Sheatham Places. Brixton Helo Oct- 21. Dear Si I am much obliged to You for looking boes the Illustratio how for me. I will get you to tupply the one part d bind up Vols. 16.17.10.19 in the plainest marmer as they our only play books for my children. The other Mord he Cavies out of your way. Dandose apologramy for the brouble you have had about such a 189. 2712.4

I remain dear fri four faithfully David for Sur.

David Cox, born 1783, at Birmingham, in humble circumstances, rose by diligent study to the highest rank among English water colour painters. Beginning as a colour-grinder to the Birmingham theatre, he was promoted to the post of scene-painter, and in 1803, when he went to London, he obtained an engagement in that capacity at Astley's Theatre. He then earned a scanty income by making sketches and giving lessons to pupils, and in 1805 he paid his first visit to Wales-afterwards the favourite scene of his labours. In 1815 he removed to Hereford, where he remained several years, returning to London in 1827, and finally settling at Harborne Heath, near Birmingham, in 1844, where he remained until his death in Masculine handling, somewhat after the manner of Constable; bold and simple treatment of light and shade; and fresh, honest colouring are the distinguishing features

W. Stanley, W. Oliver, S. Austin, G. Cruickshank, W. Arches, S. Cook, W. Bennett, J. D. Harding, C. Bentley and J. Bough.

Pre-eminent as is the rank of Turner as a landscape painter in oil, perhaps his great reputation rests even more securely upon his water colour drawings, which are simply marvellous for minute finish combined with breadth ot effect and luminosity of colour. Of his drawings for Dr. Whitaker's "Histor f Richmondshire," and "The Rivers of England," Rush in s ys, "The foliage is free, rich and marvellous in comparition, the effect of mist complex, the rock and hill drawing insuperable, the skies exquisite in complex form ": and of his series of Italian drawings he says, "There is but one criticism possible—they cannot be better done." "Standards of exquisite landscape art, the first of such

Wales is Cox's field of battle. He is said to have invariably bent his steps towards Llanwrst and Bettws-y-coed for the last five-and-thirty years. The very stones are christened after him; as you wind out of Capel Curig, a little turret, in which a stone-seat is inserted, bulges from the walled road-side, and is known as Cox's Pulpit. One of the greatest favourites amongst our water-colour painters, the public and the artists alike admire this veteran painter. His drawings have the fresh impromptu leok of nature, and never savour of home manufacture. His hand would seem to be rapid, and his eye certain, and the delighted beholder wonders where the secret is, and how, with strokes so rough, and on such small spaces of paper, air and distance, storm and sunshine should be described so lucidly. The sign of the "Oak," at Bettwys, was painted by Cox, as were the frescoes on the walls of that hostelry.

April 29 1783.

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David Post