

lately, bankers in Sheffield, and had their residence at a neighbouring village named Norton, where at their own charges they maintained a Unitarian ministry. On his accession to some property connected with the name of Nightingale, Florence's father assumed this name, and hence hers. His residence is in Hampshire. Her mother is a daughter of William Smith, for many years member of parliament for Norwich, and a man of considerable note in his day. He was a prominent member of the Unitarian body — the frequent President of their public meetings, and one of the most distinguished of the English Dissenters. He was the stable and persevering friend of civil and religious liberty in the House of Commons. At a time when it required far more courage to do so than now, he brought in a Bill to relieve from the pressure of a penal law those who impugned the doctrine of the Trinity, he manfully fought the battle for the repeal of the Roman Catholic disabilities, and the Test and Corporation Acts, and was the faithful advocate of the abolition of Slavery in the British West Indies. He was a fine example of the English Unitarian gentleman — open as day with his own opinions, and ready to avow and stand by them at all hazards, but equally ready, also, to secure perfect freedom for all others. It was Sidney Smith, we believe, who, in the Edinburgh Review, styled him the King of the Dissenters. Of this man Florence Nightingale's mother is the daughter. So that it will be seen her descent is directly from two of the most distinguished Unitarian families in England. She is in no wise untrue to her antecedents. A refined and highly educated woman, she lives a life of active charity, and is in sympathy with all who do so, be their sphere small or great. The pic-