

Extract from  
DAILY SKETCH.—London.

1 - JUL 1911

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**An Artistic Corner.**—In a corner of the Savoy Hotel by coincidence in adjoining suites are Signor Dellezza, the famous Italian conductor, Charles Hackett, the tenor, Fanny Heldy, that extraordinary combination, prima donna and jockey (whom you see here), and M. and Mme. Guitry.



Another arrival at the hotel is Jonce

McGurk, the New York picture dealer, who is just off to Paris, where, I gather, there is a Reynolds going for £50,000 or thereabouts which he thinks may be worth looking at.

**England's Supply of Old Masters.**—“But I'm coming back to London,” Mr. McGurk said to me, “for London is the biggest picture market in the world.”

“Your supply of old masters seems to be as inexhaustible as the American demand for them. Americans don't buy by the square yard and on the strength of names any more.”

“Our collectors know about pictures, and they have the money for works that are really worth buying.”

**One Way of Bargaining.**—“Some of your English owners know the value of their pictures, but a great many do not.”

“I have been in a private gallery and an owner has said: ‘I want £10,000 (or so); which of these do you want for that much?’ and I could have paid £30,000. But our buyers do not want to take advantage in that way.”

**Sargent as a Business Man.**—“It is still the 18th century masters—Reynolds, Gainsborough, Romney and Raeburn—who command the prices. You have good modern artists, but not in the same class. The one most in demand is Edwin Abbey; his pictures are almost unobtainable.”

“Of living portraitists there is no one to touch De Laszlo. Sargent had great versatility, but he was also a keen business man, and knew how to create a market for pictures which were not always in the first class.”

**What He Thinks of Epstein.**—Mr. McGurk has very pronounced ideas about Epstein, whose work he suggested bluntly might have been done by the impenitent thief in an agony.

He has not, however, gone in much for deals in sculpture as yet, so the creator of Rima need not worry unduly.

**Sir Montague Barlow Wields the Hammer.**—I looked in at Sotheby's yesterday to see how the bidding was progressing for the famous Zoffany picture, “Colonel Mordaunt's Cockfighting Match,” painted for Warren Hastings. It fetched £760—a very reasonable price for so well known a picture.

The Hoppner portrait of George Barnard realised £880.

The bids were more silent than ever, and I could not tell from what part of the room they were coming.

It gave me a slight shock to see an ex-Minister in the auctioneer's chair, but that is where Sir Montague Barlow was