



THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF
CLEVELAND,

COMPRISING THE
WAPENTAKE OF EAST AND WEST LANGBARGH,
NORTH RIDING, COUNTY YORK.



BY
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"THE BARD," "RURAL SKETCHES," &c. &c

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P R E F A C E.



WHEN I stated in the Prospectus, that “in monuments of antiquity, in abbeys, priories, hermitages, and cells; in castles, fortifications, and encampments; in remains of former grandeur, and relics of great and illustrious families, the vale of Cleveland abounds more than any similar locality in England;” that “in the magnificence, variety, and extent of its natural scenery; in the healthfulness and salubrity of its climate; in the energy and skill of its agriculturists; in the enterprise and perseverance of its general population, Cleveland may compare with any portion of the kingdom,”—I only gave utterance to convictions long entertained, the truthfulness of which the following pages (the result of nearly three years’ assiduous application) will, I trust, amply demonstrate.

In pursuance of the same Prospectus, I have endeavoured to “embrace the entire History of Cleveland, dating from the earliest known periods and most authentic records; its institutions, charitable, religious, and educational; biographical notices of all the eminent and illustrious men it has nurtured or produced; copious illustrated details of its antiquities, public buildings, and works of art, including descriptive references to scenery, &c.”

These pledges I have repeated in this place, in order that the reader may be enabled to compare the promise with the performance, and pronounce whether or not I have devoted to my subject that amount of zeal, and industry, and enthusiasm requisite for its successful accomplishment.

The reasons for commencing such a laborious undertaking, as well as the obstacles with which I have had to contend, are so truly and feelingly expressed in the Preface to Hearne’s Edition of Leland, that no apology need be made for introducing them here :



“My own natural inclination to the study of Antiquities, and a principle of doing good, were the only motives that spurred and carried me on in an undertaking in which I was to meet with abundance of difficulties, occasioned not so much by the drudgery of the Work (for that was a kind of pleasure to me) as by the Narrowness of my Circumstances. But though this meanness of fortune might have been a just excuse for my aiming at secular advantage, yet I can say with a good Conscience, that I have not proposed to myself any Interest in this Work, nor expected the least Reward from any one whatsoever. I esteem it a sufficient Recompense that my honest Endeavours have been so kindly received by several virtuous, good, and learned Men. It must, however, be here ingenuously confessed, that had it not been for the Contributions of Subscribers, the Work would have infallibly miscarried, and I must have been obliged to desist; and therefore 'tis my humble request that whatever honour shall arise from the setting out of this Work, may be principally and chiefly ascribed to those most Excellent and Worthy Persons, whose names upon that Account I have taken care to transmit to Posterity.”

To Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart., of Middle Hill, Worcestershire, whose heraldic and antiquarian learning justly entitle him to a distinguished position among his contemporaries, I am especially indebted for the use of his vast and magnificent library, and for his personal assistance and hospitality; to Robert Chaloner, Esq., for the use of the Gisborough deeds and charters; and to Robert Henry Allan, Esq., of Blackwell House (a descendant of the eminent antiquary and collector, George Allan, Esq., F.S.A.), for much valuable information the Author is deeply grateful: also to W. D. Bruce, Esq., F.S.A.; to J. R. Walbran, Esq., author of the *History of Gainford*; to Francis Mewburn, Esq., of Darlington; to the Rev. Dr. Young, author of the *History of Whitby*; and many others, who have enriched this Work with their contributions, the Author returns his warmest acknowledgments.

In conclusion, he solicits the indulgence of the Public, if, notwithstanding his utmost care and vigilance, some errors have unavoidably occurred during the progress of a Work at once so minute and comprehensive.

J. WALKER ORD.