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WILLIAM HOWITT.

THIS author was born in 1795, in Derbyshire; his father was a member of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, who brought up his family in the same principles. In early life the subject of our biography was fond of all kinds of rural sports and amusements,—sporting, coursing, and fishing; and it is said of him that he pursued them with an ardour that must have astonished some of the strait-laced of his order. Of botany and natural history he acquired a practical knowledge. His taste for poetry could not fail to have been fostered and augmented by the habits and occupations of his youth. He married at the age of twenty-eight years; and in 1823 "The Forest Minstrel" was first published with the joint names of himself and wife on the title page. It was warmly welcomed by the critical press. They jointly soon became known to a wider circle by their contributions to annual publications,—to the "Literary Souvenir" and "Amulet," in particular,—in which volumes some of their sweetest lyrics found their way to public favour. In 1831, Mr. Howitt produced his "Book of the Seasons," one of the most de-

lightful, instructive and popular works of its class. In 1833, he published "History of Priestcraft," which has passed through many editions, and still is in demand by some readers. In 1837, he produced "The Rural Life of England," a charming book, full of graphic and graceful descriptions of country life in "Merry England." This book was written while residing in the beautiful village of Esher in Surrey, when he also wrote "The Boy's Country Book," portraying the genuine life of a country boy; also, "Visits to Remarkable Places, Old Halls and Battle-Fields, and Scenes Illustrative of striking Passages in English History." About 1840, Mr. and Mrs. Howitt took up their abode at Heidelberg, while they availed themselves of the opportunity to perfect themselves in the German language, and collect many interesting materials for future works. In 1841, he published his "Student Life in Germany," a history, in fact, of German Burschenschaft; in which he introduced spirited translations of some of the most popular German songs. In 1842, he published "The Rural and Domestic Life of Germany;" and after quitting that country, "German Experiences;" an exposition of the chicanery and rapacity of the Germans, and of the absurdities of German Society.

The last publication was bitterly resented by the German press, but we believe without any successful rebuttal of its statements. In 1846, Mr. Howitt published "The Aristocracy of England," wherein he sets himself up as an Administrative Reformer, and endeavours to show that five-sixths of the good things which are given away in England are bestowed upon the aristocracy; pensions, appointments, and clerical, naval and military promotions without end. Whatever truth there then was in his statements, we know now that patient and deserving merit meets with its reward, and that the English Bishops and Judges are exalted by their worth, and that literary men and artists find their way to the Peerage and Knighthood. Leaving the field of administrative reform, the next year he comes back to his first love and publishes two illustrated volumes, entitled, "Haunts and Homes of British Poets." He revels in the things and places associated with their genius, and gives us many delightful bits of gossip, and records full of interest. One of the great charms of these volumes is that the author really visited all the places he describes. In 1846, Mr. Howitt became one of the proprietors and managers of "The People's Journal." This was not to him a