



INGLETON:

BYGONE AND PRESENT

BY

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AND

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No titles can enrich thy fame,
Pile glory on its glory,
Ennoble thee—beloved name—
By witchery of story:
No! no! all peerless in thyself,
A wealth of lovely mystery,
By crag and burn, in glen and delf,
There's limned a hidden history—
And all thine own—then who'll presume
To paint thy charms' unfading bloom.

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Preface.

In compiling this work we have made the utmost endeavour to produce a book both interesting to its readers and a source of information to visitors, naturalists, lovers of nature's solitudes, and the inhabitants of the district. That we might be able to guarantee the descriptions of the wonderful scenery of Ingleton and the measurements of heights of rocks and waterfalls, as also the depths of chasms, every place described has been personally visited, so that the descriptions might, also, be truthfully delineated. The heights and depths were measured by line and plummet, as it was found that in many instances no reliance could be placed on the figures given in books already published, whilst it was discovered that places of remarkable interest have as yet been left undescribed. In a limited number of cases the measurements have been taken from the level of water, a base line which may be found to vary a little according to the dryness of the season; in others, such as Mere Gill, where the plummet went far under water, the extreme depth may only be found in some short and contracted fissure, other portions being comparatively shallow. From these remarks it may be inferred that where the gulfs were inaccessible, no reliance has been placed on a single measurement, but that several tests, to obtain absolute proof of the nature of the bottom, have in each case been made from different points.

Important landmarks for finding various chasms have been carefully indicated; whilst the map which we have specially prepared for this work contains physical features of interest not noted in any other chart extant.

We fancy that the inhabitants of the district will be astonished at the prodigality of nature in respect to caves, terrific gulfs, and subterranean waterfalls, as some of the

finest, although so near at hand, are hardly known to the bulk of the natives themselves.

We must cordially thank those persons who have at various times assisted us, or generously afforded the opportunity for inspecting the caves and chasms on their properties; but we are especially grateful to the Rev. W. F. Joy, rector of Low Bentham; the Rev. Marcus Meir Ward, rural dean of Clapham; the Rev. J. Turner, vicar of Ingleton; and the Rev. S. M. Stables, of Thornton, for the great kindness which they have accorded to us in affording every facility that could be desired for the inspection of the old registers and records of the parishes named.

The compilation of the list of plants has been no easy task, being the result of the prolonged labour of days and nights.

At some future date we hope to enlarge the list of birds and invertebrates, our time and space not having permitted the addition to the extent we would otherwise have desired.

The statistics relating to meteorology and atmospheric electricity are for the most part based on the work of former years, yet the deduction of the means and principles involved has itself been no mean labour.

The geology of the district has been entirely worked up anew with, we believe, the discovery and recognition of several facts not previously brought before the public from any other source. Some of our views we have stated with diffidence, preferring to adduce material evidence and leaving others to base their own conclusions upon it.

The scientific sections have been dealt with far more extensively than was originally proposed, and this has been mainly due to the great interest manifested for this

department by some of our distinguished Yorkshire geologists.

Our sheets of watercolours of the crystalline constituents of the dykes, and the larger, coloured sections of the formations from Ingleton to Helmsgill and Ribble-head, we have been constrained to omit from the present edition. Should there be a special demand for these, the desire may at a later date be satisfied.

A work of this nature, personally conducted, and not compiled from other sources, is not a mere literary emanation, but comprises the results of labour in very many widely different subjects—thus the possibility of error, which we have striven to avoid.

THE AUTHORS.



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