

**A MEMOIR OF
GEORGE
CRUIKSHANK**

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A Memoir of George Cruikshank by Frederic G. Stephens & William Makepeace Thackeray

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FREDERIC G. STEPHENS & WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY

**A MEMOIR OF
GEORGE
CRUIKSHANK**



George Louis Scharf

Engraved from the Portrait by Frank Stone, R.A.

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

A MEMOIR
OF
GEORGE CRUIKSHANK

BY
FREDERIC G. STEPHENS

AND
AN ESSAY ON THE GENIUS OF GEORGE CRUIKSHANK

BY
WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY



NEW YORK
SCRIBNER AND WELFORD

1891

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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

ALTHOUGH the most ardent admirers of **GEORGE CRUIKSHANK** cannot claim for him the honour of being one of the **GREAT ARTISTS** in the same sense in which we speak of Raphael or Rubens, or Sir Joshua Reynolds, yet no one will object to the name of the most popular humourist that ever graced the world of Art, being found among the celebrities of this Series.

And one of the principal reasons for including him is that it enables me to reprint the famous **ESSAY ON THE GENIUS OF GEORGE CRUIKSHANK**, which Mr. Thackeray wrote in 'The Westminster Review,' in June 1840, and which I remember was received with immense applause by all the critics of the day.

The sympathy that existed in the mind of that writer with the choice and delicious humour of the designer, is in this Essay most beautifully shown, and was thoroughly appreciated by the artist and his many friends.

I have to acknowledge the kindness of the Trustees of the British Museum who granted me permission to copy some of the fine proofs of Cruikshank's etchings in the Print Room; and my

thanks are due to Messrs. G. Bell & Sons for permission to use the wood-engravings first issued in 'Three Courses and a Dessert,' and 'Gammer Grethel,' as well as the portrait of CRUIKSHANK, by Frank Stone, which appeared in 'The Omnibus'; and for allowing me to quote from Mr. George Reid's nearly exhaustive catalogue of the five thousand two hundred and sixty-five designs which the great 'George' made during the course of his long artistic life.

J. C.

Wellington,
December 1890.



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