

**DAVID COX AND  
PETER DE WINT**

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David Cox and Peter De Wint by Gilbert R. Redgrave

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*"The whole world without Art would be one great wilderness."*

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## PREFACE.

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Few who have not attempted the task of writing the lives of those belonging to a former generation, will be able to appreciate the difficulty of collecting the materials for such a work, and it cannot fail to be a mournful reflection to those still living, to find how speedily all records of the career, even of the men who were distinguished in their day, pass away from the memories of their successors. In the case of David Cox, however, the office of the biographer is one of comparative ease, for devoted friends and admirers of his art have recorded many of the circumstances relating to his personal history and experiences, and his memoirs have been already written on several previous occasions at considerable length. The difficulty, indeed, has rather been to give proper scale to the various occurrences, since we hear much more of the last few years of his life, when the details were fresh in the memories of his friends, than we do concerning those early days when he was struggling to make his way in his art, and when his ultimate success had still to be achieved. This is perhaps always the case with biographical work undertaken by acquaintances within a few years after the artist's death, as the period within our own knowledge and experience is so much more readily described than the bygone days, for an account of which we must rely upon mere hearsay and the recollections of relatives. It is on this account that any scrap of autobiography becomes