

he soon composed himself, only wishing that he had his gun. But the bear soon passed off into the brush, and young Rockey as rapidly out of it—the separation apparently mutual.

He returned to Pennsylvania in the spring of 1816, to go to school—walking all the way to Pittsburgh, as no stages were then running in that region. While attending school, he first conceived the idea of painting; he copied figures from tea trays, and began to cultivate and develop his artistic taste. As there were no works of art to study in that part of the country, he went to Philadelphia in December, 1817, and remained there till March following, picking up what information he could, when he went to the Susquehanna country, and remained six years. In December, 1824, he again went to Philadelphia, determined to become a portrait painter. He took a letter of introduction from Wm. Cox Ellis, cashier of a bank at Milton for which he had painted a sign exhibiting more than common skill, to his brother, Charles Ellis, who proved a kind friend and patron of the young artist.

He received six weeks instruction from Thomas Birch, a well-known landscape and marine painter; and spent some time in antique drawing from the collections of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. From every artist whose acquaintance he made, he derived new information. Mr. B. Otis was the first portrait painter to whose rooms he had access, and he found him generous and communicative. He also found the elder Sully very friendly, and always ready to impart instruction. The first palette he had regularly set for him, was handed him by Thomas Sully, Jr., arranged by his father. Rockey found Mr. Nagle, a young artist, enthusiastically devoted to his profession. They spent long winter evenings in drawing together, at Nagle's house, from casts, by lamp-light; until at length Nagle became very active in getting up the Artists' Fund Society, in opposition to the Academy of the Fine Arts, in which Rockey did not agree with him. Thus has Mr. Rockey progressed, step by step, until he has taken high rank as a portrait painter, and almost entirely a self-taught artist.