

**FAMILIAR SKETCHES
OF SCULPTURE AND
SCULPTORS, VOL. I**

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Familiar Sketches of Sculpture and Sculptors, Vol. I by Hannah Farnham Lee

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HANNAH FARNHAM LEE

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BY

THE AUTHOR OF "THREE EXPERIMENTS IN LIVING," "SKETCHES
OF THE LIVES OF THE OLD FALSTERS," ETC.

"O for those glorious days when living Greece
Disdained to seek renown in 'Golden Fleece,'
But from the marble quarry drew her fame,
And won for Athens an immortal name!"

VOLUME I.

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TO

JACOB BIGELOW, M. D.,

MY FRIEND IN SICKNESS AND HEALTH,

WHO, AMONG THE OCCUPATIONS OF A LABORIOUS PROFESSION,

HAS FOUND TIME TO DEVOTE TO THE USEFUL AND ELEGANT ARTS,

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

BY THE AUTHOR.



P R E F A C E.

THE following book I was prompted to undertake on account of the difficulty experienced by myself, and probably others, in tracing a connected history of the great art here treated. I know of no American work exclusively on the subject. Sculpture comes in among the fine arts for those scraps of attention which are left after music and painting have been satisfactorily treated, a few dry chapters being generally appended for that purpose to many of the popular compendiums. I know not whether I have succeeded in rendering these sketches less dry, and more familiar, but it has been my object to make them attractive to the young.

I have not aimed at scientific or learned dissertations, but simply to make a useful, and

possibly a pleasant book. As my motives were humble, so has been my execution, and I have not hesitated to press into my service and offer to my readers any information found in other writers belonging to my subject.

Should these little volumes interest the young, and be a precursor of more valuable compositions of the same cast, my purpose will be accomplished, and I hope this frank avowal will save me from the imputation of presumption.

After writing the above Preface, and when my book was nearly completed, a volume was put into my hands, which, had I met with it before, would have supplied my want. This work, entitled "Sculpture and the Plastic Art," is an excellent compendium of works preceding it. The author, however, though beginning with the same general plan as mine, has followed it out in so different a manner, that I have still thought a publication of my own book might not be useless.

The subject of Sculpture among us Americans has been but little studied except by the initiated. Painting has her thousand votaries, and is illustrated and described by a hundred authors, while Sculpture stands off in moonlit solitudes, and, like the Egyptian Isis, veils her features from the crowd.

In studying the works of authors on art, those of Winckelmann have been preëminent in my mind. Till Henry G. Lodge's translation of the second volume of his *History of Ancient Art*, he has been scarcely known to the English readers among us. Those who have become acquainted with this beautiful work will be ready, perhaps, to feel some interest in the short abstract of his life, gathered from a French translation, and which may well precede "*Familiar Sketches of Sculpture and Sculptors.*"

NOTE. — We must observe, as we have done heretofore in historical sketches, that the various orthography of names as written by different authors is perplexing. We have sought to adopt those which have appeared most correct.