

LESSON IX.

THE APPLE BLOSSOM.

The richness and delicacy of the apple blossom has always rendered it a favourite study for the flower painter, particularly to learners, who find it an easy introduction to the painting of nature's favourite flower, the full-blown rose. The stem that produces these blossoms is part of the tree, and not the flower stalk. This part of the drawing, like the preceding lessons, must be sketched lightly, taking care to draw all the projections and roughness of the outline ; but observing at the same time not to get it too thick. This is the most common error with learners, and one which should be most carefully guarded against in sketching either from nature or from copy ; and though it will be a little irksome at first to make a number of outlines of what appears an easy subject, yet it will be advisable to draw the light sketchy outline ten times over, rather than let it pass, if it is not quite satisfactory, as it cannot be too often repeated that the great beauty of the flower-piece does not consist so much in the splendour of colouring, as in the free and natural drawing of the outline.