ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES OF THE GREAT ARTISTS. SIR ANTONY VAN DYCK; FRANS HALS OF HAARLEM

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PERCY RENDALL HEAD

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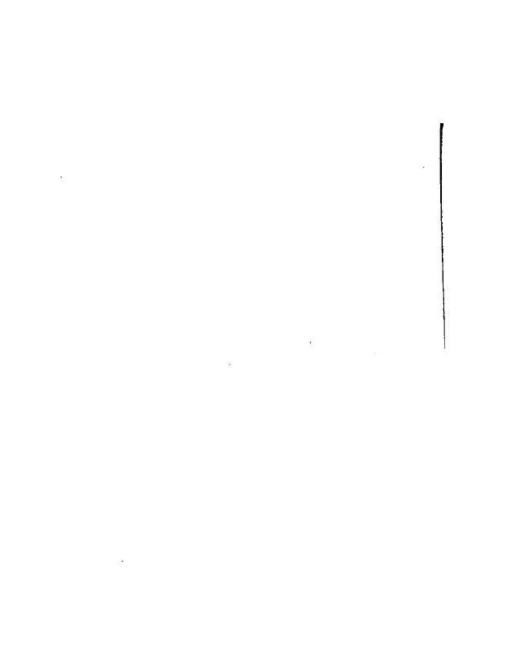
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SIR ANTONY VAN DYCK,
From the portrait by himself in the Uffizi Gallery, Florence.

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



VAN DYCK

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PREFACE.

WRITER on art or art-history, who neither claims to have elicited new facts or cleared up old errors by independent research, nor ventures to imagine that he can contribute much that is valuable to the mass of æsthetic literature which is poured forth almost too freely upon the reading public of the present day, may reasonably be expected to offer some apology for his appearance in the field. In the present case such a defence is not far to seek; and a very brief review of the existing literature of the subject will be sufficient to show that something of the scope of the present work is not only justified but required. The books which at present hold the place of the principal authorities concerning the life and works of Van Dyck, excellent as they are, are books almost entirely beyond the range of the English general roader. Mr. W. H. Carpenter's Pictorial Notices, which is the only work of importance on the subject existing in our own language, and from which I have extracted much of my most valuable material, is an expensive quarto, and copies are now rarely to be met with. The French and German treatises, by M. Michiels and Dr. Lemcke, have not been translated: and however well known and esteemed they may be among those who have made a special study of the history of art,