

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

A PAINTING RECORD

IN June, 1867, the French impressionist painter, Claude Monet, was penniless and took refuge with his father and aunt at Sainte-Adresse, near Le Havre. He painted them both seated on the terrace of their house and sold it for 400 francs or about 15 pounds then or about Rs. 280 in our money today. This painting: "La Terrasse a Sainte-Adresse." was sold in London last week for 560,000 guineas to Agnew's, the famous art dealers. This price is a world record for an impressionist painting.

A little after the first sale in the last century, the painting was sold again for about Rs. 1,500. Monet wanted to buy it back, but it had crossed the Atlantic. It was from an art gallery in New York that the Rev. Theodore Pitcairn bought it in 1926 for 11,000 dollars. He says, "The way its value has appreciated I consider extraordinary, even though it is a wonderful painting."

The Rev. Mr. Pitcairn has attracted attention in art circles because of his recent sales. Last year, he sold in London a Van Gogh, "Portrait de Mademoiselle Revoux" for £157,500, the highest price ever paid for a Van Gogh. A drawing by the same artist, "Sorrow", was sold for £11,550. When he bought these works in 1921, together with another Van Gogh for 20,000 dollars, some people "thought I was rather queer as he wasn't too well known". Today, art pieces are among the best hedges against devaluation.