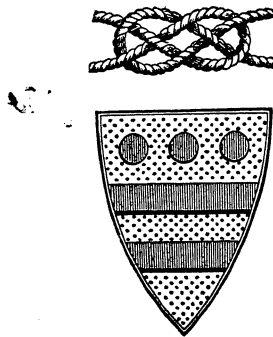


HEREWARD THE WAKE

‘LAST OF THE ENGLISH’



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BY

CHARLES KINGSLEY

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TO THOMAS WRIGHT, Esq., F.S.A., ETC. ETC.

MY DEAR WRIGHT,

THUS does Hereward, the hero of your youth, reappear at last in a guise fitted for a modern drawing-room. To you is due whatever new renown he may win for himself in that new field. You first disinterred him, long ago, when scarcely a hand or foot of him was left standing out from beneath the dust of ages. You taught me, since then, how to furbish his rusty harness, botch his bursten saddle, and send him forth once more, upon the ghost of his gallant mare. Truly he should feel obliged to you; and though we cannot believe that the last infirmity of noble minds endures beyond the grave, or that any touch of his old vanity still stains the spirit of the mighty Wake; yet we will please ourselves—why should we not?—with the fancy that he is as grateful to you as I am this day.

Yours faithfully,

C. KINGSLEY.