

(Typewritten)

(To Dr. J. Collins Warren)

FROM THE REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, OXFORD.

14th Oct., 1912.

Dear Warren:

If that is a picture marked in the lower right-hand corner "William Harvey" and signed somewhat indistinctly, I think, by Jansen with the date 1656 higher up, I know all about it, - and the story is interesting. Eight or nine years ago, lunching in Paris with Rupert Norton he said, "You must come and see an interesting Harvey picture at Stegelmeyer's." Sure enough, there was a very fine Jansen, marked as I have described and looking like Harvey. The only suspicion was that it was a very young man for that date. I asked for the refusal of the picture for ten days, for a photograph and for the pedigree. These were sent to me in London. The picture was stated to have come from Colonel Harvey Branscombe, a collateral descendant of Harvey, through one of the Colnaghis, who had purchased it in 1895. I showed the photograph to D'Arcy Power and to Payne, the two men who knew most about Harvey, and to Lionel Cust, the expert at the National Gallery, all of whom decided it was impossible that it could represent Harvey, who at that date was stricken in years and nearing his end. Moreover it was totally unlike the National Gallery picture taken of him as an old man. Meanwhile I had written to Colonel Harvey Branscombe, who replied that he had never owned such a picture, and that if he had it was the last thing with which he would have parted. He was, of course, furious, and wrote to the old Colnaghi in Pall Mall, on whom I also called, but neither of us could get any satisfaction, and a year or so later the old man died. It is a good picture, a Jansen, and Cust said that it was worth the money - £300. For 'ways that are dark and tricks that are vain', picture-dealers can give points to the Heathen Chinee!

My love to John and to Sturgis Bigelow.

Sincerely yours,

W^m Osler