

**The Art Union.**

*To the Editors of the New-York Daily Times :*

It is well known that the American Art Union, which has been in successful operation for a number of years in the City of New-York, distributing works of art throughout the Union, has been compelled to suspend its usefulness, on the malicious and insignificant charge of being a "lottery."

This charge was made to revenge the personal animosity of one of the editors of a certain newspaper, who acknowledged himself a participator in its subscriptions, and who falsifies his position before the world by the pretence of "*morality*."

What this pique is, may be accounted for simply in the fact, that his impudence has not been sufficiently tolerated by the Managers of the Art Union, or they may have refused him any of their notice, either of which positions would cause the *ceaseless enmity* of the individual referred to.

That the affairs of the Art Union have been honestly and liberally managed, no one pretends to doubt; and if it were otherwise, its solitary enemy would have used his vehicle of malice in placing it before the public. Our rising painters, engravers, sculptors, designers, &c., &c., have long been the recipients of its bounty, and have been partially enabled to sustain themselves and their families by its cooperation. More than \$60,000, for the last ten successive years, have been distributed among the meritorious, and those rising in their several professions of art; and to gratify the enmity of one man, this patronage is to be withheld, and the Art Union to be discontinued.

What, then, is to become of our artists, the painters, designers, sculptors, engravers, and all who have received this partial encouragement and support? A little patronage or favorable criticism, or an introduction to notice, such as their works advertised for them on the walls of the Art Union rooms, may have been very acceptable to them, and have assisted themselves and their families to a livelihood. This they are now deprived of.

There is a large amount of floating capital that many would like to contribute in the way of sustaining art, and as Art Unions exist in every part of Europe for the distribution of pictures, &c., what is to hinder them from subscribing to these? Yet why are we compelled to give to foreign artists, when we could assist by a small compensation in sustaining and encouraging true merit at home?

The result in checking the Art Union will be serious to art and artists, and we regret that any legislative error, if such it is, could have given any one man the gratification of suppressing an in-