

ARCHÆOLOGIA ADELENSIS,

OR A

HISTORY OF THE PARISH OF ADEL,

IN THE

WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE,

BEING AN ATTEMPT TO DELINEATE
ITS PAST AND PRESENT ASSOCIATIONS, ARCHÆOLOGICAL,
TOPOGRAPHICAL, AND SCRIPTURAL.

BY

HENRY TRAIL SIMPSON, M.A.

LATE RECTOR OF ADEL.

WITH NUMEROUS ETCHINGS BY W. LLOYD FERGUSON.

“All Nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship Thee, O Lord ;
and shall glorify Thy Name.”—PSALM lxxxvi. 9.

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LETTER DEDICATORY.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL ARCHÆOLOGICAL
SOCIETY.

GENTLEMEN,

In requesting permission to dedicate to your learned body the present little treatise, my reason is that to you it is chiefly indebted for its existence.

In the autumn of the year A.D. 1866 the annual meeting of your Society was held at Leeds, and several of your members did me the honour of paying a visit to the parish of Adel. The far-famed little Norman church of this parish was no doubt the chief attraction; and whilst examining its features, and expatiating on its antiquity, one or two learned gentlemen pointed out to me a *curious stone*, remarkably incised or sculptured, jutting out from the north-west corner of the foundations of the church, and requested me to procure them drawings or casts of the same. This I readily promised to do; and on examining the stone in question, I found it loose enough to be extracted from its position, and it is now deposited in the church vestry.

It turned out to be a very curious remnant of antiquity, a description of which, in addition to that detailed in the hundred and fifth number of the "Archæological Journal," is given in the ensuing pages.

This circumstance led me to explore to a farther extent the stones composing the foundation of Adel Church, and I found several others of a similar character, hereafter described, now also deposited in the church vestry. Doubtless there are many more such amidst the foundations of the church; and when the day arrives that the beautiful little edifice shall be properly repaired and restored to its pristine condition, other similar relics of the past will doubtless be discovered.

The investigation of the character of these stones led me into the fascinating pursuit of archæological inquiry. I have endeavoured, I may say as a duty, to study and describe the ancient features of this parish and locality; and if I have succeeded in throwing out only a few hints, which shall induce others, more able than myself, to grapple with the work, I shall feel with pleasure that the labour I have bestowed on the following pages has been turned to good account. In the hope that this may be the case,

I have the honour to subscribe myself,

Gentlemen,

Your very obedient humble servant,

HENRY TRAIL SIMPSON.

P R E F A C E .

I INVITE the reader's attention to the fact that the following Treatise is described as an *attempt*. To dogmatise on problems of archæology were dangerous and presumptuous, and I pretend to no skill in such matters. *Conjecture* in such cases is indeed both expedient and lawful; but if we would build a structure of any worth it must be founded on *facts*.

It is merely my endeavour in the following pages to lay before the reader such matters of antiquarian interest as circumstances have brought in particular before my own notice. It seems to me that it would be culpable to neglect drawing attention to such subjects, as perhaps, from circumstances peculiar to my position in the parish of Adel, have presented themselves to my mind only, but in which nevertheless lovers of antiquity must be interested. Such researches in fact, be it remembered, constitute no ignoble part of the history of man. I commit, therefore, my ideas to the scrutiny of others,

in the hope that their amusement, no less than their edification, may be promoted by the humble lucubration of their obedient servant,

THE AUTHOR.

POSTSCRIPTUM.

The hand that wrote the foregoing Preface, and the pages that make up the book itself, is now a dead hand, its pulses stilled, and its work ever past. For eighteen long years untiringly and lovingly it had toiled on and laboured on at these archives in obedience to the gentle will that prompted it; and it seems to us short-sighted ones a sad terminus of labour, when the zealous workman is removed just too soon to see the fruit of that labour. His Master called him from the labour that perisheth to the rest that remaineth.

The reader will not often need, it is hoped, to exercise the *De mortuis* canon of criticism upon the archives that follow; they are patiently, skilfully, and laboriously written and compiled. But it is well to read the kindly words of one not long gone from our midst by the subdued light which should surround all such legacies of honest and conscientious work.
