

of discipline in drawing. He now opened a studio in his native town, and commenced painting professionally, before he was yet sixteen. He naturally enough had but little business for some time, but succeeded in "making his bread and butter." In 1848, he sent one of his pictures to the American Art Union, which was submitted, with four hundred others, to the committee one evening. There were only twelve selected, and young Carpenter's was so fortunate as to be one of the number. With this recognition of merit abroad, his fortunes rose at home, and he did not lack for business for two or three years, though at small prices.

In 1851, he made a bold push, and opened a studio in New York, with scarcely an acquaintance in the city. For the first nine or ten months, he had but one or two orders. About this time a proposition was made him by a friend to paint a full length of David Leavitt, Esq., a well known gentleman of the city, at that time President of the American Exchange Bank. This was a much larger canvas than he had ever before attempted, but nothing daunted, he undertook the task; and it was pronounced very successful. It was exhibited in the Academy of Design, and at once brought the artist into notice. The year following, he was commissioned to paint a full length of President Fillmore, which gave satisfaction to all concerned, and drew from that distinguished statesman a very complimentary letter. A copy of this portrait was ordered by the corporation for the Governor's Room, in the City Hall.

Upon the election of Gen. Pierce to the Presidency, Mr. Carpenter was commissioned to paint him, which he and his friends pronounced the best of the numerous portraits of him. He has since painted from life portraits of many celebrities, among them Ex-President Tyler, Gov. Marcy, Gen. Cass, Wm. H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, Gen. Houston, Caleb Cushing, and Col. Fremont—all regarded as worthy of the men, and highly creditable to the artist.