

The well known marine painter, Mr. **FOWLES**, has just finished a most interesting and excellent picture for Vivian A. **WEBBER**, esq. The subject is the Naval Review at Spithead on the occasion of the visit of the Sultan. The difficulties to be surmounted in such a composition are almost insuperable, but the skilful artist has triumphantly surmounted them. We can only give our readers a short description of this admirable representation of an incident which now ranks amongst the leading events in the history of this country. It is blowing a gale of wind; the Royal yacht in the fore-ground, passing between the line of iron-clad and wooden ships, is being saluted by their artillery; the sky is sublime, full of wrath and terror, "The war-cloud rolling dim," blends majestically with the storm rock of heaven; the "rude imperious surge" is treating the stern array of war-ships as if they were playthings of feeble childhood rather than the marshalled strength of a great nation, arrayed in all the pomp and majesty of war. Mr. **FOWLES** has painted his sea as if it were a liquid substance, and not a wooden one, as some artists indulge in. His waves also have motion, and do not remind the spectator of wigs stuck on barber's blocks. Mr. **FOWLES** is intimately acquainted with the anatomy of ships; but whilst painting them characteristically, he has avoided falling into the error of burdening his picture with common-place and vulgar detail. The artist has carefully borne in mind the remark of Sir Joshua **REYNOLDS**, that, "It is to the mind and not to the eye that the painter of genius must apply himself." In marine painting the precision of rope drawing and careful exactitude of rigging constitute but a very small portion of the elements of success. That branch of art is more full of poetry than is generally imagined. A war-ship under sail for instance, "her white wings flying, never from her foes," and surmounting the snowy pyramid of canvas,

"The flag that's braved a thousand years,
The battle and the breeze."

And then the vast and majestic hull with its warlike world within,

"Who would not brave the battle, fire, the wreck,
To move the monarch of her peopled deck!"

We conclude by congratulating both the artist, who painted the picture, and the possessor of it; each has reason to be proud of so excellent a production. The picture of the Reserve at Spithead will make an excellent addition to the Chatham House collection, which contains amongst other excellent works of art some fine callows, and two splendid marine subjects by Samuel **PROUT**. Mr. Charles **TAYLOR**, who has many admirers, is likewise represented by a seapiece which he painted to order for Mr. **WEBBER**. We merely mention these pictures digressively, as they are pictures worthy of any gallery, and so much excellence is rarely to be met with in any private collection.
