

THE HISTORY
OF
Brighouse, Rastrick,
AND
Gipperholme;

WITH MANORIAL NOTES ON
**Coley, Lightcliffe, Northotram, Shelf, Fixby,
Clifton and Kirklees.**

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IDEL, BRADFORD.

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY ILLUSTRATIONS.

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Introduction.



HERE is little need for a native, though more than half his lifetime up to the present has been spent outside the district, to apologise for the publication, however crudely the work may be done, of the history of the old haunts of childhood, especially as no such record has hitherto been attempted. True patriotism takes its rise from a love for the old homesteads, and from the touch of affinity engendered by a study of family alliances and human character. Heredity has much to do with religious bias also, and if the socialism of the future has to be true humanitarianism our sympathies and interests must be broadened, and selfishness curbed almost to eradication.

There are in these pages, the writer believes, texts sufficient for those who will search for them, to convince both rich and poor that happiness and goodness are inseparable. My object has been to crowd as much information as possible into the available space, or many moral deductions might have been added. For instance, a footnote to the name of Alfieri, p. 252, ought to have been given, for no better sermon to young men can be preached than the warnings from the life of the great Italian dramatist,—a morbid, wasted life, as contrasted with Lord Ligonier's magnanimity.

Although the book has more pages than I intended, one-half the story remains to be told. The insertion of 170 illustrations, where only half that number was proposed, has robbed the space available for writing. Though this means extra cost to the author, it will be a gain to the reader. The ecclesiastical, and social chapters have had to be eliminated to do justice to the period that has been truly regarded as the "Dark Ages." But they were only the "Dark Ages" to us, because no local historian has hitherto unfolded our eyes. We have been in the dark as to their true condition; and however my local

readers may look upon the long and wearisome records from the Manorial Rolls, the historical student will specially welcome them, for I know of no Yorkshire history that has so fully dwelt upon the Feudal period. The history of the people, in contradistinction to the chronology of kings, has yet to be written, and I may fairly claim that this Brighthouse book is a local pioneer in supplying materials for the study, thus serving a more than local purpose. As to the diction, the punctuation, or the grammär, it must be remembered that the charter antiquary gathers notes, but the great historian generalizes from the labours of the antiquary. Be it remembered also that these notes have been gathered during thirty years of holiday time, and rewritten and proofs read, and correspondence done at spare moments which ninety per cent. would have spent in self-ease. Sentences are often abrupt, and often purposely so to make room for more facts; a preposition or two might be changed with advantage; even a plural verb is once used instead of a singular one, but I leave these for the captious critic to detect like our Coley curate, Dr. Ogden, who

“ Placed in critics no reliance,
So clothed his thoughts in Arabic,
And bade them all defiance.”

I don't find, on examination, any errata to acknowledge, except the *White Swan*, p. 259, ought to be a *Black* one. The Latin scholar will find faults, I know, with the fragmentary quotations, but I find fault with him that he has not set about the work himself. Wright's little history of Halifax called forth Watson's able and large one, which to-day is a most imperfect volume though fetching £5 at any sale. I am not conceited enough to think that the history of Brighthouse before its incorporation is once and for ever written, for I hope to add another volume of omissions next year myself, and these will not satisfy the 20th century inhabitants. Most of my good neighbours thought till recently Brighthouse had no history before 1750; I would remind them that a glance at the chapter on Wills shews that we are just at the beginning of some subjects. The Americans would go wild with enthusiasm had they a tithe of our information, and whilst our rule in printing this volume has been “*Multum in parvo*,” they would have spun paragraphs into chapters. In Mr. Lister, Shibden Hall, we have a gentleman amongst us well able to edit the Wakefield Manorial Rolls for one of our learned Societies, and the Yorkshire Archæological Association could not devote its energies to better purpose than printing them. An idea of the writing of the Feudal times is conveyed by the facsimile deed on page 64, but sometimes faded and worn skins are not so easily decipherable. Saxon charters are more like the Doomsday facsimile on page *vi*. Over many of the place names in the latter are the letters “*ilbt.*” This indicates Ilbert de Lacy as owner by grant from the King. Over Huperun (*Hipperholme*,) is the word *Rex*, shewing that in 1087 the King had not conveyed our township to John, Earl of Warren, at that date. *Car'* or *c'* stands for *carucate* or as much land as a plough kept in

cultivation; Hipperholme had two, Rastrick one. The places named in Morelei Wapentac are Morley, Ardsley, Bestone, Rothwell, Carlington, Lothouse, Thorp and Mildenton, Hunslet, Riston, Armley, Bramley, Calverley and Farsley, Pudsey, Tong, Breslington, Gomersall, Bolton, Bradford, Bolling, Celeslau (Chellow,) Thornton, Allerton, Clayton and Wibsey, Shipley, Bierley, Wyke, Heaton, Clifton, Mirfield, Dewsbury, Batley, Liversedge. In Hartshead, Ilbert had 2 car., in Elont (Elland,) Ilbert had 3 car., in Oure (Southowram,) Ilbert had 3 car., in Huperun (Hipperholme,) the King had 2 car., in Vfrun (Northowram,) 2 car., in Scelf, 1 car., in Stanland, 2 car., in Linlei, $\frac{1}{2}$ car., in Fechesbi (Fixby; it may be noted that a man named Fech held Giggleswick at this time, though probably no relation of the Fech who gave his name to Fixby,) 1 car., in Rastric, 1 car., in Egleshil (Eccleshill,) 3 car., Farnley, Ardsley (East or West), Greland (? Greetland), Etun (?), in the Soke of Wakefield.

With Wachefeld were 9 berewicks, Sandal, Sowerby, Warley, Fesler or Seslei (this has been read as Feslei, and supposed to be Halifax-ley,) Midgley, Wadsworth, Crumbetonston, Langfeld, Stansfeld, (see p. 33). In Holme (Holmfirth valley), Dunstan held two carucates, in Linley, Godwin had a half-carucate, and another half in Rastric. Ilbert de Lacy also had Cornesbi (Quarmby,) 2 car., Gudlagesargo (Golcar,) $\frac{1}{2}$ car., Lillai (Linley,) 2 car., Bradley, 2 car. Thus the great lords were recompensed for their help at Hastings in 1066, and sometimes the old tenants got a mere sop to quieten them. Godwin had estates in Rastrick, Linley, Bradley, Huddersfield. He and Gamel held lands in Quarmby. Gamel owned Elland and Southowram. Gerneber held Hartshead and Mirfield. He and Levenot held Liversedge. Escelf held Clifton. Swayne (Suuen,) had Crosland. Alric had Dalton. Levine had Golcar. From these old Anglians some of our first chieftanents were descended.

As to our illustrations, the collecting of so many has been no slight work, but there are quite a hundred more available for a supplementary volume to be devoted to the absorbingly interesting accounts of Rastrick, Coley, Lightcliffe, and Brighouse Churches, with their curates; of George Fox's visits to Brighouse, and the dominion of Brighouse Monthly Meeting; of Moravian noblemen and worthies, and John Wesley's evangelistic labours; of the history of each denomination of Christians; of Hipperholme and Rastrick Grammar Schools; of Charities and Benefactors; of Town's books and Officers; of Folk-lore and Dialect; of Place and Surnames; of Pedigrees and Topography. For assistance and encouragement in the artistic embellishment of the present volume, I thankfully acknowledge my obligations to Messrs. H. J. Barber, J. C. Bottomley, J. W. Clay, T. T. Empsall, S. E. Hirst, R. Kershaw, F. Laxton, Henry Sugden, W. B. Woodhead, C. Jessop, J. B. Kershaw; Dr. Jessop, Dr. Farrer; Mrs. Brooke, Mrs. Kershaw, Mrs. Maile, Miss Ormerod, Miss G. A. Fryer; to Mr. Leach and Mr. Hepworth for several photographs, and

to Mr. Hepworth especially for his father's portrait; to my friends, Mr. W. Andrews, Mr. W. Scruton, and Dr. Stuart for the loan of a block-illustration each; and to my eldest son, whose birthplace, at his grandmother's house on Rastrick Common, forms a subject for illustration, and whose name on the blocks indicates the extent of his artistic assistance.

I am proud of all this assistance, as also of the long list of subscribers, and hope the readers may appreciate this unity of good-will. As to the delay, the chief cause was the deplorable out-break of small pox in 1892, an event which Brighouse has cause to remember by financial losses as also by several deaths. I hoped also that the Incorporation Charter would arrive before issuing the volume, but there is no need to detain the publication on that account, as fuller justice can be done in another volume to the causes that have led to this result. One word as to the index and we must close. I find my time so limited that the whole work has to be done in snatches, but I have taken special care to compile a full index of every surname and place, in which one or two clerical errors in the text are corrected. It must be remembered that the same name may occur half-a-dozen times on a page, and the general spelling only is adopted. The utility of a complete index has stimulated me to do this laborious work myself, though entailing also extra cost in printing.

Idel, Bradford,
August, 1893.

J. HORSFALL TURNER.



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