

LUKE FILDES, A.R.A.

Mr. Fildes was born October 18, 1844. After some preparatory study in the provinces he came to London in the autumn of 1863, and entered the Art-Schools at South Kensington, where he studied for two years; and in 1866 he became a student of the Royal Academy. Very soon after Mr. Fildes began to draw on wood for various illustrated periodicals, and young as he was, and unpractised and unknown, his second drawing was accepted for engraving by the *Illustrated London News*. Among the serial illustrations which brought him into public notice were those for the English version of Victor Hugo's "*L'homme qui rit*," and the last works of Dickens and Lever—viz., "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," and "Lord Helgobbin." During the time he was thus occupied drawing for the wood engraver he employed his leisure in painting, and he exhibited his first oil picture, entitled "Fair, quiet, and sweet rest," at the Royal Academy in 1872. In the following year he exhibited also at the Academy another charming boating subject with a pair of lovers, called "The Simpletons." This was succeeded in 1874 by "Applicants for admission to a Casual Ward," one of the most original and pathetic pictures of our day. To the Academy Exhibition of 1875 Mr. Fildes only contributed a single figure called "Betty," which, under the title of "The Milk Maid," was published by this Journal as a Coloured Supplement. "The Widower" (1876) and "Playmates" (1877) came subsequently; but last year the artist did not exhibit, being occupied with an elaborate picture, which is noticed by us in the present Number. Mr. Fildes was an exhibitor at the Vienna and Philadelphia Exhibitions, where he was awarded medals.

189.47v.3

22 King Henry's Road.

Amerscott Hill, N.W.

15<sup>th</sup> July 1876.

Dear Sir,

I arrived from the Continent only this morning and found your kind invitation of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. to dine on the 25<sup>th</sup>. My regret my reply is so long delayed.

I have just pleasure in accepting it.

Faithfully yours,

J. Bicknell Esq.

Wm E. Field Esq.