

THE STORY OF OLD HALIFAX

BY

T. W. HANSON.

ILLUSTRATED.

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PREFACE.

This book has been written for the boys and girls of Halifax and district, with the hope also, that older people may find it full of interest. I have tried to keep it a purely local history. It is not a new text-book of English history, furnished with local notes.

Halifax has been particularly fortunate in inspiring a line of men who have delighted in revealing her past. In this twentieth century we have had a band of enthusiastic antiquaries, which few towns can rival. The Transactions of the Halifax Antiquarian Society have provided the bulk of the material for this work. Mr. John Lister, the President, has always been very kind to me. Mr. H. P. Kendall, who has taken so many of the photographs, has also helped in other ways to make the history more complete. Even more than their skill, do I value the comradeship and friendship of the members of our Antiquarian Society. The story of the book itself is as follows: From January, 1913, to January, 1917, I contributed a serial history of Halifax to "The Satchel," (the Halifax Schools' newspaper). Towards the end of that period, a sub-committee of the Head Teachers' Association invited me to re-publish the articles in book form. I re-wrote the matter, Messrs. Harris, Harwood, and Hawkins read the manuscript, and together we discussed the chapters in some interesting meetings. Mr. W. H. Ostler, the Education Secretary, proved to be one of my most helpful critics, and also helped very considerably to secure the publication of the book. Many years ago, Mr. Ostler said that what was

wanted was a history that would tell "how a half-timer lived in the reign of Edward III.," and I have not altogether forgotten his dictum.

Mr. E. Green, the Borough Librarian, has kindly compiled the Index. I would also thank his staff for their unfailing courtesy. I am indebted to several friends for the illustrations. Mr. Arthur Comfort has taken infinite pains to please me with his sketches. Mr. F. H. Marsden, M.A., prepared the beautiful map at the front of the book, and sketched the drinking trough. Mr. T. Broadbent drew the end map. Mr. T. F. Ford, A.R.I.B.A. has provided two architectural plates. Mr. W. B. Trigg allowed me to use his sketches of the windows of the Parish Church. Mr. R. Bretton is responsible for the heraldic illustrations. For other blocks, I am grateful to Mrs. H. R. Oddy, Messrs. R. E. Nicholson, E. Harcastle, S. C. Moore, S. H. Hamer, E. Marchetti, Legh Tolson, and the "Halifax Guardian."

The Halifax Antiquarian Society has very kindly allowed me to use their extensive collection of blocks, and the majority of the illustrations have been provided in that way. Acknowledgment is made to the various photographers in the book. I am grateful to many others whom I have not named. I have always found Halifax to be a "neighbourly" town, and its people ready to help one another.

Lastly, I would thank the staff of Messrs. King's printing works for the interest they have shown in the work.

T. W. H.

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