

**CHLORIS. (1596)**

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Chloris. (1596) by William Smith

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**WILLIAM SMITH**

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XIV.

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BY

WILLIAM SMITH.

(1596.)

EDITED, WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES AND  
ILLUSTRATIONS,

BY THE

REV. ALEXANDER B. GROSART,

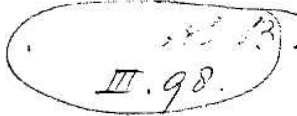
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## INTRODUCTION.

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LORD MACAULAY was wont to tell with characteristic volubility and vivacity how much he was put to a non-plus when one morning he was on circuit, a "Mr. Smith" was announced as waiting below to see him; and there was infinite play of exaggeration as to how he ran riot in the Pleasures of Imagination (or 'Pains') about who this "Mr. Smith" might or might not be—whether a possible client or an adversary, or a thousand-and-one possible or impossible personalities of the legion of Smiths. Then came the grand denouement, that *the* "Mr. Smith" was no less than Peter Plymley himself, genial and immortal Smith of all Smiths, the Reverend Sydney Smith, who had come over from his rural parsonage to take back his friend with him.

I feel very much in Macaulay's predicament in introducing my present Smith. "William Smith" is all he deigned to put in the title-page of *Chloris* well-nigh three hundred years ago; and it is no ordinary task to set one a-hunting for the pedigree of a member of so multitudinous a clan. I am indebted to my friendly correspondent J. P. EARWAKER, Esq., F.S.A., Withington, Manchester, for a communication from W. W. WADDINGTON, Esq., Great Russell Street, London, wherein he has incorporated the little all of fact and inference at present attainable. He writes as follows:—

"W. Smith—as he generally signs his name—the 3d son of Randall Smith and Jane, daughter of Raffe Bostock, was christened at Warmminshame, Cheshire, the 1st day of September, 1546. Where he was educated seems uncertain. It is *very* doubtful whether he ever were at Oxford as a

student. As his connections in Chester were merchants, it would be probably through their introduction that he went into Germany in 1571, and became a freeman of Nuremberg. Here he seems to have kept an Inn, and was also perhaps a merchant, being so described when a candidate for Rouge Dragon. Though dwelling in Nuremberg over twenty years, it is probable he paid at least one visit to England in 1588—the date I conjecture of his marriage with Veronica von Altensteig, a lady of good family. He tells us that from his twentieth year he had been devoted to Heraldry; and he appears to have pursued it ardently while abroad. Besides these collections, are found a Description of England, 1580, written in Latin, for the benefit of a German friend; another of Germany, 1582, with certain statistics of land forms, which seems to have been in Cecil's hands; a third of London, 1588; a fourth of England, 1588, both in English; a fifth of Norenberg, 1594, also in English, and a copy of which was presented to Lord Burghley. These five *MSS.* I purpose printing as the *Topographical Works of William Smith hitherto unpublished.* In addition to these he wrote and re-wrote several times his *Vale Royal*, materials for which he had collected previously, or during his visits to England. These books are illustrated with maps, ground-plans, views and coats of arms, some thousands, perhaps, altogether; but even they fail to give a just idea of Smith's industry if we look to his Heraldic *MSS.* And now, as to the other literary work attributed to William Smith, I fear nothing satisfactory can be produced beyond a *M.S.* note of Oldys, in which he says that he had seen a copy of the Verses written in honour of the family of Smith, in the hand of W. S., among Dyson's papers; this, and some internal (but weak) evidence in the *Hector of Germany*, and the poem attributed to him in *Helicon*, have some weight in inclining me to believe that W. S. did attempt dramatic and poetic composition. Of course, Gore and Phillips, who may be supposed to have