



THE MONUMENTAL
AND OTHER
INSCRIPTIONS
IN
HALIFAX PARISH CHURCH

EDITED BY

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LEEDS :

JOHN WHITEHEAD & SON, ALFRED STREET, BOAR LANE.

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PREFACE.

An attempt has been made in the following pages to give a copy of all the Inscriptions on the Monuments and Grave Covers which are now to be seen inside the church ; and also of all Inscriptions of both classes, of which there is any record in printed books, or in the manuscripts of private individuals. Many inscriptions on grave covers, which are now either covered by pews or are lost, have been preserved to us by two industrious Halifax antiquaries, Messrs. E. J. Walker and S. T. Rigge, F.S.A.

Apparently, Mr. Walker began to make his copies in the third quarter of the nineteenth century, for on folio 7 of his MS., which has been generously placed at my disposal by Mr. William Farrer, F.S.A., in reference to the inscriptions in the Holdsworth Chapel, occurs the following note : “ Upon the floor of the chapel—some of these were taken by my son, C.J.W., when the chapel was cleaned ; the bulk by myself in June, 1865, when the old unsightly pews adjoining the screen were all pulled away and the whole floor levelled, hot water pipes put in, and the entire chapel filled with open stalls.—E.J.W.” There appears to be no other indication in the MS. as to when these copies of the inscriptions were taken. This MS. passed into the hands of the late John Stansfeld, of Leeds, and bears his autograph signature and the date 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{2}{3}$. Perhaps more accurate copies of the inscriptions are those made by Mr. Rigge, which have been kindly lent to me by Mr. J. W. Clay, F.S.A., who also sent me copies of most of the monumental inscriptions which were taken by him and Mr. Lister a good many years ago, with a view to their publication in the *Yorkshire Archæological Journal*, in a similar way to what was done in regard to those in Elland Church. The task, however, was never completed.

The editor has personally checked or copied every inscription now visible in the church, all of which are included in this work. He has added those to be found in the printed histories of Halifax,

those preserved by Mr. Rigge which are not now to be seen, and those copied by Mr. Walker which are not included in any of the above categories.

When the inaccessibility of some of the monuments and the almost obliterated condition of some of the inscriptions on the grave covers is taken into consideration, some mistakes are unavoidable, but every care has been taken to eliminate error as far as possible. The grave covers, too, suffered considerably in the restoration of the church, when a good many of them were cut down, with the consequent loss of portions of their inscriptions. The heraldry on the monuments presents some difficulty. It is probably not always accurately portrayed, but an endeavour has been made to describe it as it is, rather than what, perhaps, it ought to be.

My thanks are due to Mr. Clay and Mr. Farrer for the loan of Rigge's and Walker's MSS.; to Mr. John Lister, M.A., for his ever-willing assistance on many points on which I have consulted him; to Mr. C. C. Hodges for his note on the Early Grave Covers; to Mr. H. P. Kendall for the photographs from which the plates have been reproduced; and to the Rev. Canon Savage for the facilities he has given me in the task of copying the inscriptions.

E. W. CROSSLEY.

DEAN HOUSE, TRIANGLE,
HALIFAX, *July*, 1909.