

# INTRODUCTION



N presenting to the Public a work professing to advance a novel educational principle, a few words may not be uncalled for, explanatory of the latter and of the purposes of the work.

That "use is second nature" is a truism admitted by all; and it is on this basis that the following system of self-instruction in drawing is formed.

For on examining this work it will be found to contain Copies and appropriate Drawing-paper, each printed over with red lines and dots, imparting a power of imitating the Copies with considerable fidelity, or of immediately detecting and rectifying any important mistakes made by the copyist, either as regards the direction or the length of a line.

Thus, from the outset and without the supervision of a Teacher, the study of Drawing in perfect accordance with this system will invariably accustom the *eye* and *hand*, employed therein, to a great degree of correctness and precision of proceeding, by preventing them from erring to any extent at the time of practice; and consequently, when such study is of an assiduous character, must soon *habituate them, unassisted*, the one to judge and the other to move with certainty and truthfulness.

At the same time, to enable the student to test the progress he makes towards acquiring this desirable habit, and to lead him gradually to rely entirely upon his own skill and attention, there are, intermingled with the squared copies, others not squared—to be practised alternately with the former.

The purport of the work is to popularize the study of art; to endeavour to render the cultivation and love of art a national taste—fraught as such a taste is with national advantages; and thereby to aid in promoting the welfare of society, especially of such of its numerous and estimable members as are chiefly dependent upon their own exertions for instruction. Since the minds and pursuits of this class become refined, and their attainments prove serviceable to them, in proportion as their self-educational opportunities are augmented by the production of efficient inexpensive works, affording to their leisure hours an elevating useful study, in a form at once agreeable and devoid of difficulties—