, remarkably well preserved, but the cracks which cover the surface, though they do not at present injure the effect of the picture, might gradually increase, and particles of the pigment, would, in time, from such cause, be in danger of becoming detached.

If therefore, the picture can be easily taken off from the board, which we have no reason to doubt, we should, without hesitation, recommend that it should be lined as a means of preventing the cracks from increasing and of rendering the surface compact.

We are of opinion that Mr Francis Leedham would be a fit person to employ for such purpose."

(signed)

George Richmond
Jr. Bentley

National Gallery

13. March 1856

The Director reported that the lining of the Mantegna had been quite satisfactorily performed, and that Mr Bentley proposed to give it a thin varnish before it was

placed in the Gallery. There would, however, be some delay as the frame required alteration and regilding. The frame of the Sandro Botticelli also required regilding, and Mr Bentley proposed to stop some worm holes on the surface of that picture.

The Director stated that the Report which he had before submitted to the Trustees had been transmitted to the Treasury. A description of the picture last purchased, the Perugini, had been included in such Report, but as he had not yet received intelligence of the decision of the Austrian Government on the subject, and as a description of the merits of the picture, if published, might interfere with its ultimate acquisition, he had proposed that all mention of the picture should be for the present omitted.

Copies of the correspondence on the subject of the exposition of the picture, between the Foreign Office and Sir Hamilton Seymour, Her Majesty's Minister at Vienna, were submitted.

The picture having been placed under

the custody of the authorities of the Academy in Milan, pending the decision, was as safe as any property in such circumstances could be.

The Travelling Agent having waited in and near Milan a month, would therefore now return, after giving all needful directions to the agents of Messrs Mc Cracken in Milan.

The Director called the attention of the Trustees to the approaching sale of the Rogers pictures, and recommended that endeavours should be made to secure some specimens, which he particularized, for the National Gallery. He submitted that application should be made to the Treasury for authority to expend a certain sum for the purchase of such pictures in the collection as the Trustees and the Director might think desirable.

The Secretary was directed to write to Mr Sharpe, one of Mr Rogers's executors, asking him to have the goodness to fix a day when the Trustees and Director might inspect the pictures in St James Place.

