

In the Galleries

IN THE GALLERIES

AMONG the interesting exhibitions scheduled for the month are three at the Knoedler Galleries, 355 Fifth Avenue. Recent work by P. L. Rosseau, whose qualities were recently the subject of an article in these pages, will be on view to November 27. Exhibitions of work by Frederic Remington and Harrington Mann will follow, the latter continuing until December 4, the former till December 11. Two canvases which have recently attracted attention at these galleries are the Bastien-Lepage and the Baron Leys here reproduced.

The *Annunciation of the Angel to the Shepherds* won the artist the second Prix de Rome in 1875 and was shown at the Universal Exhibition in 1889. In the halo and the ornaments of the girdle worn by the angel the conventional device of the old altar decoration has been used. The gold is applied in gesso, or with the same effect intended. In the distance, behind the angel's head, a rainbow rests over Bethlehem, another bit of conventional interpretation, unless it answers to a variation of the story. These formal touches are in contrast with all the remaining points of treatment. It will, perhaps, hardly do to say, as is usually said of Bastien-Lepage, that in the shepherds he has painted the peasants of his own Lorraine.

He has, at least, shown some antiquarian attempt in their costume. Yet the whole scene is conceived intimately and simply. The two shepherds on their knees—rather stupid fellows, unkempt and weather-beaten—have hardly roused themselves. If they have been tending their flocks at all they must have been seated drowsily about their fire. There is a good deal of sleep left in them. One, the elder, peers round the angel's swaying robe at the distant village to see, as it were, if the news is blazoned there. The second, directly before the angel, lifts his hands like two paws and takes in the words with the blankest incredulity. Both figures give an expression of actuality to the dramatic moment.



Courtesy of M. Knoedler & Co.

THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE SHEPHERDS

BY BASTIEN-LEPAGE

L