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978-1-108-08159-7 - Retrospections, Social and Archaeological: Volume 3

Charles Roach Smith

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### **Retrospections, Social and Archaeological**

Charles Roach Smith (1806–90) had a prosperous career as a druggist. His shop was in the City of London, then undergoing major excavation and redevelopment, and he began to collect the artefacts being uncovered around him. With a widening interest in all aspects of the past, Smith began to publish notes on his collection as well as antiquarian observations. (His *Illustrations of Roman London* is also reissued in this series.) This three-volume work, published 1883–91, reviews his activities as an excavator, collector, and co-founder of the British Archaeological Association. Pen-portraits of fellow enthusiasts and descriptions of ancient buildings and ruins are interspersed with accounts of infighting in the Association, and biting criticism of local and national authorities who refused to take on responsibility for Britain's archaeological heritage. Volume 3, published posthumously, includes Smith's accounts of his later life in Kent, and his antiquarian visits to France.

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VOLUME 3

CHARLES ROACH SMITH

EDITED BY JOHN GREEN WALLER



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# RETROSPECTIONS,

*Social and Archaeological.*

BY

CHARLES ROACH SMITH, F.S.A. ;

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF LONDON, OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF  
LITERATURE, OF THE BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY, OF THE LONDON AND  
MIDDLESEX AND KENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES, OF THE SOCIETY OF  
ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, AND OF SEVERAL  
LOCAL AND FOREIGN SOCIETIES.

EDITED BY

JOHN GREEN WALLER, F.S.A.

VOL. III.

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1891.

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TO  
JOHN HARRIS, ESQ., OF BROMLEY, KENT ;  
AND TO  
THE MEMORY  
OF  
WILLIAM LAW, ESQ., OF CANONBURY,  
TWO OF MY OLDEST AND MOST STEADFAST FRIENDS,  
THIS VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

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“WHEN you would revive your spirits, recollect the virtues and good qualities of your friends and acquaintance : the diligence and attention of one ; the modesty of another ; the generosity of a third ; and so on. For nothing is more soothing to the imagination, than that we are surrounded by friends in whom an assemblage of those good qualities displays itself. These, then, you should always retain in your memory, for your consolation and refreshment.”

*Meditations of Marcus Aurelius*, by R. Graves.

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## INTRODUCTION.

THE decease of the author, leaving his self-allotted task unaccomplished, owing to the pressure of a cruel disease upon advanced age, yet 184 pages having been already printed off towards it, has induced his executors, Mr. George Robinson and Colonel Charles Jolliffe, to apply to me, his oldest living antiquarian friend, to bring it to some conclusion. This I have undertaken; the more so, as he himself suggested, that I should be applied to in all such matters, as a literary executor. This task does not mean an extension beyond what is indicated in his papers; for *Retrospections* are too personal to be carried out by another, however intimate; but, as I comprehend it, to act as Editor, and to this extent only do I understand my responsibility. It might be easy, perhaps, for me, after full fifty-three years' unbroken friendship, to give many personal anecdotes, even, in some cases, to add details which he has omitted. But, to my mind, I should then be trespassing, for *Retrospections* are as a person's life written by himself; and in the perusal one must see how much it is so interpreted by the author. He, therefore, alone has the right to put down what he wished to be recorded. Where, however, errors have occurred from the common failure of memory, which it is so dangerous to trust, and such as have appeared in passing through the press, my duty is obvious, in obedience to what I owe to my old friend.

The arrangement of the Appendix has fallen entirely upon me, but as the scheme was sketched out, it was not difficult to see what was intended to go therein, and in many cases there were transcripts by his own hand. Wherever he says in the body of the work "see Appendix", the page is noted and the matter suggested put in. The largest portion will be found to consist of Mr. J. Adkins Barton's "Notes of his Tour in the South of France". Mr. George Payne's "Rambles with Mr. Smith" come in legitimately here. An account of the unveiling of Waghorn's statue is given in abstract. I have also added an "Obituary" by Dr. Collingwood Bruce, because it is here associated with that of Mr. John Clayton, and thus we have the three old friends brought as it were together, all most closely connected in their lives; all having done eminent services in archæological science. It fell to Dr. Bruce to record Mr. Clayton's decease in July last, to be followed by that of Roach Smith in the August following. There will be seen a letter from the latter to Mr. Clayton, wherein he expresses a fear whether he would live to complete the vol. iii of *Retrospections*.

May I now be permitted to record the personal remembrances of my departed friend? Not as regards his antiquarian ability, for that is everywhere acknowledged. I remember, at the Congress of the Archæological Institute, held at Rochester in 1863, hearing a conversation wherein the late Mr. Beresford Hope took part, in which were these words: "He has corrected so many mistakes." My knowledge of him in this particular, indeed, can be second to none. But I wish to set down my experiences of him as a man in the

## INTRODUCTION.

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communion with him of half-a-century. I find already some words of mine have been quoted, viz., "He could not think a mean thing, much less do one." It is most true. As a friend he never swerved; he held tenaciously to those whom he had once admitted to friendship, and, as it too often happens, he sometimes had to suffer. His honour and integrity of character could not be exceeded. He was ever generous, ever full of real kindness to those about him, and such peculiarities as he had one could easily forgive. We can always do this, if we remember, that our own mirror does not reflect ourselves quite like that of another. In all that he undertook he was most earnest. When he left London for Strood, his garden was his great recreation. He cultivated the vine in the open with marvellous success, as well as fruit grown as pyramids, in which his scientific knowledge was eminently rewarded. And notwithstanding his great love of his horticultural productions, he protected all small birds, even when he watched them, like active robbers, pillaging his fruit. He used to say, "Well, they earn it." And on one occasion, when we were together in the garden looking at a flock of starlings upon a cherry-tree in full bearing and ripening fruit, he said, "Look, we may frighten them away, but they won't go without a cherry," which was amusingly true. He was always writing for the protection of birds, and thought birds'-nesting a school for a future criminal.

In the last year of his life, when it became palpable that it could not long be extended, it was conceived by his antiquarian friends that a medal of him should be struck and presented to him in recognition of his services to archæological science. A committee was

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formed, presided over by Dr. J. Evans, F.R.S., President of the Society of Antiquaries, with Mr. George Payne, F.S.A., as secretary and treasurer, to accumulate a fund for this purpose. This having been done, Mr. Pincher was entrusted with the work. Much anxiety was felt by his friends, as his infirmities were increasing, whether he would ever live to see the award. It was at length completed with a satisfactory result. In the meantime, Mr. Smith, who had hitherto been able to sit up and occasionally to see friends, had now taken to his bed, and no stranger was admitted. It fell, however, to Mr. George Payne, who had been very active in the prosecution of the medal, to call with it on the evening of July 30th, and thus was admitted to the room of the now dying man. It was presented; some few remarks were made; then, turning on his pillow, he closed his eyes, and henceforth spoke but little. It was as if the *Nunc Dimittis* had been sung; and, solaced by the recognition of his services by those he most esteemed, he quietly composed himself for the ultimate summons to that bourne whence no traveller returns. He died three days afterwards, August 2nd, thus not having reached his eighty-third birthday, as he was born on the 20th of that month, 1807.

JOHN GREEN WALLER.

68, *Bolsover Street*, W.

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## ERRATA.

- At page 35 is “ M. Millin dresses the figure in the *sagum* and *braccæ* of the Gauls, but he is borne out by his own engraving”; it should *read* “ he is *not* borne out,” etc.
- „ 67, eighth line from the top, *for* “ Fiosle” *read* “ Fiesole” .
- „ 128, sixth line from the top, *for* “ Dr. Evans”, *read* “ Mr. Evans”; so also at line 24, and last line but one.
- „ „ line 8, *for* “ twenty-eight”, *read* “ twenty-six” .
- „ „ line 32, *for* “ instead of some competent person”, *read* “ instead of some *more* competent person” .
- „ „ line 36, *for* “ and No. 50”, *read* “ and *another* No. 50” .
- „ „ line 37, *for* “ this work”, *read* “ the *Monumenta*” .
- „ „ line 29, *for* “ this grand work”, *read* “ Mr. Evans’ grand work” .
- „ 130, *for* “ at Hemel Hempstead”, *read* “ near Hemel Hempstead”; and *for* “ Mr. Arthur Evans”, *read* “ Mr. Arthur J. Evans” .
- „ 189, *for* “ Tirant sir”, *read* “ Tirant sin” .

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