

Paris, July 26th 1915

Mr. James J. HILL  
291 East Third street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Hill,

The war has brought another very fine strictly first class Turner Picture to the market and I want to make it a point to offer it to you first, to give you the very first option on it.

I herewith enclose you the photograph just taken. The Picture is entitled :

"Oxford from the Abingdon Road"

This is a well authenticated Picture. It was exhibited at the Royal Academy of London in 1812. It was painted for a Mr. Wyatt of Oxford, as is mentioned in Thornbury's Life of Turner. It afterwards passed into the collection of a Mr. Russell, and from his collection it passed into the collection of Sir John Fowler. It was engraved by John Pye in 1818.

It measures without the frame :  
Size 39 1/4 inches by 27 inches

The war price for it is seventy thousand dollars (\$ 70.000 ) you see it is quite reasonable; and I hope you may avail yourself of this opportunity of securing a very fine Turner at a moderate figure.

You are an excellent judge of Pictures, and I know you like fine landscapes. Kindly look at the photograph with a magnifier and you will recognise one of the most elaborate and most carefully painted landscape Turner ever made. Every detail is painted like a mignature. It is a true gem that would shine conspicuously in your beautiful collection of Barbizon School Pictures

This Turner can be safely shipped on american bottom If you wish to see it kindly send me a cablegram at half rate and I will have the Picture forwarded to you and you could make up your mind as to the purchase after the picture will be safely in your hands.

Awaiting your good news,

I remain, Dear Mr. Hill, with kindest regards  
Very sincerely yours,

John J. Hill

The war may last until next spring till Germany will be exhausted. It is almost impossible to take the offensive. We lost about 75000 men, in trying to do it near Arras some time ago. It is a true butchery. But I understand this war is making good business for the U. States. Steel common 64 Bethlehem Steel 208 !!! and it makes us so poor over here. A little business

on the part of rich Americans would be welcome. It is true that America is giving the allies a great great help.

The American hospital in Paris is quite a wonder and Americans are doing a great deal of good, both for charity work and in supplying us with ammunition!

One of my brothers 46 years old is in the trenches, my nephew 18 years old is there also. I lost two brothers in law! and if I am in Paris it is on account of a wound in the right hand. The Canadians are very brave soldiers, you have no idea how they suffered at first from asphyxiating gases! a true German weapon, that is hundred times worse than our 75 guns, as the men die after choking for hours.

Very respectfully yours  
John Tighe