

**LEFT IN CHARGE - James Gow ( ? – 1886)**



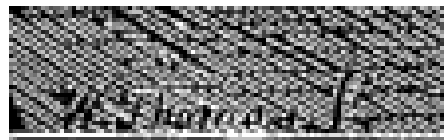
A pretty peasant lady is about to go and fill her jug at the fountain. She is gracefully instructing the border collie to watch over the baby asleep in his cot.

James Gow is not as well-known as his children, Mary Louisa, a watercolour and genre painter, and Andrew Carrick, a history painter, Keeper of the Royal Academy.

A printed copy of 'Left in Charge' was published in the *Illustrated London News* dated July 1869, mentioning that the painting was part of the Exhibition of the Society of British Artists. The engraving is signed 'W. Thomas' and can be found three years later in the French magazine *L'Univers Illustré* dated February, 24<sup>th</sup> 1872 with an accompanying text praising the delicacy of the scene but omitting to mention the artist's name. It would be interesting to know how two magazines, an English one and a French one, could have had access to the same engraving.



**The Illustrated London News**



**L'Univers Illustré**

It seems likely that Lauronce must have based his copy on the French magazine rather than the English one, perhaps even on a Goupil reproduction of the original painting.



The fan leaf faithfully adapts Gow's painting. Indeed, there is hardly any change at all and even the background, that is usually suppressed, is minutely reproduced: the cosy bed with hangings, the framed picture on the wall, the massive oak wardrobe. The lithographer has managed to render the dog's attitude, vibrant with intelligence and devotion.

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