

GEMS OF ART —There are now three specimens of art on exhibition for a few days at Butler & Kohl's, (late Butler & Peirigo) north-west corner of Charles and Fayette streets. They are miniature productions, executed by Mr James A Simpson, of this city. One of them is in oil colors, on copper, and represents the betrothal of the Virgin. The artist, in selecting this subject for his pencil, has displayed a refined judgment, and in the performance great excellence. This picture comprises a group of seven figures, and may be deservedly compared with similar productions for accuracy and harmony of coloring and a flowing outline. In disposing the persons represented, there is propriety of position and graceful attitude which pleases the eye and gives play to the imagination. The two other specimens are allegorical compositions, executed in water-colors. One of them represents "Concordia, the Goddess of Peace. On her left a blue ribbon floats in the air, and thereon is inscribed a quotation from Shakspeare. From the right hand she hurls away with repugnance the intoxicating cup, with its dregs and poison-viper. Under her right foot lies Bacchus, bloated, and bound in shackles, by the effect of inebriety, along with sin, death and the serpent. The other picture in allegory represents the transformation of Satan into a fascinating nymph, whose charms allure and deceive. In the right hand she holds up the forbidden fruit, and in the left hand the censer, from which ascend fumes of pleasure, while on the ground below are represented luxury and lucre, and a spring of pure, limpid water, at the rear, on her left, death and the serpent, amidst bituminous flames and smoke. These allegories are very striking and suggestive, and each of the paintings is a gem—especially the larger one in oil.

