



P R E F A C E .



IN sending out this greatly enlarged and completely rewritten work, it is proper I should add a few words of preface, so that readers may know what they are to expect in the following pages. I beg to state, then, that my object has been to recover from the past whatever I could gather that would shed light on the character and doings of our ancestors, with a view of guiding, stimulating, and informing those who now live as to conduct which should make them desirous of adding to the credit and the prosperity of the community in which God's providence has placed them. What patriotism is as regards our native land as a whole, so is an honest and intelligent desire for the reputation and well-being of our parish as a smaller and yet integral part of the land, whose glory and greatness is one of the dearest wishes of every true-hearted and intelligent Englishman. Everyone seems more or less to lament the deterioration of rural life—the tendency to crowd into towns, and the unhappy forgetfulness of large numbers who have been drawing considerable revenues from agricultural communities, of the claims which these communities have on them for moral sympathy and material help in order to enable them to realize that moral and material standard

of life and circumstance by which rural communities may not unfairly contrast with the greater attractions in some respects of urban populations. I venture to say that no amount of legislative change can ameliorate the condition of the inhabitants of our rural districts unless it be accompanied by a transformation of character. It is moral worth, and not political franchises, that will raise our rural population. Where we have high moral character, intelligence, industry, self-denial, and public spirit, there is nothing in our political institutions which forbids village life to be as happy in all its true essentials as that of the mightiest city in our land. Trusting that the facts recorded in this volume, and the principles laid down, may help to this end is the Author's fervent prayer.

I will not close this short preface without expressing more formally and precisely than I have been able to do in the body of the work my great obligations to many friends and helpers. Notably to Mr. H. Chetwynd-Stapylton, for many private contributions of literary matter, and the kind use of his illustrations of remains of the Templar preceptory at Hirst, the south doorway, pillar-head of doorway, Templar seal, and ground-plan of buildings. To Dr. Fairbanks, late of Doncaster, for the engraving of brass of William Fitzwilliam, Esq., and Elizabeth his wife, who lived at Haddlesey. To Mr. Hodges of Hexham for permission to use his excellent plate of the Darcy tomb in Selby Abbey. Also to Miss Emily Holt, for her kindness in furnishing me with many most valuable details of the movements of Edward II., and of leading soldiers and statesmen of his time. Also to Mr. W. S. Kershaw, the courteous librarian of Lambeth Palace Library, for his very valuable help in furnishing copies of documents connected with the period of the Commonwealth. Also to the Rev. Canon Raine, of York, for valuable and ready use of the Minster library. To Mr. W. Paley Baildon, for information relative to Stapleton and Fitzwilliam property. To Lady Beaumont, of Carlton

Towers, for kind use of the library there. And to the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Stapleton, for help with regard to their family pedigree. To the indefatigable Honorary Secretary of the Yorks Archæological and Topographical Society, for use of documents. Neither must I forget earlier obligations to Mr. Wadham Powell and Mr. William Morrell; nor later ones to Miss Davison, of Haddlesey House, who most obligingly has allowed me access to her family papers, and also to reproduce a facsimile of an autograph letter of Oliver Cromwell addressed to the constables and head-boroughs of West Haddlesey.

P.S.—I may add that the profits of this work (if any) will be given to provide a long-standing want of a mission-room and Sunday-school for the hamlet of Hirst Courtney in this parish, with a population of 116 persons, distant two miles from the parish church, or to wipe out the deficit of £60 still needed in payment of outlay on parish church enlargement.

HADDLESEY RECTORY,
April, 1894.

