



THROUGH
AIREDALE

FROM
GOOLE TO MALHAM,

BY
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AUTHOR OF "PLEASANT WALKS AROUND BRADFORD,"
"A TOURIST'S VIEW OF IRELAND," ETC., ETC.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAP.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

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PREFACE.



AS a native of the district comprised in the following pages, the author has been long intimate with the greater portion of the country described. Considering the number of books there are relating to our other Yorkshire dales, it has long remained a matter of surprise to him, as no doubt to many others, that Airedale (none the less noteworthy) should not have been similarly distinguished. In order, therefore, to provide a book separately dealing with the whole of the Aire valley, he has traversed the entire area from the fall of the river near Goole, upwards to its source at Malham, noting everything of interest on either bank, besides a large tract of country around the principal places. The value of such a work must be obvious, as all the Yorkshire valleys differ, often very conspicuously, alike in their ethnic and physical aspects, and Airedale, in common with the rest of our dales, has its own special features and characteristics. Abounding in old market-towns, pleasant villages, castles, monasteries, and other famous buildings, in historical events, and in its natural history and landscape scenery, arising from the great diversity of its rock formations, it is certainly in no way inferior to any other of our great Yorkshire dales.

Although Airedale on the whole has been unjustly neglected, yet there are several places in the Dale which have their local and indeed valuable histories. Of the majority of places, however, little or nothing has been written, and especially of the hamlets and the country and scenes of interest around them, it may be said that these have remained practically a *terra incog.* even to a very large proportion of the inhabitants themselves. To such places and objects, especially in the upper Dale, hitherto unnoticed, more attention has been given, and, wherever possible, published history, derived from an infinitude of sources, has been supplemented, and new facts, data, and other interesting particulars introduced.

Necessarily in a work of this class, involving a large amount of enquiry, correspondence, and research, the author is indebted for much extraneous help. To the vicars, churchwardens, secretaries, and various members of many of the public offices and institutions in the Dale, as well as at the British Museum and Record Office, he is indebted for many valuable particulars and for material obtained from ancient documents, Town Books, Parish Registers, &c. From various residents in the Dale he has obtained the loan of manuscript and diverse information of an interesting local character, and especially is he obliged to the representatives of the late indefatigable antiquary, Mr. Jonathan Hindle, of Steeton, whose collection of manuscript memoranda has been of essential service.

Many of the views are from original sketches and photographs supplied by resident artists and others in the Dale, and have been engraved by Mr. G. W. Shepherd, of Bradford. For these the author is especially indebted to Mr. W. H. Lambert, Silsden; Mr. Alex. Keighley, Keighley; Dr. Stuart, Heckmondwike; Mr. Wm. Scruton, Bradford; the Rev. T. C. Henley, M.A., Kirkby-Malham; Messrs. Edmondson and Co., Skipton; and Messrs. Gardiner & Co., Goole.

To the Secretaries of Angling Clubs he is under obligation for information supplied in the Angling chapter of the book. The Botanical section has been somewhat exhaustively dealt with, as the Dale being exceedingly rich in wild plants, both in respect to the number and variety of indigenous species, it was thought that some tolerably complete list would be useful as a standard reference to working botanists especially, and to all, in fact, interested in our native wildings. The lists have been compiled up to date, and revised by Mr. H. T. Soppitt, ex-President of the Bradford Naturalists' Society. The chapter on the Birds of the Dale has been specially written for the work by that well-known authority, Mr. E. P. Butterfield, of Wilsden.

In conclusion, the author desires to express his thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have manifested a friendly interest in the work by obtaining subscribers to it, and to the subscribers themselves he is especially grateful for their encouraging support.