

CROME (JOHN).

B. 1769. D. 1821.

John Crome, commonly called Old Crome, to distinguish him from younger painters of the name and family, was born at Norwich where his father kept a public-house, December 21st, 1769, and was brought up as a coach-painter; this occupation, however, he soon forsook for that of a drawing master, devoting his leisure time to making sketches in oil colours, chiefly in the vicinity of his native city. The materials of Crome's pictures are generally exceedingly simple, but he has often produced an admirable effect with them. He exhibited occasionally at the Royal Academy in London; twelve of his works were hung between the years 1807 and 1818 inclusive; all of these were "views" or "landscapes" with one exception, in 1809, when he exhibited a "Blacksmith's shop." In 1803 he and other young artists and amateurs founded "The Norwich Society of Artists." Their first exhibition was held in 1805, and at this twenty-three works were contributed by John Crome. In 1810 he was made President of this Society. He died at Norwich in 1821.