



## Notes on Two Literary Characters.

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Henry White, born at Reading, February 23rd, 1810, was educated at Reading School under Dr. Valpy, and graduated M.A., Trinity Coll., Cambridge, Ph. D., Heidelberg, where he studied continental languages. He resided with Merle d' Aubigné for a year at Geneva, translating for him *The History of the Reformation*. For some years he was head-master of a private boarding school at Boulogne; afterwards he occupied a similar position at Croydon, which he resigned to devote himself entirely to literature. He was the author of *Universal History* and various school books, published by Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh. His chief work is *The Massacre of Saint Bartholomew*, preceded by a *History of the Religious Wars in the reign of Charles IX.* (John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1860.) Dr. White contributed *Editorials* to various London Newspapers, and was engaged for some years in compiling *The Catalogue of Scientific Papers* for the Royal Society. He died in 1880.

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Walter White, born at Reading, 23rd April, 1811, was educated, first at a private school kept by Joseph Huntley—a progenitor of one of the founders of the firm of Huntley and Palmers—and afterwards by Charles Havell, whose school premises in Church Street now form part of the site of the Factories of Huntley, Boorne and Stevens. In early life, Walter White shewed great aptitude in learning modern languages, of which he became a successful lecturer and teacher, chiefly in the North of England and Scotland. He went to the United States 1834, and returned 1839. He assisted Joseph Mainzer, author of *Singing for the Million*, in London and Edinburgh, entered the service of the Royal Society in 1844, and was appointed Assistant Secretary in 1861, from which he retired in 1885.

His chief works are books of travel, of which Henry Morley observes in his *English Literature in the Reign of Victoria*, "Mr. Walter White has published many pleasant books describing holiday

walks, in encouraging wise Englishmen to know their homes while not avoiding knowledge also of their neighbours."

These works are, *Notes from the Netherlands*, 1851, *To Switzerland and Back*, 1854, *A Londoner's Walk to the Land's End*, 1855, *On Foot through the Tyrol*, 1856, *A July Holiday in Saxony, Bohemia and Silesia*, 1857, *A Month in Yorkshire*, 1858, *Northumberland and the Border*, 1859, *All Round the Wrekin*, 1860, *Eastern England*, 2 vols., 1865, and *Holidays in Tyrol*, 1876.

For many years Mr. White was a contributor of papers on literary, scientific, and social subjects to *Chambers' Journal* and other periodicals. He also published several ballads, *The Prisoner and his Dream*, *The Great Exhibition*, 1851, *Erebus and Terror*, *William Tell*, and a volume of *Rhymes*, 1873. Some of his sonnets have poetical merit, and his books of travel are still often referred to and quoted for their interest and accuracy.

EXCAVATIONS AT SILCHESTER.—The arrangements for the projected systematic excavations at Silchester, the English Pompeii, are making steady progress. The Society of Antiquaries, without any asking, has already received £200 towards the undertaking, and this in addition to the generous undertaking of Dr. Freshfield, the treasurer, to provide the funds for the excavation of an entire *insula*, or square. It has already been ascertained that the city of Calleva (Silchester) was divided into squares by streets intersecting each other at right angles, and this fact renders the conduct of excavations more easy. Everything tends to point out that a most promising return may be expected from these works. The coins, for instance, that have been already found on the site are exceedingly interesting, not only in number, but in chronological range. They commence with the reign of Caligula, A.D. 37, and end only with the Roman evacuation of Britain in the reign of Arcadius, about A.D. 410 to A.D. 415, pointing to a continuous occupation of Caleva during the whole of this period.

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"The result of excavations at Silchester," say Messrs. Fox and Hope, to whom the whole credit of the project belongs, "if those excavations are carried on steadily and thoroughly, will be to reveal to the world the whole life and history, as seen in its remains, of a Romano-British city, a city which we already know had a long-con-