

**SA62540**

## The Protector dictating the letter to John Milton, 1655 by Frederick Newenham (1807–1859)

Price

**Sold****Item Reference: SA62540****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

## Description

oil on canvas, size: 26.00 x 20.50 ins; Engraved by John Sartain The historical scene portrays the occasion when Cromwell dictated a letter to Milton for the Duke of Savoy to urge him to stop the persecution of the Protestants of Piedmont, 1655. The chiefs of the new republic saw the importance of securing the services of a distinguished man who had so powerfully spoken out in favour of their tremendous act. In March 1649, accordingly, Milton was offered at the age of 40, and accepted, the secretaryship for foreign tongues to the council of state of the new Commonwealth. The council held its sittings for the first few weeks in Derby House, close to Whitehall, but afterwards regularly in Whitehall itself, he removed at once to temporary lodgings at Charing Cross. In the very first meetings of council which Milton attended he must have made personal acquaintance with President Bradshaw, Fairfax, Cromwell himself, Sir Henry Vane, Whitelocke, Henry Marten, Haselrig, Sir Gilbert Pickering and the other chiefs of the council and the Commonwealth. His special duty was the drafting in Latin of letters sent by the council of state, or sometimes by the Rump Parliament, to for...

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