



PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

SIXTEEN years having elapsed since the publication of the *Picture of Whitby*, a new Edition has for some time been required. Many events have occurred during these years, demanding the attention of the local historian. The elevation of Whitby to the rank of a ROYAL BOROUGH, having its own representative in Parliament; the formation of a Railway from Whitby to Pickering, which has given rise to several manufacturing and trading companies in the town and neighbourhood; the construction of a lighthouse, and a new bridge; the erection of the bath-house, containing a new library, and new museum; the introduction of gas-works and gas-lights; and a great and general improvement of the streets, by Commissioners appointed for that purpose;—are among the steps of that progress which our good town has made within that period.

To make room for recording these and other important matters of recent occurrence, many articles of inferior moment, in the First Edition, have been omitted or curtailed. So much of this edition, indeed, consists of new matter, that instead of being a mere republication of the former, it is rather, as it regards the Town and the Environs, a continuation of it, or an additional volume on the same subject.

In condensing his materials within so small a compass, the author is sensible that he may have omitted some things which ought to have appeared. He regrets to find, among other omissions, that in recording the Life of Lady Hilda, he has taken no notice of the poem entitled *HILDA*, the production of his talented friend, John Buchanan, Esq. Other matters, perhaps, have been thrust into a corner, which are well entitled to an ampler space. Such defects are almost unavoidable in a work so limited. When a new edition of

“THE HISTORY OF WHITBY AND THE VICINITY” shall be called for—and the time is probably not far distant—there will be an opportunity to supply these defects, and to give that full detail of the modern history of the Town, which its importance requires.

The present volume is enriched with a much greater number of embellishments than its predecessor. For *four* of the wood-cuts, the author is indebted to the liberality of Henry Belcher, Esq., these being part of the illustrations of his “Scenery of the Whitby and Pickering Railway:” with two others he has been favoured by Mr. Rodgers; and the View of Whitby, from the west pier, has been kindly furnished by Richard Ripley, Esq.

To many other friends, the author is under strong obligations; to all, indeed, from whom he had occasion to ask for information. Every where his inquiries were promptly answered; and the polite attentions which he has received from his worthy townsmen, deserve to be noticed with gratitude and respect.

The dates and circumstances of not a few passing events, have been obtained from the “Whitby Repository,” and the other local periodicals. It is matter of regret, that no such vehicle of intelligence is now carried on; for any kind of monthly chronicle, conducted in the place, must be of great service to the local historian.

It is not unlikely, that the author may not be spared to send forth another edition, either of the Picture, or of the History of Whitby; but he feels grateful to Providence, for the present opportunity of again expressing his best wishes for the welfare of a town where he has spent so many years of labour, and of enjoyment.

February 4th, 1840.