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Charles Knight

Frontmatter

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Passages of a Working Life during Half a Century

Charles Knight (1791–1873), the son of a Windsor bookseller, was apprenticed to his father at fourteen. He read widely and systematically, and began to buy, collect and sell rare books. He also worked as a journalist, and, on moving to London, set up as a publisher, then took to freelance writing, and acted as manager of the publications of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. In 1832, he launched the *Penny Magazine*, offering the working classes useful information, within a moral context of thrift and self-discipline. Knight continued to write – on Shakespeare, on Caxton, on English history – while at the same time being at the centre of the British publishing industry. His 1864–5 three-volume autobiography (reissued here in its posthumous 1873 edition) provides insights into the economics as well as the personalities of the mid-Victorian publishing world. Volume 2 covers the 1820s to the late 1840s.

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VOLUME 2

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PASSAGES OF A WORKING LIFE

DURING HALF A CENTURY:

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BY

CHARLES KNIGHT.

“ Let us be content in work
To do the thing we can, and not presume
To fret because it's little.”

ELIZABETH BROWNING. *Aurora Leigh.*

RE-ISSUE, WITH INTRODUCTORY NOTE

BY

JAMES THORNE, F.S.A.

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