

CHRONICLES AND STORIES
OF
OLD BINGLEY.

A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE
HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES, NATURAL PRODUCTIONS,
SCENERY, CUSTOMS AND FOLK-LORE
OF THE ANCIENT TOWN AND PARISH OF BINGLEY, IN THE
WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

BY

HARRY SPEIGHT,

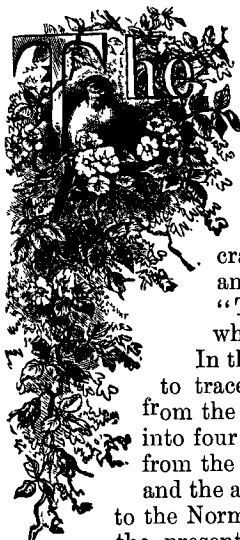
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"NIDDERDALE;" "ROMANTIC RICHMONDSHIRE;" ETC.

NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS.

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PREFACE.



OLD Saxon town of Bingley, is very pleasantly situated in the valley of the Aire, about twelve miles from Leeds, and six miles from Bradford. At one time consisting of but few houses, clustered round its venerable Parish Church, the little place lay deeply embosomed amidst high craggy hills and embowering woodlands, and well did it deserve its title of "The Throstle Nest of Old England," which it still fondly bears.

In the following pages I have endeavoured to trace the history of the town and parish from the remotest times. The work is divided into four parts; the first embracing the period from the foundation of the rocks to the Ice Age and the advent of man; the second from thence to the Norman invasion; the third conducting to the present time; while the fourth deals with outlying places in the parish. The design and general scope of the work will at once be apparent on turning to the index of Contents on page 5.


Since the prospectus of the work was issued in 1896 a very large amount of additional matter has been received, which accounts not only for the delay in the publication of the volume, but also for its greatly increased size. My thanks are especially due to Mr. Ferrand, of St. Ives, Bingley, the principal landowner in the parish, whose estates and valuable manuscript collections have been open to me in the most generous manner. Mr. Ferrand has also been good enough to revise the proof-sheets relating to his family's possessions, without which help the book could not have been so accurate and complete. To Mr. Arthur C. Benson, son of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, I am indebted for many interesting particulars respecting his family's connections with the parish. The Right Hon. the Earl of Cranbrook has also sent me many

interesting notes. To the clergy, ministers, and a large number of others, in the parish and elsewhere, I am likewise indebted for various useful help, and especially to the following :—Mr. W. A. Brigg, Kildwick Hall ; Mr. Francis R. Shackleton, Torquay ; Messrs. Farrer & Co. (solicitors to Mr. Lane Fox), London ; Miss Maud, Seattle, U.S.A. ; Mrs. Staffurth, Bognor ; Mrs. Le Page, Cheadle ; Mr. J. Stephenson, Bath ; Mr. Algernon G. Hartley, London ; the late Mr. J. Aldam Heaton, London ; the Rev. R. V. Taylor, Melbecks ; Mr. J. Norton Dickons, Bradford ; Mr. J. J. Stead, Heckmondwike ; and the following local residents, namely : Messrs. J. E. Preston, John Walker, J. A. Clapham, T. Wilkinson Green, Alfred Platts, N. H. Walbank, Thomas Longbottom, William Green (librarian), Stephen Darlow, and Sydney Waddington.

The numerous illustrations, and the names of those who have supplied the originals, are given on pages 6 and 7. For a large proportion of the photographs engraved I am indebted to the industry and skill of Mr. George Whitaker, of Bingley, who has taken them specially for this work, and has been unremitting in his pains to supply excellent and suitable originals. Mr. T. W. Goodall, of Bingley, has kindly supplied some beautiful pictures, including various views in the Main Street before the alterations. Miss Nannie Preston, of Gilstead, has furnished some original drawings, and her work—too well known to need any comment of mine—will speak for itself. All the blocks have been engraved by Messrs. Armitage and Ibbetson, of Bradford, and printed with the book by Mr. Edward Foulds, of Bingley.

The valuable plate of “ Bingley Eighty Years Ago,” in the best edition only, depicts the old church, grammar school, canal, and Belbank woods before the railway was made, and the picture was dedicated to the Rev. Richard Hartley, D.D., vicar of Bingley, and published by N. Whitley, of Halifax, in 1822.

To the subscribers and the many friends who have helped to obtain them my thanks are also due. The subscribers' names are printed at the end of the volume.



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