



Jean A. Mercier ought to have lived about 1830 to 1848, that is to say at a time when people weary of quarrelling among themselves, very often for absolutely petty reasons, began to enjoy the benefits of a quiet age using it to good advantage too by directing their activities towards the refinement of thought, manners and fashions; truly a delightful epoch to study retrospectively. And in contemplating J. A. Mercier's work, traces

of this worthy effort in research are clearly evident not only in his compositions and modes of thought and expression but more particularly in his drawings. A wish dear to the artist's own heart and one he makes no attempt to conceal, is to illustrate those books of bibliophiles which afford more pleasure in being looked at than in being read, which are meant to be caressed rather than to be devoured, and a taste of which is preferable to complete assimilation. However, the artist is a child of his age and generation. He would simply be left on one side if he were to confine himself to this form of work, and so, eager as he is to live the life of his age and keenly interested in the way in which our contemporary activity expresses more differently and perhaps somewhat more brutally the eternally human in the world, J. A. Mercier has acquired a taste for advertising art. You will find among the illustrations of this article, in addition to the etchings which he executes

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