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LITERARY GEOGRAPHY.





ON THE MEDWAY. (THE DICKENS COUNTRY.)

From a drawing by William Hyde.

Literary Geography

BY

WILLIAM SHARP

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FOREWORD

THE following papers on the distinctive features of the actual or delineated country of certain famous writers, and on certain regions which have many literary associations, now collectively grouped under the title *Literary Geography*, have appeared at intervals during 1903 and 1904 in *The Pall Mall Magazine*. The order in which they appeared there has not been adhered to, and here and there a few passages or quotations or illustrations have been cancelled ; otherwise, save for the correction of one or two slips in nomenclature or other misstatements, the articles appear as they were written. It has been thought better to keep the illustrations apart from the text, hence the arrangement by which they now stand by themselves.

It is obvious that the choice of theme has been arbitrary. Where, for instance, is "The Country of Thomas Hardy" ? But 'Wessex' has been so exploited that further writing on the subject seemed to be superfluous. It is, however, equally obvious that, to be adequately inclusive, not a single volume but a Cyclopædia of Literary Geography would be necessary. The present volume aims at nothing more than to be a readable companion in times of leisure for those who are in sympathy with the author's choice of writers and localities ; and if they share his own pleasure in wandering through these 'literary lands' he on his part will be well content.

TO GEORGE R. HALKETT.

MY DEAR HALKETT,

More years ago now than either of us cares to recall, we were both, and in the same dismal autumn for us, sent wandering from our native lands in Scotland to the ends of the earth. I remember that each commiserated the other because of that doctor's-doom in which we both, being young and foolish, believed. Since then we have sailed many seas and traversed many lands, and I, at least, have the wayfaring fever too strong upon me ever to be cured now. At times, however, one not only returns to one's own country, but to the familiar lands of literary geography where, since we were boys, we have so often fared with never-failing gladness and content. Some of these wayfarings, set in the steadfastness of print, are now chronicled in this book: and to whom better could I dedicate it than to you, who are at once editorially its godfather and the old-time and valued friend of

THE AUTHOR.

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