

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1897.

LIFE AND LETTERS OF WILLIAM BARTON ROGERS.

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THE present generation of men and women have shown in an extraordinary degree their interest in the personality of historical characters.

Current literature teems with examples of this interest in biographical sketches without number, and the public seems to enjoy the most trifling details of the lives of persons of distinction, to secure which both the pen and the camera are driven to the last limit.

That this taste has abnormally developed and is in a large measure harmful few will deny, but there will always exist a wholesome curiosity as to the personal qualities of men whose performances have commanded our admiration. It is not alone in political history that biography is so important. To the student of science a knowledge of the temper, spirit, moods or idiosyncrasies of eminent scientific men has always been highly valued, not only on account of its intrinsic interest, but also because such knowledge often assists in a proper interpretation and appraisal of their work. But when distinguished success is to be attributed to personal qualities even more than to talent; when to scientific accomplishments of a high order is joined a personality so charming and so noble as to silence opposition and command approval, anything that reveals, even a small

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