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William James Linton
Frontmatter
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Wood-Engraving

William James Linton (1812–1897) was a wood-engraver, poet, prose writer and political activist, who first worked in London but emigrated to the United States in 1866. He began his wood-engraving apprenticeship at the age of sixteen under the well-known London engraver G. W. Bonner. Linton's mature work, championing the use of 'white lining' and favouring the use of horizontal engraved lines and creating tone by differing line thickness, continued in the tradition of Thomas Bewick (1753–1828), the founding figure of wood-engraving. The publication of this book in 1884 marked the culmination of Linton's career, though he continued to research and write on the subject. The manual, originally published in only five hundred copies, is beautifully illustrated with Linton's own engravings and is a rich source for anyone interested in the technical details as well as the historical development of this specialist craft.

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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108009089

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1884
This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00908-9 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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R. Branston, Sc.

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WOOD-ENGRAVING

A MANUAL OF INSTRUCTION

BY

W. J. LINTON



LONDON: GEORGE BELL AND SONS,
YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1884.

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PREFACE.

THE object of the following pages is to help toward forming a school of artist-engravers. With that end in view, it has seemed necessary to assert as absolutely as possible the true principles of Art (such of course as appear true to me), and to criticise unsparingly whatever I find antagonistic to these. In doing this I have cared rather to have my meaning clear than to leave any room for misunderstanding through fear of wounding the susceptibilities of those whose opinions might oppose my own. I believe that engravers will thank me for this plainness, seeing that all has been said in the interest of their art, and not without an earnest hope of benefiting them in the work before them.

W. J. LINTON.

LONDON, 1884.

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