

Raeburn, Sir Henry, R.A., R.S.A. 1756-1823.

Born at Edinburgh in 1756 ; died there in 1823. Educated at Heriot's Hospital. Apprenticed to a goldsmith, executed miniatures at an early age. Visited London, where he made the acquaintance and received the encouragement of Sir Joshua Reynolds. After two years of study in Italy he returned to Edinburgh where he married a lady of fortune and where for many years he painted the portraits of the most distinguished men of his time. Somewhat late in life (in 1813), he became an Associate and in the following year, Academician. In 1822 on the visit of King George IV he was knighted and in 1823, a few months before his death, he was appointed His Majesty's Limner for Scotland. Raeburn's portraits, of which there are a considerable number in the National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh and in the Glasgow Gallery, wear well. Mr. Henley ("A Century of Artists", Glasgow, 1889, p. 152) has justly pointed out that Raeburn came at the break between the old and the new. Trained in the classical school and a master of it, his own individuality prevented him from being a slave of convention, while his native good sense and impregnable poise of mind prevented him from falling into eccentricity. He was clearly not untouched by the Romanticism of his friend and sitter Sir Walter Scott, yet his Romanticism is of a serene and restrained type. Dying as he did, before the Romantic move-