

P R E F A C E .

IN laying this History and Description of Meltham before the public, it is necessary to state that the work was commenced in the month of December, 1851, and proceeded with at various intervals during upwards of ten years. After many unavoidable delays, it is now completed, and offered to those who are interested in the annals and prosperity of the Chapelry, in the hope that it may prove to them an acceptable memorial of their late Pastor.

The design of the author in collecting materials for this work, was to furnish the inhabitants with reliable information respecting their Township—honoured, not only as the birth-place of the celebrated Abraham Woodhead, but also, as the only district in Yorkshire, in which an Episcopal Chapel was built and consecrated, during the Commonwealth. These facts, with many others which are introduced, have been derived, either from old documents extant in manuscript, or from personal inquiries repeatedly instituted among the aged members of the old families in the neighbourhood. Since the author's decease, much additional matter from both these sources, has been added by the

editor, for which, cordial thanks are now tendered to those kind friends, too numerous to be individually named, who courteously supplied it, either orally or in writing.

In this preface to the work, planned and partly written by the author, and now completed from his papers, and other documents, it is not too much to state that his attachment to Meltham and its inhabitants, and the deep interest which he felt in their prosperity and happiness, ended only with his life. The following lines engraved on his tombstone, in the new burial ground, convey a true portraiture of him in the exercise of his pastoral office among them.

Sacred
to the Memory of
THE REVEREND JOSEPH HUGHES,
for Twenty-five years Incumbent of
St. Bartholomew's Church, Meltham.
A faithful shepherd of the flock
committed to his charge.

He was born on Sunday, the 3rd of April, 1803,
and died on Sunday, the 8th of November, 1863.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without
which no man shall see the Lord."

HEB. XII. 14.

C. H.