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Maurice Hutton, M.A., LL.D.

ONE feels acutely, in writing about Principal Hutton, the necessity of being excused from attempting an appreciation of him (in the sense in which Walter Pater used the word)—from attempting either to praise him or to blame him—because there are so few who are competent to do either. And even were that not so, there would be something superfluous in praising him before the readers of ACTA VICTORIANA. “O son of Tydeus, praise me not, nor blame me, for thou speakest before the Greeks who know me.” To praise Principal Hutton in these pages would be to praise him before the Greeks who know him. The following sketch of him, therefore, will be merely biographic, presenting a short, ungarnished account of his life.

Maurice Hutton (he has no other given name) was born at the unclassic manufacturing metropolis of Northern England, Manchester, in the year 1856. He is, therefore, at the present time only 51 years of age, a fact which “reverence and the silver hair” have tended somewhat to obscure. His father was the Rev. Joseph Henry Hutton, a Unitarian minister, who afterwards joined the Church of England, and was for many years rector of West Hesterton, Yorks; his uncle was the famous Richard Holt Hutton, editor and guiding spirit of the *London Spectator* in the flower of its days, biographer of Scott in the English Men of Letters series, and the close friend of Walter Bagehot. Principal Hutton, therefore, it may be seen, comes of the very best English intellectual stock. After a youth spent, presumably, like the youth of most other English school-boys, at