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PREFACE.

ONLY a short Preface is needed to commend the fifth Volume of *The Yorkshire Archæological Journal* to the careful attention of the Members, for whom it has been prepared and edited under the direction of the Council.

The larger fund which the steady increase in the income of the Society leaves available for the *Journal*, has enabled the Council to introduce into its pages a class of Records of great importance relating to the County of York. In this volume will be found the earlier part of the Rolls of the Collectors of the Lay-Subsidy granted to K. Richard II., in the second year of his reign, in the West Riding in the County of York. This Subsidy was really a Poll Tax, and in these Rolls the names of all persons in each vill in the Riding, being of the age of sixteen, and not notorious mendicants, and the sums charged on each according to the state and degree, are set down. The entries relating to the Wapentakes of Strafforth, Tickhill, and Staincross, being in that order in the original Record, appear in like order at intervals in this Volume, and the same course will be taken in succeeding Volumes with reference to the remaining Wapentakes. The name of the wife is generally given with that of the husband, and names of sons, daughters, and servants, are also not infrequently entered as such, while a disclosure of the state and position of the larger contributors and the trades of those who followed any trade or calling,

completes a summary, from which may be drawn reliable inferences as to the relative importance of the places mentioned, and the wealth and employment of their inhabitants.

Two valuable papers by deceased Antiquaries printed in this Volume, for the first time, claim a special mention here. The first is from the pen of the late Mr. Robert Davies, F.S.A., of York, and describes with accurate clearness a Municipal Episode in that city. The second, and not less interesting Paper, is by the late Reverend Joseph Hunter, LL.D., F.S.A., and gives an account of the Wilson family of Bromhead, and of the Collection of Deeds and Evidences made by Mr. John Wilson. Unpublished Papers of value by any deceased Antiquary will always be welcome, and be received by the Council with not less gratefulness than will be found expressed to Mrs. Davies and the surviving Members of the Wilson Family, in the Report adopted by the Members at their Thirteenth Annual Meeting, and printed at p. 474 of this Volume.

All Contributors are here cordially thanked for the Memoirs, Notes, and other Communications which they have placed at the disposal of the Council.

The Papers on the Sessions' Rolls, and the "Proposed Repeal of the Penal Laws and Test" by King James II., throw considerable light on the social condition of Yorkshire in the seventeenth century; and as to the latter, Sir George Duckett, Bart. deserves especial thanks, for most kindly making a transcript from the Rawlinson MS. in the Bodleian Library, of the original questions and answers which have never before been printed.

In this, as in previous Volumes, the Contributors are alone responsible for the opinions and statements expressed in their several Papers.

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