



# PREFACE

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FOR the eighth time I take up my pen to perform the pleasing duty of writing a few words by way of preface to the completed volumes of *Old Yorkshire*. It is to me a real delight to return my thanks—hearty and sincere—to all who have assisted me in the preparation of the present and all previous volumes. To those friends who have furnished papers, many of which have been of very great value and interest ; to others who have kindly contributed illustrations which have helped materially in the elucidation of the text and the adornment of the work, and to my many subscribers, whose assistance has been of the greatest importance—to one and all I return my thanks.

In the eight volumes already in print, I have endeavoured to bring before the eyes of the present generation, scenes of past days—gone, never more to return. From the contributions which have been so willingly sent to *Old Yorkshire*, my readers may learn much about the actions of their forefathers who trod the paths we are now treading, what were their names and mode of living, and also their mode of thinking in public and private affairs, the results of which we are now reaping and which form a considerable part of our present enjoyments.

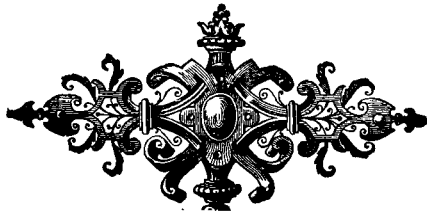
During the nine years in which I have been engaged in this work I have found many friends, able and willing to help me to gather within the covers of *Old Yorkshire* much that is worth preserving, for use in the present and coming days. I am grateful for their unselfish help, and I shall be pleased to have their assistance in the future, that the remaining volumes may be even yet more worthy of the support of my subscribers.

I have every confidence in submitting the present volume to the notice of my readers, believing that it will be found to contain many contributions which are an ornament to its pages.

In conclusion, I have to specially thank the proprietors of the *Buinding News* for their permission, so readily accorded, to copy two of the articles and many of the illustrations which have appeared in the pages of that journal. I have also to thank my friend, James W. Davis, Esq., F.S.A., etc., for so promptly consenting to furnish the "Introduction," which I feel sure will be read with both pleasure and profit by everyone interested in this "county of many acres."

WILLIAM SMITH.

*Morley, October, 1890.*





## INTRODUCTION.

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AUTHORS holding the respect and esteem of all the English-speaking race have contributed to introduce previous volumes of *Old Yorkshire*. The names of Rev. Robert Collyer and of Will Carleton ; of Canon Raine and Principal Falding ; of Wheater and Ross ; and lastly the charming introduction of Mrs. G. Linnæus Banks, have given a grace and dignity to the volumes, and by their combined wisdom and wit, not unmixed sometimes with pathos, have formed an attractive step to the good solid work of the volumes they have introduced. The accomplished and versatile editor desires to maintain the uniformity of the series, and hence the eighth effort in this direction. The character of the work is so well known that any attempt to delineate it would be superfluous ; and criticism is impossible, because the contents, which are hereby introduced, are unknown to the writer. This may be said, that as the volumes preceding have been of great and delightful interest, there is no reason to doubt that this one will prove equal to any of its predecessors ; and may its genial and kind-hearted editor long continue to issue more of them.

The pride of a Yorkshireman is that he is a man of business ! From the days when the hardy Celt had his heritage in the county, and hunted the wild animals with which its forests abounded ; built pile dwellings in the marshy flats of Holderness ; erected the great entrenchments for his protection on the Wolds ; and raised huge tumuli over the graves of his departed heroes ; during the period that this savage aboriginal was driven westward by conquering Danes and Saxons ; and later by the Roman legions, who in their turn made the capital of the county the capital of the country, Yorkshire and its men have held a place always in the van of

progress. That place it still holds, and it is little exaggeration to say that in politics, literature, science and art, its sons still occupy a foremost position. Especially is this so in everything relating to business and commerce, to the acquisition of wealth, and to the employment of capital. The reason for this apparent craving after riches is probably to be found in the inherent pleasure felt in surmounting difficulties, the restless energy inherited from a fatherhood of warrior chieftains, and the joy of conquest and acquisition. A real happiness is found in work, and a dignity attaches to its successful prosecution which is universally recognised. It is rare that prosperity is not attended by refinement in manners, and the prosperous manufacturer or merchant speedily finds that his wealth is a talisman which secures the entry to cultured and aristocratic society, which under more ordinary circumstances would have been inaccessible. Not infrequently his generosity and broad humanity leads him to the use of wealth, ennobling as well to himself, as beneficial to others, and greatly have the stores of human happiness been enlarged by gifts which have enabled his less fortunate fellows to enjoy the benefits which only wealth can command. Public gardens, art galleries and museums, libraries and other educational institutions are amongst the gifts of the successful men of the county. Fortune, however, is a fickle goddess. We become richer or poorer, and as HAMERTON says:—  
“We seldom remain exactly as we were. If we have property it increases or diminishes in value; if our income is fixed, the value of money alters, and if it increased proportionally to the depreciation of money our position would still be relatively altered by the changes of fortune in others. We marry and have children; then our wealth becomes less our own after every birth. We win some honour or professional advancement that seems a gain, but increased expenditure is the consequence, and we are poorer than we were before.”

In this busy age men work too hard and think too little. “It is a self-sufficient, upstart, go-ahead generation,” with little regard for anything that will not “pay.” It is a grand thing, no doubt, to enter into the same course in which the merchant princes of this grand old county, the Crossleys, Eyres, Sheepshanks, Holdens, and Listers, have made themselves illustrious; but to succeed, to attain distinction, the aspirant must give all his

energies, and be animated by the one absorbing passion to secure wealth; his life is passed in a whirl of excitement and passion, and providing his mind does not become a wreck from the constant strain of overwork and anxiety, he will probably come to the end, with the conviction that though he has gained riches, the sum of his life can only be written down a failure.

The continuous application to business leaves no leisure for the application of the mind to thought. The habit of thinking with steadiness and attention can only be acquired by avoiding the distraction which a multiplicity of objects always creates; by turning the observation from external things, and seeking a situation in which our daily occupations are not perpetually shifting their course, and changing their direction. Removed far from the tiresome tumults of public society, where a multitude of heterogeneous objects dance before the eyes, and fill the mind with incoherent notions, we learn to fix the attention to a single subject, and to contemplate that alone. The words of Dr. BLAIR, who wrote a hundred years ago, are still applicable, "It is the power of attention which in a great measure distinguishes the wise and the great from the vulgar and trifling herd of men. The latter are accustomed to think, or rather to dream, without knowing the subject of their thoughts. In their unconnected roving they pursue no end; they follow no track. Everything floats loose and disjointed on the surface of their minds; like leaves scattered and blown about on the face of the waters." This power of thought is very essential in youth, during the period when the character is formed, and the principles are established which will be the rule and guide of the future life. LORD BACON has remarked that "We must choose betimes, such virtuous objects, and determine and fix our minds in such manner upon them, that the pursuit of them may become the business, and the attainment of them the end, of our whole lives." To keep the mental powers in proper tone, it is necessary to direct the attention invariably towards some noble and interesting study.

Leisure to think! thought becomes the main spring of human actions, for the actions of men are nothing more than embodied thought. Leisure to think! and all the energies of the soul are put in motion, and rise to a height incomparably greater than they could have reached under the impulse of a mind soddened with

the passion for meaner objects. The exquisite pleasure of originating and facilitating works of public benefit ; the consciousness of right and power which remains undismayed by adversaries ; and enables such a character to wait, with judicious circumspection, the happy result which sooner or later will reward his labours. "The great and the worthy, the pious and the virtuous, have ever been addicted to serious retirement. It is the characteristic of little and frivolous minds to be wholly occupied with the vulgar objects of life. These fill up their desires, and supply all the entertainment which their coarse apprehensions can relish. But a more refined and enlarged mind leaves the world behind it, feels a call for higher pleasures, and seeks them in retreat. The man of public spirit has recourse to it in order to form plans for general good ; the man of genius in order to dwell on his favourite themes ; the philosopher to pursue his discoveries ; and the saint to improve himself in grace." It was this spirit which prompted Heraclitus to cede to his younger brother the throne of Ephesus, to which he had the right of primogeniture, that he might give himself up entirely to philosophy, and it was to inculcate the same spirit that the evangelist insists on individual retirement for the purpose of self-communion and prayer.

No great work is produced in a crowd ; the highest and most beautiful, or useful, results of man's efforts have been the result of profound but silent meditation in circumstances under which the mind may be exalted above its normal state, and rising by its enthusiasm to the full enjoyment of its powers can give free exercise to the noblest and most refined thought. The hours which a man of the world wastes idly are thus disposed of with pleasure and profit ; for no pleasure can be more profitable than the judicious use of time. "To think and to work is to live." Men's duties are multitudinous in these busy, high-pressure days ; and he who desires to discharge them well, will be vigilant in utilizing the passing moments, that no blank pages be recorded in the book of his life. There is no tediousness if time be properly employed, and to him who usefully discharges the duties of his station to the best of his ability, time only records a series of happy results.

It is difficult for a successful man in business to enter into, or prosecute any intellectual study. Either by want of early inclination

or training, his youth was passed without any incitement to study or research, his early manhood has been absorbed in business cares, and later, when his fortune is made, and he has abundant leisure for intellectual work, he has neither the inclination nor the capability to initiate it. To form a complete and happy life, there should be not only the ordinary business avocations, but commencing early and running parallel with business, should be the cultivation of some intellectual study. It will serve as a foil to the cares and annoyances attendant on commercial enterprise, it will transfer the mind from these to happier thoughts and aspirations ; nobler ideals will fill the mind and worry will be unknown. It is not work but care that kills. The panacea for care is to be found with the greatest certainty in change of occupation, in the quiet of the study, and the prosecution of lines of thought far apart from the daily avocation ; the love of fame and of the appreciation of intelligent and enlightened men, is inherent in every well-balanced mind, and by no other means can these be so certainly and so innocently secured as by the gentle and persevering but continuous, and consequently successful prosecution of intellectual research. Mental pleasures of which all men may partake are as unbounded as the reign of truth, as extensive as the world, and more endurable than all others, "they neither disappear with the light of day, change with the external form of things, nor descend with our bodies to the tomb."

"The great art to learn much is to undertake a little at a time," LOCKE has observed ; and Dr. JOHNSON says that "All the performances of human art, at which we look with praise or wonder, are instances of the resistless force of perseverance ; it is by this that the quarry becomes a pyramid, and that distant countries are united by canals. If a man were to compare the effect of a single stroke with a pick-axe, or of one impression of a spade, with the general design and last result, he would be overwhelmed with the sense of their disproportion ; yet those petty operations, incessantly continued, in time surmount the greatest difficulties ; and mountains are levelled, and oceans bounded, by the slender force of human beings. It is therefore of the utmost importance that those who have any intention of deviating from the beaten roads of life, and acquiring a reputation superior to names hourly swept away by time, among the refuse of fame,

should add to their reason and their spirit, the power of persisting in their purposes ; acquire the art of sapping what they cannot batter ; and the habit of vanquishing obstinate resistance by obstinate attacks."

In conclusion, the reputation of a people depends not so much on the acquisition of wealth, as on the full development of its intellectual nature. It is better that England should have produced Shakespeare and Milton than that it should have acquired even more millions. Let it, therefore, be remembered that side by side with business capability it is essential that culture and all that tends to a higher life should be grafted ; and that the highest use to which wealth can be applied is the encouragement of learning, the cultivation of the arts, and the pursuit of truth.

JAMES W. DAVIS.

CHEVINEDGE, HALIFAX.

