

Ducatus Leodiensis:

OR, THE

TOPOGRAPHY

OF THE ANCIENT AND POPULOUS

TOWN AND PARISH OF LEEDES,

And Parts Adjacent,

IN THE

WEST-RIDING OF THE COUNTY OF YORK.

WITH

THE PEDIGREES OF MANY OF THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THOSE PARTS; EXTRACTED FROM RECORDS, ORIGINAL EVIDENCES, AND MANUSCRIPTS.

BY RALPH THORESBY, F.R.S.

TO WHICH IS ADDED, AT THE REQUEST OF SEVERAL LEARNED PERSONS,

A CATALOGUE OF HIS MUSÆUM,

WITH THE CURIOSITIES NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL, AND THE ANTIQUITIES; PARTICULARLY THE ROMAN, BRITISH, SAXON, DANISH, NORMAN, AND SCOTCH COINS, WITH MODERN MEDALS.

ALSO

A CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS; THE VARIOUS EDITIONS OF THE BIBLE, AND OF BOOKS PUBLISHED IN THE INFANCY OF THE ART OF PRINTING.

WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF SOME UNUSUAL ACCIDENTS THAT HAVE ATTENDED SOME PERSONS, ATTEMPTED AFTER THE METHOD OF DR. PLOT.

The Second Edition, with Notes and Additions,

BY THOMAS DUNHAM WHITAKER, L.L. D. F. S. A.

VICAR OF WHALLEY, AND RECTOR OF HEYSHAM, IN LANCASHIRE.



Printed by B. Dewhirst,

FOR ROBINSON, SON, AND HOLDSWORTH, LEEDS; AND JOHN HURST, WAKEFIELD.

MDCCCXVI.

P R E F A C E.



Natural Propension to the Study of Antiquities inclining my Thoughts that Way, an innate Affection to the Place of my Nativity did more particularly fix upon the present Subject. This Inclination was the more excited, even when a School-boy, by an Expression of our Learned Vicar Mr. *Milner*, in a Sermon upon a publick Occasion, That this Town was of great Antiquity, being expresly mentioned by venerable *Bede*, who flourished near a Thousand Years ago *. This Tendency of my Genius will, I hope, be admitted to be innocent at least, if not instructive, by such as have observed, that even inspired Authors have taken Notice of the Antiquity of Plaecs ; *Hebron was built seven Years before Zoan in Egypt*, Numb. XIII. 22. And that not only of Places and Families relating to *Palestine*, and the Sacred Line, but the Succession of Heathen Nations. *The Enims dwelt there in Times past, &c. The Horims also, but the Children of Esau succeeded them*, Deutr. II. 10. 12. *These are Ancient things*, 2 Chron. IV. 22.

Providence also casting my Lot in a Place that merits a particular Description, was another Argument to induce me hereto, it being these very Parts of the County (North of *Doncaster*, and South of *Haslewood*) that Bishop *Tonstal* shewed to King *Henry VIII.* in his Progress to *York Anno* 1548, which he avowed to be the richest that ever he found in all his Travails through *Europe*, there being within ten Miles of *Haslewood* 165 Manor-Houses of Lords, Knights and Gentlemen of the best Quality ; 275 several Woods, whereof some of them contain 500 Acres ; 32 Parks, and 2 Chases of Deer ; 120 Rivers and Brooks, whereof 5 be navigable, well stored with Salmon and other Fish ; 76 Water-Mills for the grinding of Corn on the aforesaid Rivers ; 25 Coal-Mines, which yield abundance of Fuel for the whole County ; 3 Forges for the making of Iron, and Stone enough for the same : And within the same Limits as much Sport and Pleasure for Hunting, Hawking, Fishing and Fowling, as in any Place of *England* besides (a). To the Navigable Rivers may now be added *Are* and *Calder*†. The Corn-Mills and Coal-Mines are now without Number, by Reason of the greater Populousness of the Country, and the Increase of the Cloathing Trade, which was

(a) Fuller's *Worthies* from a Manuscript at Haslewood. This curious Account has already been given at large together with a comparative Statement referring to the Present Time, in the Introductory Part.

* He died at Gyrvi, now Jarrow, A. D. 731.

† Made so by Act of Parliament, A. D. 1699.

then inconsiderable, but now is the very Life of these Parts *. To these may be added new Topicks of Charity-Schools, and Hospitals of Protestant Foundations; as Mr. *Harrison's* at *Leedes*, Sir *John Lewys's* at *Ledsham*, and Mr. *Hungate's* at *Sherburn*, &c. And of Parsonage-Houses lately erected by Dr. *Pearson* at *Bolton-Percy*, Dr. *Kirshaw* at *Ripley*, Mr. *Tancred* at *Bernwick in Elmet*, Mr. *Atkinson* at *Medley*, Mr. *Bridges* at *Castleford*, &c. of whom the greater Number are yet living, and may they many Years enjoy the Effects of their pious Generosity.

I should think myself very happy if this slender Performance should engage some learned and more adequate Pen, in a general Undertaking †, to illustrate this County (b), both as to Places and Persons, particularly *Learned Authors*; it seeming to me remarkable, that some of the greatest Enterprizes relating to the *Holy Scriptures* have been performed by the Natives hereof. The famous Mr. *Wickliffe*, who translated the *Bible* into *English* in K. *Edward* the 3d's Time, and his Contemporary Archbishop *Thoresby*, of whose excellent Treatise upon the *Commandments* (which he obliged the Clergy of his Diocese to read diligently to their Parishioners) I have a Transcript by Favour of his Grace the late Excellent Archbishop of *York*, from the Original Manuscript in the Register's Office. Bishop *Coverdale* also who translated the Scriptures in King *Hen. VIII's* Reign. Bishop *Walton* who published the *Polyglot Bible* in six large Volumes, and Mr. *Pool* the *Synopsis Criticorum* in five, were all born in this County. Besides Mr. *Chr. Cartwright* of *York*, who wrote *Electa Thargumica Rabinica in Genesin, Exod.* &c. and other noted Commentators upon particular Parts; and *Francis Roberts* ‡, who wrote *Clavis Biblica* upon the whole.

It is also very memorable that in the Space of 30 Years (*viz.* from 1662 to 92) seven of the Natives of this County were Archbishops, (and five of them also Primates), *viz.* Dr. *John Bramhall* Archbishop of *Armagh*, who was born at *Pontfract*; Dr. *James Muregetson*, his Successor, at *Driglington* near *Leedes*; Dr. *Samuel Pullen* (Chief Master of the Free-School in this Town) Archbishop of *Tuam*, at *Ripley*; Dr. *William Palliser* Archbishop of *Cassel*, at *Kirkbywisk*, (where also were born the noted *Roger Ascham*, and the learned Dr. *George Hickes*); Dr. *John Tillotson* Archbishop of *Canterbury*, at *Halifax* §; and Dr. *John Sharp* Archbishop of *York* (whose Death I

(b) Our County, as the Curious observe, is the *Epitome* of England, whatsoever is excellent in the whole Land, being to be found in Proportion there. Besides this, God hath been pleased to make it the Birth-place and Nursery of many Great Men, and special Instruments of his Glory; as of Constantine the first Christian Emperor, whom all those who assert Britain to have been the Place of his Birth, must needs acknowledge to have been born at York. Dr. Hickes's Moral Shechinah, preach'd at the Yorkshire Feast. (1st Vol. of his Sermons, pag. 313.)

* The Encrease has probably been much greater in the last Century, than in the Interval between the Reign of Hen. 8th, and George 1st. † The Topography of Yorkshire is no "Undertaking" for any single "Pen,"—If a single Parish can scarcely be exhausted in a Folio, what Life or Constitution would suffice for the whole County? The Account would swell almost into a Library. ‡ Born at Methley, and Rector of that Parish. § Haugh-end near Sowerby in the Parish of Halifax. At Sowerby Chapel, has been erected a Statue of the Archbishop, the Bequest of two Ladies, the last Survivors of his Name and Family. But the Prelate is represented in the Act of preaching without Notes, which he never did, and is placed in the Extremity of a narrow Passage at the Entrance of the Church. Surely a more fitting Situation would have been near the Altar.

must ever lament, both as a publick and private Loss) at *Bradford*; so that this West-Riding of *Yorkshire* had the Honour of the Nativities of both the Metropolitans of our Nation at the same Time. And this County may further glory, that both the celebrated Plenipotentiaries in the Treaty at *Utrecht* were born therein.

This County of *York* is divided into three *Ridings* (of which ancient Tripartite Partition, its Government and Etymology of the Word, see *Page** 83, &c. of the following Tract) and those again into 22 Wapentakes, eight of which are in the North, five in the East, and nine in this West-Riding. These three Ridings are as so many distinct Counties, to which the City of *York* (with the *Ainsty*) and *Hull* being added as distinct, make the Number five, and are under five several Commissions in all general Payments, and are proportioned by the ancient Rule of X, VIII and XII, that is, the whole being divided into thirty equal Parts, the North Riding pays ten, the East with *Hull* eight, and the West with *York* and the *Ainsty* bears twelve Parts. *York* and the *Ainsty* are just a 20th Part of the general Assessment, and an 8th of the West-Riding. Of the Word *Wapentake*, and whence *Skire-ake* in particular is deduced, and the *Ainsty*, see *page* 84 and 85†.

If the Origins of the more learned Nations, *Greeks* and *Romans*, be uncertain, much more are those of these Western Parts: And if *National Antiquities* be obscure, *Parochial* for sure are more uncertain. All therefore that can be affirmed with Safety, is that while the Government of the *Britains* continued, this Tract was inhabited by the *Brigantes*, a People stout and numerous. The learned Bishop *Stillingfleet* (in his *Antiq. of London*) seems to deny the *British Cities*, arguing, that *Cæsar* takes *Civitas* not for a *Place*, but a *People* united under one Government, I encline to a *Medium* betwixt him and other Authors, who plead not only for Cities, but stately Pallaces, before the *Romans*; and cannot but think that the 28 Cities, mentioned by *Nennius* had their Original from the *Britains*, tho' their Improvement from the *Romans*.

Amongst these was *Cair Loid coit*, which the Historians of darker Ages apply to *Lincoln*, but I think without sufficient Grounds, tho' they are herein followed by most of our late Authors with an implicit Faith. But in my Opinion the Name it self makes against them *Kaer Loid coit* or *Cair Luyt coyt*, as Archbishop *Usher*, who had the Opportunity of collating nine Manuscripts, writes it; but no Author of Antiquity writes it *Lindcoit*: Now *Coit* signifying *Wood*, and taken Appellatively, what Reference can the Monosyllable *Loid* or *Luit* have to *Lincoln*? But to *Leedes* it hath, or *Loidir*, as King *Alfred's Saxon Version of Bede* hath it, and signifies in our modern Dialect the City of *Loid in the Wood*. And I believe it will be allowed me by any who impartially considereth the Circumstances of the Actions wherein the Place is mentioned, that they more genuinely suit *Leedes*, than *Lincoln*‡. I

* Of the first Edition. † Ibid. ‡ On a cooler Consideration than our Author's Partiality to the Subject would allow him to bestow upon it, I cannot but think that Leeds has a fairer Claim to be the *Caer Loid Coit* of *Nennius* than any other Place.

am the more bold to expose my Sentiments in this Matter, because that having communicated them to the learned Dr. *Gale*, late Dean of *York*, they were so happy as to meet with his Sanction: The *Britains* having driven the *Saxons* out of *Lincolnshire Northward*, we find mention of *Cair Loid Coit*, as a Place further Northward than *Lincoln*; and *Cair Coit Celedon*. An 544, must rather be some Place further North. *Celedon* in *British* signifies *Hassels*, and both *Haslenwood*, and *Bede's Sylva Elmetæ* are in this Tract; so that it might well be stiled *Loid in the Wood*. *It might be your Town, but by no Means Lincoln* (to use the Words of that most learned Author in his Letter to me) *as Alphred of Beverley would have it, misleading Henry of Huntington, and others*. I would not herein argue as a Party-man, such being sometimes apt to force an Argument, where it comes not in voluntarily, and as an Evidence do freely relinquish what a learned Author hath lately granted concerning the Rencounter, An. 1091, betwixt the two Kings of *England* and *Scotland*, which he saith was in the Province of *Leedes* in *Yorkshire*, because in Truth (which is always to be prefer'd) it was *Lothian* in *Scotland*.

Under the *Romans* (of whose Government and Officers in *Britain*, see *Selden's Titles of Honour*, from page 321 to 330), this Tract being Part of that stiled, *Maxima Cæsariensis*, was under the Inspection of the *Dux Britanniarum*, as the Southern Parts were under the *Comes*. And that these very Parts were then full of *Men* and *Actions*, is evident from the plentiful Remains of that Nation, of which several are mentioned in the following Tract. Tho' the *Brigantes* contended earnestly for their Native Liberty, yet a kind Providence made us very early a Province of the *Roman Empire*, by which Means *Civility*, *Arts* and *good Manners* were introduced, which made Way for the greatest Blessing that Heaven could bestow upon us, even the receiving *Christianity* (Archbp. *Sharp's Sermons*, pag. 450); and that Blessing we had with the most early, being the first amongst the Nations that embraced it.

Under the Government of the *Saxons* this Place was of yet greater Eminency, their Kings erecting* here the *Regia villa*, or Cyninzer botl (of which see page 109) which was their Seat during the *Heptarchy*; and some of those stiled *Monarchs* of the Island resided here. Of all the Transactions of those Ages, none is more celebrated than the Battle upon *Win-moor*, An. 655, when the Pagans were miraculously defeated, and their Design of extirpating the *Christian Name* and Religion wonderfully frustrated. This did so affect our Predecessors that they left grateful Memorials thereof in the Names of Places that continue to this Day, as *Bentley*† (*the Field of Prayer*) &c. The most material Circumstances of that Action are traced with as great a Probability and Particularity as is possible at so great a Distance of Time, vide page 143, &c.‡§ For, to render this Work more certain and compleat, I went in Person to survey every Place upon the Moors, where the *Roman* or *Saxon* Names

* This must be understood with some Latitude—in regione Loidis—the Castle of Leeds as I have already shewn can have no Pretension to be the regia villa of the Northumbrian Kings. † This Etymology is unworthy of our Author—Beneley would have been the Field of Prayer—Bentley is merely a Field of Bentgrass. ‡ For the Evidence relating to which, the Editor reserves his observations till the Press arrives at that Part of the Work. § Of the first Edition.

gave me Occasion to expect any of those venerable Remains, and I must own I have very rarely found my Hopes frustrated.

The Name is a brief Description, and therefore I have laboured more in the Etymologies, than some may be pleased with, but several learned Authors are so kind as to have different and more favourable Sentiments: A competent Skill in the *Saxon* Tongue is of great Use and absolute Necessity in a Work of this Nature. In general I observe, that the Names of the *Towns* and *Hamlets* are *Saxon*, as being of later Election, but the *Rivers* and the *Woods** (into which the natives retired) continue *British*; in all which I have made the Situation and nature of the Place my only Rule. As to that of *Leedes* in particular, I once took it to proceed from the *Saxon* *Leod*, signifying either *People* in general, as *Leodpalð Populi gubernator*, or perhaps Citizens in particular, *Cives ejus oderunt illum*, XIX *Luc.* 14. þa hæðon hyne hýr Leode. And thus it answers Mr. *Somner's* Etymon of *London* (*Gloss. ad calcem Decem Scriptorum*) from *Llawn*, *frequens*, *plenus*, and *dyn homo*, or *din civitas*, either of which signifieth a *Populous City*; and having communicated my Sentiments, it is now generally received, and inserted in several Authors since printed. But the learned Bishop of *Carlisle* hath now convinced me that it is of *British* Original; *Verum altius (puto) quærenda est origo vocis. Britannicum Llwydd (inter alia ejus significata) statum denotat rebus undiq; prosperis amœnum. An igitur Leedes hæc Eboracensis (ut & illa Canticorum altera) Bellositi nomen cum Oxonio, aliquando meruit? Huic equidem conjecturæ subblandiri videntur illa Regii Bedæ Interpretis* on ðam land ðe Loib 1r hæten. (*Epist. R. R. D. D. Episc. Carl. Dec.* 1694.) Another learned Author chuseth to derive it from *Lhyrd*, *Grey*, (the former Sir-name being as frequent in *Wales*, as the other is in *England*) and writes me that most of the Families of Eminency in that his Native Country were in those Ages deduced from Colours. (*Epist. D. Jac. Owen.*)

Some object against the present Orthography *LEEDES*, and frequently omit the last E, but I keep to what I apprehend to be the truest and most genuine, both because most Ancient and most Authoritative, the Corporation Seal being inscribed, *SIGILLVM. BVRGI. DE. LEEDES*. And in the most ancient Charts relating to the Mannor of *Leedes*, there is always inserted a Letter betwixt D and S, either the E *mutum* or I or Y, according to the different Centuries they were writ in; the same Letters are varied also in several Ages in the Orthography of the Name of the Kingdom, *England*, *Ing*; or *Ynglond*. In *Bede*, and his Royal Interpreter, 'tis writ *Loidis*, and of the *Britannia*, in the 8vo and 4to Edition, it is always printed *Leedes*; and I believe in all that were published by Mr. *Camder* himself, who corresponded with Baron *Savile* of this Neighbourhood, and the learned Sir *Henry Savile*. But whence *Ducatus Leodiensis* in the Title*? I reply, in Conformity to our learned Vicar Mr. *Robert Cook*, whose Nativity

* Or rather Mountains, which as permanent Objects generally retain their Aboriginal Names. † Notwithstanding the Author's Reasons, had not the Title gained a Kind of prescriptive Possession, the Editor would have been inclined to change it. *Municipium Leodiense* would have been more proper.

is one of the greatest Glories of this Parish. Archbishop *Usher*, and other great Judges of such Performances, express a just Value for his *Censura Scriptorum Veterum*, in the Title whereof he stiles himself, *Ecclesiæ Leodiensis Pastor*. And since the Time that this Place was honoured by giving the Title of *Duke* to one of the most celebrated Statesmen in the Kingdom, I conceive it has as good a Title to *Ducatus Leodiensis*, as the Description of the County hath to *Ducatus Eboracensis*.

How sadly harrassed these Parts were by the *Danes*, who entered *Hum-ber* with 240 Sails of Ships, and after by the *Normans*, will come in more naturally in the *Historical Part*, from Authors and Records that are yet extant. The Cruelties of *William* the Conquerour in these Parts (which he so depopulated and wasted for Threescore Miles about *York*, that the former Inhabitants could not know it) were so great, that he cried out with Horror upon his Death-bed, *Multis gravibusq; peccatis onustus contremisco, & mox ad tremendum Dei judicium rapiendus, quid faciam ignoro*; and so goes on bewailing his Sins, *Nobiles & vulgares crudeliter vexavi, injuste multos exhæreditavi: innumeros, maxime in pago Eboracensi, fame seu ferro mortificavi*. Accordingly in that noble Record *Domesday-Book*, which by the Kindness of my honoured Friend *Peter le Neve* Esq; *Norroy King at Arms*, I had the Perusal of in the *Exchequer-Court* at *Westminster*, I find in almost innumerable Places, *Vasta est, Wasta sunt, &c.* so that the Complaint was almost universal, *Una dies interest inter magnam Civitatem & nullam*.

Some I am sensible will repine at the frequent References to the *Historical Part**, not considering that those Matters are abundantly too large and numerous to be inserted in a Treatise of this Nature; nor do we find in *Camden*, *Dugdale*, &c. any further than general Hints, that such noted Persons were born or resided in the Places described. Nor is it possible in this Volume to comprehend the Extracts from *Domesday-Book*, the Foundation of, and Benefactions to *Kirkstall-Abbey*, with its surrender, *Maurice Paine's* Charter to the Burgesses of *Leedes*; the Ordination of the Vicarage and many other Matters of those Ages; or the Extracts from the Advowson of *St. Peter's*; the Foundation and Endowment of *St. John's*; the Charters of King *Charles* the Ist and IId. for incorporating the Town and Parish of *Leedes*, of later Times†, with the Foundations of other Religious Houses in these Parts of the County, and the Memoirs of eminent Persons both of former and later Ages, and particularly of the learned Authors and noble Benefactors that a kind Providence hath blessed us with; many of whose Memorials I have collected from Registers, Pedegrees, and other Manuscripts, which render them very considerable, though such as have never yet appear'd in Publick.

As some I fear will complain there are too many Pedegrees, so others that there are too few, and too short, expecting that in theirs I should ascend

* It is greatly to be regretted that this Sequel to the Topographical Part, so often promised was never accomplished, perhaps never seriously undertaken by the Author. † These Deficiencies are supplied in the present Edition.

much higher, than either publick or private Writings that ever occur'd to my Knowledge, would warrant. But as I have not omitted a Descent in any that are inserted, so neither a Family that I could possibly bring within my prescribed Limits, the Parish of *Leedes*, and Parts adjacent, and accordingly esteem all *Provinciales*, who have but *Domicilium in Provincia*, tho' the chief Seat be distant from us. Others that I equally honour are omitted, because not interested in the Precincts. As to those which are included, I have taken more Pains in continuing the Pedegrees since the last Visitation *An.* 1665 and 1666, * and in examining ancient Writings and Registers to ascertain the Times and insert the Dates, than one unacquainted with these Affairs can easily imagine.

There are, I confess, several very opulent and worthy Families of *Merchants*, &c. omitted, who may justly challenge such a Privilege, their Predecessors or themselves having advanced considerable Estates: And to use Dr. *Fuller's* Expression relating to a High-Sheriff of *Suffolk* (*Worthies of Eng.* p. 69) *Cloathing* as it hath given *Garments* to Millions of People, hath also *Coats of Arms* [and *Gentility* therewith] to many Families in this Land. But themselves are to be blamed for not proceeding in a regular Method, for the procuring or confirming such as are supposed to belong to their Families. And as these Gentlemen ought not to depreciate any for want of such Wealth as they are happy in the Enjoyment of, as long as they improve it to the best Purposes; so neither should any of the ancient Gentry be so foolishly supercilious as to undervalue the trading Part of the Nation, but to consider that in Reality *Omnis Sanguis est concolor*; and that the wisest and one of the greatest Men that ever lived, thought it no Disparagement to deal in Trade; *Solomon* in all his Glory (like the Great Duke of *Tuscany*) accounting Traffic no Abatement to his Majesty. Some also of the Kings of *England* have traded in the two grand Commodities of this Land, *Wool* and *Tin*. Mr. *Philipot* is said to deserve highly of the City of *London* for proving in a learned and ingenious Book, That Gentry doth not abate with Apprenticeship, but only sleep during the Time of the Indentures, and awaketh again when they are expired.

Some of a higher Station in the World, to retaliate such as grudge at their Grandeur, will be apt to repine at the Epitaphs of those who are of an inferiour Rank, as being *nullius in nominis*; but these, not being many Pages, may be passed over, by such as make a better Use of their Time†, though some of these being eminent for Piety, which is the truest Nobility, and most of them useful in their Capacities, it seem'd to me inhumane to deny them so slender a Memorial, nor will the greatest repent of it hereafter, if he improve

* By Sir Wm. Dugdale, who was assisted by the indefatigable Mr. Hopkinson of Lofthouse as his Amanuensis. Hence the great Collection of Yorkshire Pedegrees, which bears the Name of the latter. † To the least interesting of these a Place has been assigned in the present Edition, not for the Reason assigned by our Author, for they are the mere Trash of a Church Yard, but to fulfil the Editor's Engagement by preserving the Integrity of the Text.

it to those Purposes that a pious Minister advised his Parishioners, *viz.* To consider, that these had once their Families, Friends, Estates, Trades, and kept as much stir in the World as they do now. One serious Walk over a Church Yard might make a Man mortified to the World, to consider how many he treads upon, who once lived in Fashion and Repute, but are now forgot; those however of preceding Ages. Imagine you saw your Bones tumbled out of your Graves, as they are like shortly to be, and Men handling your Skulls, and enquiring whose is this? Tell me of what Account will the World be then. This reminds me of making an Apology* for interspersing in some Places, what may be censured as precise and cant. But I believe there is not so much of this as to give just Occasion to any one that is but tolerably good-natured and Religious. And to be free I must confess honestly, that tho' I am content that these Studies should sometimes employ my Thoughts and my Pen, yet I can by no means allow that they engross either. We are apt enough to let our Thoughts dwell upon the Profits and Pleasures of the World, but it is good, sometimes with *Nehemiah* to think upon the Place of our *Fathers Sepulchres*; and who knows what Effects an unexpected Digression may have? The devout *Herbert* long ago observ'd, A Verse may find him, who a Sermon flies, And turn Delight into a Sacrifice.

There will need no Apology, I hope, for the Emendations that are occasionally made of some noted Authors who are treated with that Deference that becomes one who readily owns himself vastly their inferiour in Learning and Abilities, so that what is advanced of that Nature is purely for the Sake of Truth; and may the real and reputed Slips in this Tract be remarked with equal Candour. Amongst which I am told that of *K. R. 2d's* Confinement in the Castle here, before his Death at *Pontfract*, is esteemed one, it being commonly supposed to be at the Castle of *Leedes* in *Kent*, but for no other Reason, I presume, than that Place's being better known to the South-Country Historians; accordingly *Holinshed* is very positive in it, but *Jhon Hardyng's* Testimony ought to be preferr'd, because he lived in the same Century, and being born in the North of *England* may very well be allowed more knowing in the Affairs of his own Country; and he writes expressly *pag. CXCVIII.* of his Chronicle,

The Kyng then sent Kyng Richard to Ledis
There to be kepte surely in prebittee
Fro thens after, to Wykeryng went he nedes
And to Knauesburgh, after led was he
But to Pountfrete last, where he did die.

Now all these Places being in *Yorkshire*, and *K. Henry 4th's* removing *Kyng*

* The amiable Piety of the Author will surely require no Apology even at present, and accordingly every Expression of it which though frequent, is never impertinant nor obtrusive, will be religiously preserved in the present Text. Mr. Thoresby's Modesty is equal to his Piety, and the total absence of all Petulance in his Remarks on others, is one of the most pleasing Features of his Work.

Richard from place to place by Night in prevey wise (which are the very Words of that noted Historian) do in my Opinion determine it for this Town*. The like Mistake is made as to the Nativity of Prince William, 2d Son of K. Edward 3d. who was not born at *Hatfield* in *Hartfordshire* (tho' universally said to be so) but at *Hatfield* near *Doncaster* in this County, as appears by this certain Token, that Queen *Philippa* gave five Marks *per Annum* to the Neighbouring Abbot of *Roch* and five Nobles to the Monks there, to pray for his Soul; which Sums were transferr'd to the Church of *York*, where he was buried, and are to this Day paid by the Duke of *Devonshire* out of the Impropriation of the Rectory of *Hatfield*, (as appears by the Rolls) to the Archbishop and Dean and Chapter of *York*. These Mistakes I do not impute to the Partiality of those Historians who assert them, but purely to their Want of Opportunity of knowing the Places of like Name in these remote Parts.

But Freedom from censuring will not, I fear, quit me from being censured, particularly as to the Catalogue of Antiquities (though inserted at the special Request of several Learned Men) with the Natural and Artificial Curiosities in this *Musæum*, which some Persons of supercilious Gravity pursue the Collectors of, with no small Scorn and Contempt. It is, I confess, more bulky than was expected, occasioned in Part by my Distance from the Press, and too many Divisions and distinct Titles, which with the supposed Ornaments occasion an unnecessary Consumption of Paper. But as to the Matters themselves, the very Names of my Benefactors will evidence, that many truly great Men, and Masters of much useful Knowledge, have both collected such, and deduced learned Arguments applicable to the best Purposes, as appears by Mr. *Ray's*, Dr. *Woodward's* and Mr. *Derham's* pious and curious Tracts †.

As to the ancient Coins and Medals I am less solicitous, the great Erudition that Persons of the highest Rank in Church and State have noted to be in them, and the many learned Pens that have writ upon that Subject, will influence the more judicious, and as to others let them enjoy their Ease and Ignorance. As to this Collection in particular, the illustrious Baron *Spanheim*, then Ambassador from the King of *Prussia*, was so mightily pleased, and indeed surprized, with the Manuscript Catalogue thereof, that he enquired of the learned Dr. *Gale*, late Dean of *York*, how it was possible for a private Person to become Master of so vast a Treasure, and very readily honoured my travelling *Album* with his Name and Motto, and presented to me his Picture (then newly engraved) for my Collection of the *Elogies* of famous Persons. As to those of the *Saxons* and later Ages, what the Right Reverend Lord Bishop of *Carlisle*, Sir *Andrew Fountain*, and Mr. *C. Walker*, have kindly intimated, may be found in their respective Treatises; and the Title of another that was writ by a learned Foreigner‡ upon a single Medal,

* There can be no reasonable doubt on the subject. Leeds in Yorkshire must be the Place of this unhappy Prince's immediate Removal from Pontefract. † See the Editor's Reasons for retaining this long Catalogue, in the Introduction. ‡ Nicholas Keder.

with *Runic* Letters, is mentioned No. 18. P. 52, of this Book. Many of the *Saxon* and *Danish* Coins are well engraved in the last Edition of the *Britannia*, and in Sir *John Spelman's* Life of K. *Alfred* (the *Latin* Edition), but best of all in Sir *Andrew Fountain's* *Numismata*, which is the most correct and judicious of any relating to those Times, as the before-mentioned Prelate's is incomparably the best that was ever published concerning those from *William* the Conqueror to Qu. *Eliz.* inclusively : But of these there are none engraved in any Author, save only Mr. *Speed*, and yet many of them are mistaken therein as appears by his Grace the late Archbishop of *York's* most curious and critical Remarks upon the *English* Coins. Another Right Reverend Prelate adds †, *The Trouble of procuring rather than the Charge of cutting a single Piece of each Prince from the Conquest was I found too great for such an one as I am : And whoever attempts it must be obliged to abundance of curious Persons who have those Coins in their private Cabinets*, (Pref. to that accurate Treatise *Chronicon. Preciosum*.) This Expression of that Excellent Author hath induced me (this *Musæum* being furnished with them all) to draw the Figures of the most noted Pieces, from the *Norman* Advent, to K. *Henry VIII.* after which they are easily enough distinguish'd. In the same Plate I have inserted the most ancient *Roman* Copper Moneys, many Ages preceding the Incarnation of our blessed Saviour, because never yet extant in any English Author, tho' many of the Imperial are.

Tho' the kind Assistance received from my honoured Friends, be gratefully acknowledged in many Places of this Tract, yet ought I in a more especial manner to own the great Obligations that I lie under to the Right Reverend Dr. *Wil. Nicholson*, Lord Bishop of *Carlisle*, Dr. *Geo. Hickes*, and Dr. *Edmond Gibson*, from their instructive Letters and printed Treatises, of which, the *Saxon* Grammar, and the Rules annexed to the *Saxon* Chronicle, were of great use in the Etymologies of the Names of Places. Dr. *Kennel's* excellent Glossary, added to his Parochial Antiquities, was also very instructive. The pious and ingenious *Richard Thornton*, Esq; late Recorder of *Leedes*, gave me continual Encouragement and Assistance, being pleased to peruse all that was writ before his much lamented Death ; since which Time the learned *Roger Gale*, Esq; was so kind as to read the List of the *Roman* Coins, before it went to the Press, and to add some instructive Notes from Authors, that my private Circumstances could not procure so much as the Sight of in these remote Parts. The lists of the *Abbats*, *Rectors*, and *Vicars*, I receiv'd from the valuable Manuscripts of my late dear Friend *James Torre* Esq; which he collected from the Original Records at *York*, and most of the Pedegrees from the useful Manuscripts of Mr. *Hopkinson*, which my kind Friend *Peter le Neve*, Esq; *Norroy* King at Arms, and the other courteous Gentlemen of that College, permitted me to collate with the original Visitations in their Library, and to extract thence what other Matters related to the Precincts I was engaged in. I shall conclude with the Explanation of the

Abbreviations that are unavoidably made use of in the printed Pedegrees, for want of Space to contain the whole Matter, humbly begging Pardon as well for the Defects of the Book it self, as for the Errors of the Press.

s. and *h.* for *Son and Heir* ; *d.* and *c.* or *coh* for *Daughter and Coheir* ; *J. of P.* *Justice of Peace* ; *T. L. S.* *Treasurer for the Lane Soldiers* ; *W. R. Y.* *West Riding of Yorkshire* ; *ob. s. pr.* *obiit sine prole* ; *a* — denotes *Marriage* ; and | or perpendicular Line, the *Issue* thereby ; a Capital initial Letter after a Sirname denotes the Town of the same Name, as *Arthington* of *A. f. s.* *Family Seat*.