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REMINISCENCES OF SOME CAMBRIDGE PROFESSORS.\*

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THERE are many men in Universities who enjoy, and quite justly, a great repute locally, but who are little heard of outside University limits. Whewell, however, won for himself a name in the general world of British, if not European, science. He first appeared as the author of a number of elementary treatises on Mechanics, Statics, Dynamics, Geometry, and Conic Sections, which were used very generally as text-books in the lecture-rooms; but his reputation rests chiefly on two works, *The History of the Inductive Sciences*, and *The Philosophy of the Inductive Sciences*. He wrote also one of the *Bridgewater* treatises. In the intellectual arena of Cambridge, Whewell, as Tutor, Professor, and finally, Master of his College (Trinity), was regarded with considerable awe, on account of the extra vigour of his mind and a certain tendency to domineer. With Everett, in his lectures entitled "On the Cam," the expression is "Trinity's honoured head;"

but Bristed, in his *Five Years at an English University*, speaks of "Whewell's awful presence." He was a Lancashire man, of stalwart frame and powerful physique; German, perhaps, rather than English, in the character of his countenance, which was open, fresh-hued, and round. In his younger academic days he was regarded with respect by the bargees of the river and the roughs of the town, between whom and the gownsmen there used to be, some years ago, periodical passages of arms. I have myself seen serious conflicts of this kind in the streets of Cambridge; quite senseless affairs, but attended with considerable risk to skin and limbs. If on such occasions one happened to be out of his own rooms and belated somewhere with a friend, it was highly advisable, when returning home to College, to get under the lee of Whewell, or some one else of his bulk and build. I was in residence when the old-fashioned "Charley," or watch, disappeared from the pavement and the modern policeman took his place. The effect on the public peace of Cambridge was very soon apparent. Whewell has left

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