

**THOMAS BEWICK
AND HIS PUPILS**

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Thomas Bewick and His Pupils by Austin Dobson

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AUSTIN DOBSON

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" He would often professe that to observe the grasse, herba, corne, trees, cattle, earth, waters, heavens, any of the Creatures, and to contemplate their Natures, orders, qualities, vertues, uses, etc., was ever to him the greatest mirth, content, and recreation that could be : and this he held to his dying day."

LIFE AND DEATH OF BISHOP ANDREWES, 1650.



THOMAS BEWICK.
(AFTER PORTRAIT BY JAMES RAMSAY.)

Frontispiece.

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AUSTIN DOBSON



A NEW EDITION
WITH NINETY-FIVE ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON
CHAT. & WINDUS
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TO

W. J. LINTON,

ENGRAVER AND POET,

THE STEADFAST APOSTLE OF REWICK'S "WHITE LINE,"

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED.

Louise Phillips

PREFACE

EXCEPT to explain its appearance, there is little need of preface to the present volume. It is, for the most part, a reprint of two articles on Bewick and his pupils, prepared in 1881-82 for the New York "Century Magazine." That on Bewick, when illustrated, was found to be too long for publication in one number. An entire section devoted to John Bewick was consequently omitted, and other retrenchments were effected. In this reissue, the portions withdrawn are restored; and such corrections and additions as a writer usually makes in the case of a paper republished some time after it was written, have been inserted. The account of the Pupils, which, when first printed, was not abridged, has not now been materially altered. In both cases it would obviously have

been easy to further extend and amplify. But though something might have been gained in substance, more would have been lost in symmetry, while the general result would remain unchanged.

To have written too little on a subject, moreover, is scarcely a fault,—nay, in this particular instance it may almost be claimed as a merit. Few men have suffered as much as Thomas Bewick from that kind of admiration in which enthusiasm plays a far larger part than judgment. Over most of his earlier work, and over all his inferior work, Oblivion, without accusation of blindness, might advantageously “scatter her poppy;” and the plain-spoken philosopher of Gateshead, who had no desire “to feed the whimsies of the bibliomanists,” would have heartily concurred in any such arrangement. What is most durable in Bewick, as it appears to those who prize him judiciously, is Bewick himself,—always provided that Bewick himself is attainable. Since he first restored it in England a hundred years ago, the art of wood-engraving has considerably progressed. As an Engraver pure and simple, many, including some of his pupils,