



NONCONFORMITY IN IDLE,

WITH THE

History of Aiyedatq College.



BY J. HORSFALL TURNER.



ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

BRADFORD:

T. BREAR; SALTAIRE: A. HOLROYD; BRIGHOUSE: J. S. JOWETT.

MDCCCLXXVI.

P R E F A C E .

THIS little book, with its imperfections, is offered to the public as a slight contribution to the history of Nonconformity in Yorkshire. What has been done (so hurriedly, as shewn by the compilation,) in this effort to narrate the train of incidents connected with the Dissenters of Idle, may be done with better or worse results concerning many more of our West Riding Chapels. As Congregationalists, I think we have scarcely done justice to our old churches. I fear we are more negligent than most denominations. True, something has been attempted in the *West Riding Congregational Registers*, but such contributions seem to be crowded out now. That valuable work, *Congregationalism in Yorkshire*, only supplies a few particulars of each (or rather, some) of the West Riding Churches. It seems to rest with members of individual churches to work out their own histories similar to what is done in this book, and in another on Morley.-

It has not been the aim of the compiler so much to write a history, as to collect local illustrations. The reader, keeping this in view, will not be surprised by the abruptness of the data, particularly in the first part of the book. The size of the volume, though thirty pages more than originally proposed, would not allow any enlargement upon the grand points of history; but the writer is persuaded that much of the interest will be lost to readers unversed in English History unless they read in connection with one or other of the many books bearing historically on the subject. He lays claim to nothing but the little industry required to collect and arrange the materials, being more careful to ensure correctness of dates than elegance of diction. He has not accomplished all he wished. The old Upper Chapel Register, now preserved at Somerset House, London, has not been examined. It is to be regretted that, like many others, the authorities at the Upper Chapel did not take a copy when Dissenters' Registers were called up by Government. Whatever it may contain, a copy should be had, particularly the notices of interments in the old ground.

It should be stated that the list of applications under the Declaration of Indulgence had been brought to light long before Mr. Marsh had it printed, and the Rev. Bryan Dale, M.A., Halifax, extracted the Yorkshire references some years ago. The Indulgences (strange title!) were recalled in 1675.

Mr. Smallwood seems to have exerted a lasting influence on the membership at Idle. Though a Congregationalist (a term based on the wording of the xix Article of the Prayer Book,) he, and others of the same stamp, readily united with the Presbyterians in works. Mr. Elkanah Wales and other advanced Presbyterians did not approve of Independency as it then was understood, but they were determinately opposed to Unitarianism. A passage in their remonstrance against the *V. Veritas*, by the Birstal worthy—Henry Burton, reads: "As we cannot approve or allow of Independency or Erastianism, so we are resolved by the grace of God never to consent to the toleration of Arianism, Anti-Trinitarianism, Socinianism, &c." This passage is deserving of note, as showing the feeling of leading Presbyterians of our immediate district.

Respecting the Unitarians of the present day, I had intended adding, as an Appendix, a note. As the information was received too late, it is here inserted; first, because they are a Nonconformist body, and secondly, to illustrate a statement made at page 50. "About thirty years ago some men

in the village began to read the works of Dr. Channing, and gradually begun to adopt his views regarding God, Jesus, and man. Mrs. Humble, hearing of this, gave them the use of three cottages in which they might, 'after the manner of heresy,' worship the God of their fathers. The congregation increased in numbers so rapidly that the cottages were soon found to be too small, and Mrs. Humble lent a large room in her house. This in turn was soon found to be inadequate, and the present chapel was built, and opened in 1855 or 6. Mrs. Humble defrayed about two-thirds of the cost, and the Dawson family gave the ground. The school and house were built in 1862. Early in 1863 Mrs. Humble died, and in July of the same year the Rev. A. McComb, the minister, removed to Colyton. The Rev. J. Birks came Feb., 1864, but left May, 1866. September following, the Rev. J. Smith succeeded, removing Sept., 1871. The Rev. J. Dale came Nov., 1871, and left Dec., 1872. The Rev. John Fraser came July, 1873." He leaves at Christmas, for Belfast.

The second Upper Chapel is stated to have been opened about 1794, but, judging from questions put to Samuel Buck., Esq., Counsel-at-Law, Oct. 30, 1791, where it states that the old chapel had been pulled down, and on the same piece of ground a new one was more than half erected, it was probably opened in 1792.

I need not find further faults with the compilation, the reader will probably do a fair amount in that line. He may find a slip of the pen now and then, as *fort* for *forte*.

It is with great pleasure I acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. W. J. Vint for the loan of the copper-plate from which to print the fac-simile of Heywood's writing on Idle. The loan of this led me to desire more; and by generous gifts from George Vint, Esq., B. Rycroft, Esq., C. Turner, Esq., Samuel Vint, Esq., and the Sunday School Teachers, (per Mr. F. Illingworth,) of two guineas each, I have been able to add the photographs of the Revs. William Vint, W. Atherton, H. Ollerenshaw and S. Dyson, and Mr. Rycroft. These have been copied from negatives I supplied, by Messrs. Taylor Bros., Fox, and Co., London. Mr. Dawson's is taken from a painting in the possession of his grandson, John Dawson, Esq., of Exeter, and I am highly pleased to be the means of retaining in Yorkshire the portrait (by Mr. Dawson's permission) of one of Yorkshire's Worthies. I regret that I can obtain so little information respecting him. The portrait of Mr. Vint is taken from the painting at Airedale College, whilst Mr. Atherton's is from a painting in the possession of Mrs. Atherton, Manningham. From two photographs, taken by Mr. Bottomley, Bradford, I have had copper-plates engraved. The plate of the Chapel is presented by Messrs. E. S. Vint, J. Briggs, G. Alred, W. Jowett, and J. F. Garnett, Trustees. I am reminded there is one irremediable omission in the list of portraits, Mr. Stringer never having had his likeness taken.

In conclusion, it must be stated that the writer only is responsible for the statements made.

To the
Church and Congregation

Worshipping at Upper Chapel, Idle,

This little Book is respectfully dedicated by their fellow-worshipper,

THE AUTHOR.

College House, December, 1875.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
PURITANISM. Chapels of Ease. Presentation. Consecration of Idle Chapel, 1692. Ejection, 1662	9—10
REV. E. WALES, Idle and Pudsey. Wales' family. Persecution. His Will	10—15
REV. S. WALES, Morley. REV. JAMES SALE, Pudsey	16
REV. SAM COATES, Rawdon. Rawdon Baptists. Rev. John Wilson ...	16—17
REV. OLIVER HEYWOOD, Coley. <i>Life and Works</i> by Mr. Vint. <i>Life</i> by Mr. Hunter. Thomas Ledgard	18—19
REV. T. SMALLWOOD	19
REV. JOSIAH HOLDSWORTH, Heckmondwike	20
REV. T. JOHNSON	20—21
REV. JONATHAN WRIGHT	21
REV. ACCEPTED LISTER	22
PERSECUTION. Quakers. Conventicles. Candles	22—23
INDULGENCE. Idle, Guiseley, Shipley, &c.	24
DISSENTERS' MEETINGS. Quakers, Presbyterians, Congregational. LAW-SUIT about Idle Chapel.—Dissenters ejected, 1689. Ledgard's House	24—27
SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.—Rev. David Clarkson. Bingley during the Interregnum	27—29
UNITED BRETHERN. Presbyterian and Congregational	29
IDLE MINISTERS, 1662—1715	30
REV. JOHN BUCK	30
FIRST TRUST DEED, 1716	31—34
ASHTON'S GIFT	34—38
TRUSTEES. Peppercorn Rent. Red Rose Rent. Minister's (now College) House	39—42
REV. N. BEALE	43
REV. J. HUTHWAITE	43—44
STATE OF RELIGION Wesley. Ingham. Moravians. Grimshaw. Darney's Hymn. Methodism at Windhill and Idle	44—45
DRACUPS. Nathaniel the Methodist; Rev. John, the Baptist	46
REV. J. DAWSON	46—50
REV. JOSEPH COCKIN	51—52
REV. W. VINT. His Works. Idle Press. <i>Life</i> by Mr. Curry. Funeral Sermons by Revs. R. W. Hamilton, A. Blackburn, and J. Wadsworth	52—85

	PAGE.
REV. J. STRINGER. Memoir by Mr. Rycroft. Commendatory Letters	85—101
REV. W. ATHERTON	102—110
REV. H. OLLERENSHAW	111—114
REV. S. DYSON. Sunday and Day Schools. Cemetery. Church Covenant. List of notable members	114—117
<i>Rev. John Buck.</i> — <i>Note on.</i>	117—118
WINDHILL CHAPEL	118—119

AIREDALE COLLEGE.

HECKMONDWIKE. List of Students	119—121
NORTHOWRAM. List of Students	121
IDLE. List of Students. Extracts from Reports. List of Committees. Mr. Vint. Reminiscences	122—138
UNDERCLIFFE. Mrs. Bacon. Tutors. Students. Officers. Amalga- mation Question. Manningham	138—143

APPENDICES.

I. DISSENTERS' BIRTHS—from Calverley Registers	143—146
II. MRS. HUTTON'S BEQUEST	146
III. REV. J. STRINGER. Testimony	146—152
IV. BAPTIST CHAPEL, Idle. A Note on	153
UNITARIAN CHAPEL, Idle. A Note on	Preface