



XIV. Process for producing the lights in stained drawings

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XIV. *Process for producing the Lights in Stained Drawings.*

By Mr. FRANCIS NICHOLSON, of Rippon, Yorkshire*.

THE difficulty of preserving the lights in stained drawings, with freedom and precision, is so universally felt by those who cultivate that branch of the arts, the practice of which is every day growing more extensive, that the statement of this circumstance alone is sufficient for the introduction of the following process, by which that difficulty is removed, and by which all the effect of body-colour may be obtained without any of its inconveniences or defects. It is applicable to every subject, to the richness of foliage, of rocks, or of foreground; and in ruins, their most picturesque appendages of hanging shrubs, weeds, &c. may be expressed by it with the utmost sharpness, and with all the lightness and freedom of which body-colour or oil-painting are capable.

The principle of this process consists in covering the places where the touches of light are intended to be, with a composition not liable to be displaced by washing over it with the colour, and such as may be afterwards removed by a fluid in which the colours used in water are not soluble.

This composition, or stopping mixture, is made by dissolving bees-wax in oil of turpentine, in the proportion of one ounce of wax to five ounces of the oil; and, as near the time of using it as may be convenient, grind with the pallet-knife as much flake white, or white lead, in oil of turpentine, as may be wanted at one time; dilute it with the above solu-

* The Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. having last session received from Mr. Nicholson, of Rippon in Yorkshire, a Drawing intended as a specimen of the process for producing the lights in stained drawings, by removing, after the shadows are washed in, the colour where the lights are required, giving by this means the effect of body-colour with greater clearness, and without any of its disadvantages; and it appearing that Mr. Nicholson's method of tinting drawings promises to be of use in the practice of drawing in water-colours, and produces a more spirited effect, the Society agreed to Mr. Nicholson's proposal, and purchased from him, at the price of twenty guineas, the complete process for performing the work, as communicated in the above paper.

tion until it will work freely with the pencil, and appear on the paper, when held between the eye and the light, to be opaque. It is necessary to observe this, or the first touches will not be sufficiently visible, after being washed over with the colours, to ascertain the places of the second. It is also necessary to use a frame instead of the drawing-board, or to paste the paper on the frame of the drawing-board so as to remove the pannel; because the first and second touches must be put on with the drawing placed between the eye and the light, as they will be most visible in that situation. On this frame paste the paper wet, so as to dry firm: when quite dry, draw the outline, and proceed as follows:—

1st, With a fine small hair pencil, and the stopping mixture, cover those places where the clear whiteness of the paper may be wanted, except in the sky: let it dry a few minutes; then wet the paper on both sides, and while it is wet wash the sky. The shadows of the clouds, distances, and general breadths of shadow, must be put in with the grey tint; and over the places of the light, wash the tints of the brightest light; those will be generally yellow ochre or light red.

The light of the clouds may be preserved sharp by pressing on that part a piece of tissue-paper previous to the washing of the sky; this, by absorbing the superfluous moisture, will prevent the colour from spreading farther than is desired. Suffer the whole to be very dry; and,

2dly, Touch in with the stopping mixture, the sharp and prominent parts of the brightest lights; let them dry a few minutes, then wash over them with the tints of the next degree of light.

3dly, Stop with the mixture the second order of touches, and wash over them with the middle tints; strengthen also at the same time the breadths of shadow.

4thly, Stop, with broad touches of the mixture, the places of the middle tint; uniting them to the former touches, and extending them so as to graduate the middle colours into the shadow: strengthen the shadows, making them nearly as dark as they are intended to be, and let the whole be perfectly dry.

Then

Then take oil of turpentine, and with a sponge, or hog's-hair pencil, wash over the places where the mixture has been used, rubbing it with the brush until it be dissolved: clear it away with a linen rag, and wash it with more oil of turpentine so long as any white lead appears; then let it dry.

Warm the drawing; then with a soft brush and highly-rectified spirit of wine wash the places where the oil of turpentine has been used, to clear away the remainder of it: rub the drawing lightly on the face, but sponge it well on the back.

When dry, tint down the lights where it may be wanted; harmonise the colouring, and cut the shadows to effect, with still darker tints as may be necessary.

If other touches of light should afterwards be wanted in the shadowed parts, the colour may be easily removed by a pencil formed of sponge, with water sufficient to produce them with as much strength as can be desired; then stop them with the mixture; wash the shadow over the touches, bringing it to the colour taken off; and, when dry, remove the mixture with the oil of turpentine and spirit of wine.

XV. *An Account of Mr. BROWN's Travels through Egypt and Syria, &c.*

[Continued from page 414 of the last Volume.]

DURING three or four days ensuing, Mr. Brown suffered so violent a relapse as to be unable to perform the common offices of life, and even to suppose that it was nearly at an end. The moment any symptoms of amendment appeared, he sent word to the Melek that he wished to be introduced to the Sultan, and then, as soon as possible, to be dismissed. No reply was made to this message; but the following day he came to the tent, with some of his attendants, and desired to see the merchandise he had brought with him. As to part of the articles, consisting of wearing apparel, &c. suited to the great, our traveller readily consented: but this was not sufficient; the Melek insisted on seeing the contents of a small chest, which chiefly contained articles useful to himself, but not