

Hallamshíre.

THE HISTORY AND TOPOGRAPHY

OF THE PARISH OF

SHEFFIELD

IN THE COUNTY OF YORK:

WITH

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE NOTICES

OF THE PARISHES OF ECCLESFIELD, HANSWORTH, TREETON, AND WHISTON,

AND OF THE CHAPELRY OF BRADFIELD.

BY JOSEPH HUNTER,

AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

Locis etiam ipsis montuosis delectemur, et sylvestribus, in quibus diutius commorati sumus.'-Crc.

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PREFACE.

The very name of Hallamshire is scarcely known beyond the limits of the district in which it is in *customary* use; and though the name of Sheffield is familiar to most persons into whose hands this volume will come, still it is presumed that the history and true character of the place and its inhabitants are but imperfectly, if at all understood.

Many parts of the county of York have had their history and antiquities ably illustrated; but no survey of any of the many districts into which that large county may for topographical purposes be so conveniently distributed, has comprehended any portion of the territory to which this volume relates. All that the public has seen respecting Sheffield and the district of which it is the little capital, has been in Tours, Descriptions, Directories, and Magazines; and the accounts there given have been little more than republications of the notice of the town of Sheffield in the old Magna Britannia, with the errors faithfully copied, but some of the information suppressed which was contained even in so scanty an article.

If, therefore, it be found that the soil on which I have laboured does not bring forth fruit of the richest and most delicious flavour, from its produce the reader will not, it is hoped, turn away disgusted at having again offered to him that which had already palled upon his taste.

Some things which had before appeared I have been compelled to reprint. But in general the contents of this volume are now for the first time submitted to the public. And even in the matter which is transcribed from manuscript authorities, or from printed books as rare as manuscripts, it will in general be seen that something is brought to bear on the subject from other sources of information. This applies more particularly to the pedigrees. It will not be found that any of them are merely copies from the visitation-books or other collections of Yorkshire genealogies; but that throughout them fresh information is interwoven, and that where the subject seemed to require it, the line has been continued from the time of the visitations to the present period.

But while it is a subject of some satisfaction to the author, that he is not presenting to the public only that of which the public was already in possession; so is he not without his apprehensions when he recollects that he has been treading where none had gone before him. Gladly would he have hailed the friendly light afforded by a learned and judicious antiquary that dispersed even a small portion of the gloom which hangs over all our Ante-Norman history: happy would he have been to have met with conclusions ably drawn from the few documents we possess respecting the events of the eleventh century, when such an important revolution was effected in the affairs of Hallamshire. But all preceding antiquaries seem to have stood aloof from this district; and it is in vain that I have searched for any incidental notice, or casual expression, of any of those writers

who have entered on extensive investigations of our national antiquities, which might have betrayed the impression produced on their minds by the few but weighty evidences pertaining to the earlier periods of our history:

In doubtful matters, however, I have preferred to state different and opposing opinions, together with the evidence from which the conclusion, whatever it may be, must be deduced, to the mere statement of my own opinion when that opinion wanted the support of other authority. And if from documents which are here presented to the public, or from other evidences that have escaped my researches, any other person shall find that fresh light may be thrown on facts in the earlier and darker periods of our history, no one will more sincerely rejoice than I; for no one can feel a more honest and ardent zeal for the illustration of every point in our history, and for placing the whole on the firm and immoveable basis of present appearances and authentic record.

The collection of materials for this work was begun at a very early period of the author's life. It was among the amusements of childhood, and the chief pleasures of his youth. He has gone on increasing his store. He has spared neither time, nor labour, nor expense. He has been so fortunate as to meet with many persons who were both willing and able to assist him in his inquiries. That still other evidence exists that might be made to bear on the subject of this volume he is not disposed to deny. But if something yet remains behind, it will be allowed that much is here brought together. And he can truly say that what evidence has been presented to him he has faithfully used, and faithfully exhibited.

In the arrangement of the matter contained in this volume, no direction has been followed but that which the subject itself appeared to give. It was my original intention to confine myself to the parish of Sheffield, and to introduce what was to be told of the parishes which as to their history were in so many important particulars identified with it, in the form of notes, or in occasional digressions in the body of the work. On more mature consideration the present plan has been adopted; but I entreat the reader to bear in mind, that what is related of those parishes is rather to be regarded in the light of detached notices than of a regular and connected topographical account. And I regret that my present situation at so great a distance from the subject of my labours and the sources of information, has prevented me from adding to what I had formerly collected concerning those parishes, more especially in reference to the earth-works at Bradfield, the church notes at Treeton and Ecclesfield, and to the Court Rolls and other documents in the office of the Duke of Norfolk's auditor at Sheffield.

While the volume is not deficient of matter which bears upon the general history of this great kingdom, yet it undoubtedly contains much that will appear of interest only to those who have some natural connection with the places or persons described; and even of those who have this natural connection, there may be some to whom it may appear that the pages contain too much of genealogical matter, as they are not of the few who, in the words of old Gervase Holles, 'are listening after the memory of their ancestors.' But this must be the case with every topographical work which is composed upon the same scale of extent with those which have obtained from the public the full meed of approbation. In all such works there must be parts that appear to be addressed to local and even individual interests. Topography that descends not to these minutiæ, is wanting of its very nerves and sinews; it is a mere skeleton, or rather a phantom and a shadow.

More time has elapsed since the announcement of this work than was expected. For this some apology seems to be required. That apology must be a plain statement of the circumstances which have occasioned the delay. The many engagements of that admirable artist Mr. Blore, who has lent his assistance to the embellishment of the work, prevented him from paying so early an attention to the preparation of the drawings as it was his earnest wish to have paid. Much time has since been necessarily consumed in the tedious processes of etching and engraving, much of which has been ably performed by the skilful delineator himself, and the rest by eminent artists

under his superintendance and direction. The engravings at once do credit to the accuracy of Mr. Blore's delineations, to his exact knowledge of the principles of his art, and to his taste and intimate acquaintance with every thing pertaining to the pictorial embellishment of a topographical work.

It remains only that I make a grateful record of the assistance which has been afforded to the author in the collection of the materials of the present volume.

And first I must most gratefully acknowledge the essential service rendered to this work by His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, who with the most obliging condescension was not only pleased to allow that the volume should be to him inscribed, but to direct that the Court Rolls of the Manor of Sheffield and other papers relating to His Grace's paramount interest in the district which is the subject of these pages, should be laid open for my use. Nor must I omit to acknowledge the civility of Mr. Harting, Mr. Housman, and Mr. Burbeary, in giving effect to His Grace's intention.

Next I must express thus publicly my obligations to one of the worthiest and most friendly men living, Mr. William Wilson, one of the twelve capital burgesses of the town and parish of Sheffield, who with the utmost confidence has allowed me at all times freedom of access to the collections made by his much respected father, the late John Wilson esquire of Broomhead. Of those collections and the collector I have spoken at page 276 of the present work. To them this volume owes much of whatever claim it may have on the public attention, and I beg leave once more to repeat my thanks to the worthy possessor for the opportunities he has so often afforded me of consulting and transcribing from them.

Mr. Wilson was in correspondence with many of the antiquaries of his time. John-Charles Brooke esquire, Somerset herald at arms, whose premature death was the severest blow which the cause of Yorkshire topography ever received, was his friend and frequent correspondent. He communicated to Mr. Wilson from time to time the pedigrees of the gentry of Hallamshire which were entered at the visitations of the heralds, or which by any other means found their way into that noble depositary of genealogical and topographical information the College of Arms. Other interesting and useful notices from the same depositary I owe to the unwearied kindness of that true lover and warm encourager of all topographical and genealogical inquiries, William Radclyffe esquire, the present Rouge-croix pursuivant at arms, who has manifested a zealous concern for the completeness of this work, by communicating whatever he had observed in the collections of former antiquaries that pertained to this subject, or that his own labours had redeemed from the dust and darkness of antiquity.

To the mediation of Mr. Radclyffe with the late Richard Henry Beaumont esquire, I owe that valuable series of original letters in which is contained the correspondence which passed between Sir William Savile and Major Beaumont while the latter was in command at Sheffield castle, in the time of the civil dissensions of the seventeenth century. And at the request of the same gentleman, Edmund Lodge esquire, Lancaster herald at arms, indulged me with the use of his abstracts of such of the Talbot letters as did not appear to him to possess sufficient general interest to be entitled to admission into his valuable 'Illustrations of British History, &c.,' to whom I beg leave thus to present my most respectful thanks.

The Reverend Daniel Lysons of Rodmarton in the county of Gloucester, a veteran topographer, has obliged the author by some valuable communications; and the unsolicited kindness of his brother the late Samuel Lysons esquire, keeper of the records in the Tower, has left me no reason to suppose that in the vast store of historical documents which were under his care are any remaining that would throw further light on the descent of property, or any other part of the history of the parish of Sheffield.

To Henry Ellis esquire of the British Museum I am indebted for a ready access to the treasures of that great national depositary.

The Reverend Philip Bliss of Saint John's College in Oxford has my most cordial thanks for much valuable assistance which his residence at Oxford has enabled him to afford; and I beg to present my respectful acknowledgements to the Reverend Bulkeley Bandinel, keeper of the Bodleian Library, who was pleased to give every facility to my own researches, as well in the multifarious collections of Dodsworth, as in the collections for the county of York which passed to that library from the hands of Mr. Gough.

To the Reverend Thomas Sutton vicar of Sheffield I must offer my best thanks for some valuable information respecting the ecclesiastical affairs of the parish; and I recollect with pleasure that I have in frequent conversations with the Reverend Edward Goodwin, late curate of Attercliffe, received information that has been of considerable use in the compilation of this work. My friends William Shore esquire of Tapton, and John Read esquire of Norton-house, will please to accept my best acknowledgements, the former for the valuable communications with which he has favoured the author respecting the hospital in Sheffield which was founded by the family of Hollis; and the latter for much information respecting the River Don Company, a prompt attention to every inquiry, and a zealous promotion in every possible way of the success of this work. And lastly my much valued friend Mr. Thomas Asline Ward of Park-house will accept my best thanks, for many useful communications which the public offices he has held in his native town have enabled him to supply.

To the various friends who have interested themselves in procuring that attention to the prospectus of this volume, which was a necessary preliminary to engaging in a publication that must of course involve its author in considerable expense, I shall forbear to do more than make this general acknowledgement, lest by omitting any name I might incur a suspicion of not duly appreciating services that have been rendered:—but one is now no more; and in a mixed feeling of pleasure and of sadness, I add the name of the Reverend George Smith, M.A. curate of Ecclesall and assistant-minister in the parish-church of Sheffield, by whom I was at first encouraged to arrange in this form the materials which had been collected, and whose friendly assistance was in every way most zealously afforded till he was able to counsel and act no more. The recollection of the long experienced friendship of such a man is dear to me; and I dismiss the work with less satisfaction than would have been the case, could I now present it to the hand of him who watched its progress, who would have pardoned its defects, and looked with an indulgent and partial eye upon its merits.

BATH, August, 1819.



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