

**THE LITERARY SOUVENIR,
AND CABINET
OF MODERN ART**

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The Literary Souvenir, and Cabinet of Modern Art by Alaric A. Watts

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ALARIC A. WATTS

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AND
Cabinet of Modern Art.

EDITED BY ALARIC A. WATTS.

EXAMINED
BY THE
LIBRARY
SERIES.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETOR,
BY WHITTAKER AND CO. AVE-MARIA LANE.
MDCCLXXXV.

TO
SIR MARTIN ARCHER SHEE, P.R.A.

This Volume is inscribed,

AS A TESTIMONY OF THE ESTEEM

IN WHICH HIS GENIUS AND CHARACTER

ARE HELD
BY THE EDITOR.
LIBRARY

PREFACE.

WITH the year 1835, the *Literary Souvenir* begins a new epoch of its existence. In separating itself from the class of publications with which it has been so long associated; laying aside their livery, and adopting a new form, and, to a certain extent, a new character; a brief exposition of the views and intentions of its Proprietor may not be deemed irrelevant.

The work will continue to be published, as heretofore, yearly; but, instead of ten, each volume will contain no fewer than twenty-five engravings, from subjects selected from the finest and most characteristic specimens of the modern British and French Schools of Painting; and illustrated, chiefly, as far as its prose department is concerned, by notices and anecdotes of the respective artists and their works.

The inconvenience of appending elaborate tales, written for the purpose, to engravings from the most celebrated pictures of the day, has been admitted on all hands. The space that can be afforded, in a volume containing the number of embellishments which will be found interspersed throughout the following pages, must, of necessity, restrict a writer to limits, in which it is utterly impossible for him to develop the incidents of a fictitious narrative with any chance of success. Instead, therefore, of accompanying the splendid prints after Howard, Stothard, Westall, and others, with prose stories written to order, a few slight sketches of the artists and their Art have been appended to them; and will, it is hoped, be considered better adapted for the occasion than mere novelettes; which, for the reasons already specified, can seldom be worthy of the society into which they are drafted. Not so, however, with poetry, which, without entering into minute detail, may illustrate, in a page, the true spirit of a picture; and which, being a branch of the Fine Arts itself, is less out of place in such a work. A poem, moreover, if it be good for any thing, will bear reading a second time,

which is more than can often be said of a prose tale, come from whatever quarter it may, which must fall under the shears of Procrustes, and be shorn, till nothing but the bald facts are allowed to remain, in order that it may fit the niche it is destined to occupy.

Circumstances over which the Editor has had no control, have retarded the publication of his work considerably beyond the time at which it was originally announced to appear; but although he expects, for the future, to be enabled to complete it somewhat earlier in the season, it is no part of his intention, for the sake of running a race with other illustrated publications for priority of appearance, to send forth his engravings until they are in as finished a state as possible. Those who purchase books of this class, for presents to their friends, will not like a work the less for possessing the charm of novelty at the actual period at which such tokens are principally in demand.

The embellishments will speak, or rather have spoken, for themselves. The unanimous opinion which has al-

ready been pronounced upon their merits, both of design and execution, obviates the necessity of directing particular attention to them in this place. The object of the Editor has been, to include as much variety of character in his subjects as seemed compatible with the selection of really favourable specimens of the respective artists; and, having had the pleasure of an uninterrupted and agreeable intercourse, for many years, with most of the leading painters of the day, he has enjoyed facilities of which few persons are enabled to boast; and the labour of selecting designs for his work has been thus so far sweetened, as to have become one of the pleasantest and most delightful of his pursuits. He may, therefore, be considered entitled to the credit of having conducted this department of his volume *con amore*.

58. Torrington Square,
December 21st.