

THE LITTLE MASTERS

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The Little Masters by William Bell Scott

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WILLIAM BELL SCOTT

**THE
LITTLE MASTERS**



HEINRICH ALDEGREVER.

From a portrait by himself.

1861

"As the Sun colours the flower, so Art colours life."



THE LITTLE MASTERS

BY WILLIAM BELL SCOTT

Author of "Lectures on the Fine Arts," &c.



LONDON
SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON
CROWN BUILDINGS, FLEET STREET
1880.

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PREFACE.

THE qualifications of the author for the task of writing this short Treatise are rather artistic than literary. It is both biographical and critical in the notices of the Artists, but in the historical portion he has been mainly a translator. Even the facts of the life of Albert Dürer have only of late years been fully elucidated, while the lives of the group of younger men, called The Little Masters, who surrounded him, and continued his practice in painting and engraving united, were very imperfectly known till Adolf Rosenberg published his *Sebald und Barthel Beham; zwei Maler der Deutschen Renaissance*, 1875; and *Die Deutschen Kleinmeister*, in the fourteenth and fifteenth parts of Dr. Robert Dohme's *Kunst und Künstler*.

Other authorities also came before him, but these monographs revealed many interesting particulars of the very

remarkable men under review, and to Dr. Rosenberg the author is bound to acknowledge his indebtedness. He has also to thank Mr. G. W. Reid, of the British Museum, and Professor Colvin, for their readiness in aiding him with details regarding some of the works.

The critical opinion expressed of the productions of these beloved Little Masters is another matter. They have been long known to me for the most part, as well as those of their contemporaries. Practically acquainted with both the arts—painting and engraving—practised in unison by them, the reader must receive the estimates and descriptions as exclusively mine, except when other wise stated.

W. B. S.





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* * The references to (b. 92) (b. 75) on page 22, and similar references on subsequent pages, are to BARTSCH, "LE PRINTRE GRAYEUR," 21 vols.

