



THE

*“Halifax  
Guardian”*

HISTORICAL

# Almanack

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AND

*Literary Companion,*

1908.

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Illustrated with many local and other views.

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PRICE TWOPENCE.

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Halifax Newspaper and Printing Company Limited

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## CRAGG VALE.

Regarded as a concise summary of characteristic Yorkshire scenery, the tiny valley leading from the summit of Blackstone Edge to the village of Mytholmeryd will be very hard to equal. In the upper part it is a shallow basin of moorland, hundreds of feet above the level at which the Calder flows. Here, as a moorland stream, it flows through the purple-brown ruggedness which is so typical of the Pennines. Through this the stream gradually sinks, until, almost imperceptibly, a valley differing much in feature from the surrounding country is formed. From a land of mountain and flood, the change to a peaceful vale of cultivation is rapid and almost complete. The right bank, a part of the township of Sowerby, has been brought under cultivation. The Erringden side is, however, still clothed with forest, and from the Cragg Valley road, with the water running at the foot, it forms a charming dell. At this point the beauty of the valley must be looked for near the water itself. The hills immediately adjacent lack the bold contour common to their mightier sisters of Blackstone Edge, the charm of the lower valley being in its "little prettinesses" rather than in any appeal which is made to the sense of grandeur. As yet neither tram-line nor railroad connect Cragg Vale with the bustle of the busy valley at its foot. A few months ago, the Halifax Corporation definitely decided to let their powers in this direction lapse, and while this action was regarded with disfavour by the inhabitants generally, the lover of nature undefiled would not look upon this as any cause for sorrow. Thus, now, in 1907, the mode of reaching Cragg Vale is the same as it was hundreds of years ago. The turnpike road, now one of the best in the district, is frequently mentioned by the Yorkshire novelists, and as early as the time of Cromwell comes within the scope of matters purely historical.

The lower stream is formed by the junction of two smaller streams, the Withens from the north-west, and the Turvin, with a general direction almost at right angles, from the south-west. An ancient stone bridge, in strict keeping with the air of the place, spans their junction. From this bridge, looking upstream, one of the finest views in the valley is obtained.

A little way to the north of the Withens stream, backed by moorland, and situated snugly in the midst of trees, stands what has been known since the erection of Mr. W. A. Simpson-Hinchliffe's new residence, as Old Cragg Hall. Though ancient in appearance, the building is mostly of a comparatively recent



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## PYE NEST TRAM MISHAP.

We include in this issue of the "Halifax Guardian" Historical Almanac a number of illustrations of the lamentable disaster on the Pye Nest section of the Halifax tramways, which occurred on October 15th, 1907. The accident happened to the 5-40 car from Sowerby Bridge, the first one run that morning. It was in charge of Driver T. Simpson and Con-



**CONDUCTOR ROBINSON.**

ductor W. Robinson, and was heavily laden with men going to their work. The car had reached the last turn proceeding up Pye Nest. Suddenly it commenced to run back. Driver and conductor alike failed in their efforts to pull it up. Gathering immense speed, it dashed down the hill, ran off the lines near the Board Schools, and then plunged into the building of Mr. Lewis Atkinson, and overturned. Five people, including the conductor, who stuck to his post to the last, were killed, and some forty passengers were more or less injured.