

ALMONDBURY AND ITS
ANCIENT SCHOOL

BEING

THE HISTORY

OF

KING JAMES'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
ALMONDBURY,

WITH INCIDENTAL CHAPTERS ON THE HISTORY OF
THE DISTRICT AND ITS INHABITANTS

BY

TAYLOR DYSON, M.A.,

18TH HEADMASTER.

THE ADVERTISER PRESS LIMITED,
PRINTERS,
PAGE STREET AND QUEEN STREET SOUTH
HUDDERSFIELD.

DEDICATED TO ALL ALMONDBURIANS,
PAST, PRESENT AND TO BE, AND IN
MEMORY OF THOSE OLD BOYS WHO MADE
THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE GREAT
WAR (1914—1918), MANY OF WHOM
PASSED THROUGH THE AUTHOR'S HANDS.

FOREWORD.

The object of this book is to place before the readers a concise account of the development of Almondbury Grammar School, and incidentally to centre round the school some interesting facts in connection with local history.

It has been a labour of love, put together at odd moments during the past half dozen years. At first there was no intention of making a book; the author has always been keenly interested in history, and, as Headmaster of this historic school, began to get together a manuscript showing the various phases in its long existence. The scope widened, local history cast its spell, and gradually the idea developed of making the school the centre round which much local information could be written.

If the information appears scrappy and somewhat lacking in unity and cohesion, he trusts the reader will remember that it has been compiled in the few spare hours of a busy life, and that publication was not thought of in the first instance.

If it serves (1) to bring out the main facts in the development of King James's Grammar School, (2) to interest the general reader in any aspect of local history, the author will be amply repaid for the time spent among musty old documents.

He feels that the book will be read with interest and appreciation not only by present-day pupils, but also by Old Almondburians scattered far and wide, who ever keep a warm corner in their hearts for the old school.

He hopes that the general reader will find much to interest him in the general topics of local interest. He has followed Canon Hulbert's method (he wrote the History of Almondbury centring round the Church), and has endeavoured to write the history of the district with the Grammar School as its focus. In the history of an institution which takes us back to the days of Shakespeare and the spacious times of Queen Elizabeth, and even into the religious and educational life of the middle ages, much interesting matter can be brought to light, and in the following pages the author tries to do justice to its great past, its prosperous present, and even ventures occasionally to peep into the future. From the bottom of his heart he cries "Floreat Schola Almondburiensis."

The book is in the main the history of Huddersfield's oldest School; but there has been incorporated chapters dealing with the Church and religious life in pre-Reformation days; others dealing with the historic buildings of the district—Woodsome, Fenay,

Whitley-Beaumont, Longley, Wormall; social life has been touched on and some account given of the leading families, but in every case the connecting link has been the Grammar School. In some way or other every person mentioned and every place recorded have had some connection with the school.

Here he wishes to express his indebtedness to the previous researches and published articles of his immediate predecessor, Mr. R. S. Crump, who at one time fully intended to produce a history of the school; also to many books dealing with local history, such as Canon Hulbert's "History of the Church in Almondbury"; the "History of Huddersfield," by Mr. D. F. E. Sykes; the "History of Meltham," by the Rev. J. Hughes; to such official publications as the Endowed Charities of the County Borough of Huddersfield, Reports of the Commissioners on Secondary Schools, etc.; to such standard works as "English Schools at the Reformation," and "The Schools of Mediæval England," by Mr. A. F. Leach; "The English Grammar Schools to 1660," and "The Old Grammar Schools," by Professor Foster Watson.

Further, he owes a great debt of gratitude to an esteemed Old Almondburian, Mr. W. H. Sikes, of Fenay Royd, Almondbury, for his kindness in supplying many of the photographs and for making copies of many others which had become worn and indistinct by age.

My indebtedness to Mr. T. Armitage, of Watercroft, Almondbury, is very great. He read through the work in manuscript with the greatest care, made many corrections, offered suggestions, and lent me his still unfinished MS. of "The History of Almondbury."

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, Mr. A. E. M. Carleton, for his care and patience in reading and correcting the proof sheets.

It is with some diffidence that the author ventures to put this labour of love before the general public, especially as he has not the necessary leisure to add those finishing touches that make for literary excellence.

TAYLOR DYSON.

CONTENTS.

- CHAPTER I.—“ The Fre Gramar Schole of Kinge James in Allmonbury ”—its meaning and significance.
- CHAPTER II.—The four phases in the History of the School.
- CHAPTER III.—The Statutes of the School.
- CHAPTER IV.—The School Buildings— the old and the new.
- CHAPTER V.—The Endowments.
- CHAPTER VI.—The Governors of the School from 1609 to 1922.
- CHAPTER VII.—Local History with the School as its centre.
- (a) The School and Woodsome Hall.
 - (b) The School and Longley Hall.
 - (c) The School and Fenay Hall.
 - (d) The School and Whitley Beaumont Hall.
 - (e) The School and the Church.
 - (f) The School and Nettleton's Charity and Wormall's Charity.
 - (g) The School and later benefactors.
- CHAPTER VIII.—The Headmasters from 1517 to 1922.
- CHAPTER IX.—Another Chapter on Local History—the Manor of Almondbury through the ages.
- CHAPTER X.—The History of Almondbury Church.
- CHAPTER XI.—The Historic Buildings of Almondbury.
- CHAPTER XII.—The School in the 19th and 20th Centuries, with a retrospect and some random comments,