

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-

tinued existence. Our country has many Roman sites still awaiting the pick and spade but none more promising than Silchester, and it is a reproach to English archæology that so little has yet been done to make them yield the harvest of knowledge which they would undoubtedly afford. That the site of Silchester ought to be completely and systematically excavated is a point upon which English antiquaries have for some time being agreed ; but either from unwillingness to face so large an undertaking, or the question of expense, or some such cause, no definite plan has yet being brought forward. The complete excavation of a site of a hundred acres is of course a stupendous work, and the large size of the area as seen from the walls is enough to dishearten a good many people. If, however, we give way to such feelings, Silchester will never be excavated at all, and even if it will take more than one man's lifetime to do it thoroughly, that is no reason why the work begun by Mr. Joyce should not be systematically resumed and carried on unflinchingly year after year."

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THE DISCOVERY OF AN ANCIENT CEMETERY AT READING.—The finding of a number of skeletons in a field on the north side of the King's Road, almost immediately opposite the inn known as the "Jack-of-both-Sides," has naturally created considerable curiosity. The discovery was made during the opening of trenches for building purposes, at a site belonging to the Messrs. Bottrill, builders, who, in order that any discovered relics should be preserved for the Museum, permitted Dr. Stevens to be present while the operations were going on. The result was the bringing to light of a number of skeletons of various ages, and at different levels, with a few relics of great archæological interest, on account of their having been placed in the graves with the dead. The operations extended over several weeks, during which remains of no less than thirty-six bodies were exhumed. It is not intended at this moment to do more than introduce the discovery to the knowledge of the Berks Archæological and Architectural Society, as a paper containing the various particulars, with a summary, from the character of the remains, bearing reference to the probable people and period to which the Cemetery may be attributed, will appear in a future issue of this publication.