

NORTHOWRAM:

(*W. R. Yorks.*)

ITS

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

WITH A

LIFE OF OLIVER HEYWOOD,

AND

HISTORIES OF HEYWOOD CHAPEL, COLEY CHURCH, BELL SCHOOL
OLD HALLS, RESIDENCES, AND FAMILIES OF NORTHOWRAM
AND SHIBDEN DALE, ETC., ETC.

BY

MARK PEARSON.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAP.

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PREFACE.



IN submitting the present volume to my numerous friends, subscribers, and the general public, I do not wish it to be regarded as a "history" of the ancient Township of Northowram in the full meaning of that word, but simply as a few chapters on its past and present life, arranged as chronologically as the materials themselves would admit.

No previous history of the township has ever appeared before the public: indeed, so far as I am aware, I am the *first* who has attempted to deal with the history and topography of this part of the ancient parish of Halifax. No apology, therefore, is needed for putting into—what I hope will be a permanent form—the materials contained in my book; and especially when it is considered that, unless I had laboured to do so, most of them would have been irretrievably lost.

The local Antiquaries and Historians will, doubtless, be acquainted with many of the facts herein recorded, but they will, I venture to believe, find much that is new, or rather, what has never previously been brought to light. So far as this is the case, my work will be a small, but nevertheless a distinct, contribution to the antiquarian and historical literature of the district; while the Nonconformists will admit that it adds a fresh chapter to the annals of Nonconformity in the parish of Halifax.

Coley Church is in Hipperholme-cum-Brighouse,* and, therefore, does not strictly come within the scope of the present work; but a considerable portion of Northowram township being in the Ecclesiastical division of Coley, no historical account of it could possibly be complete, which omitted all mention of the ancient Chapel of Coley. I trust that the account here given will be found correct, and the list of its "Curates" (Vicars) complete. The quotations

* Since 1894 Coley and Norwood Green have formed one district or parish.

from other works which appear in these pages, I have carefully verified by referring to the original documents whenever it was possible to do so, and in cases where it was not possible to do this, I have adopted other means to test their accuracy. This part of my work has been by no means the easiest, for it has involved many visits, and much labour at the Manor Rolls Office, Wakefield, British Museum, Guildford, Bradford, Leeds, Manchester, and numerous other places. But this I have cheerfully done in order to have the satisfaction of knowing, that the matter contained in my history of Northowram is accurate and reliable.

That the volume has, however, many defects, judged from a purely literary standpoint, I am deeply conscious, but historically, I believe it will be found correct. If, however, I am found to be in error in any part of my work, my reader will, I trust, at once put it down to my limited knowledge, rather than to any attempt to mislead by "writing fiction instead of fact."

The long lost MSS. which I have had the good fortune to unearth, and which I have incorporated in the present work, cannot fail, I think, to be regarded with considerable interest, as must also the portraits of some of the old Northowram worthies now published for the first time.

In preparing my work for the press, I have been greatly aided by a number of kind friends who have most generously rendered me all the assistance I have sought, and for which I am profoundly grateful. Amongst such I must mention first and foremost :—

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To the following also, who have either lent me blocks, or old

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I must also thank my numerous subscribers, and those friends who have assisted me in getting others to subscribe for my work, without whose assistance, in this way, the volume would never have been published. Trusting that the work may accomplish its desired purpose, and that I shall receive the generous indulgence of those who may have looked for something better, I send it on its mission.

M. P.

THE PARSONAGE,
NORTHOWRAM,
Nr. HALIFAX.



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