

THE   
BIOGRAPHIA LEODIENSIS;  
OR,  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES  
OF THE  
WORTHIES OF LEEDS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD,

*From the Norman Conquest to the Present Time;*

COMPILED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, AND ARRANGED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER;  
WITH AN  
INTRODUCTION ON THE STUDY OF BIOGRAPHY,  
AND COPIOUS INDEXES.

BY THE  
REV. R. V. TAYLOR, B.A.,

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"The worth of a State in the long run is the worth of the individuals composing it."—*J. S. Mill.*

"An honest man's the noblest work of God."—*Pope.*



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## PREFACE.

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A LONG preface is generally a waste both of time and paper, being scarcely ever read, especially by the young, for whom these *Biographical Sketches* are chiefly intended. Therefore, to plunge *in medias res*, it may be stated that the greater part of these *Sketches*, especially the earlier ones, were written out some years ago, during the time the compiler was an Assistant-Master at the Leeds Grammar School; certainly not with the intention of being printed, but solely for his own information and amusement. Having been absent from Leeds, more or less, for about seven or eight years, and having noticed during that time, in the local journals, obituary notices of some of the most eminent men of his native town; and on his return, about two years ago (in June, 1863), having also observed the great progress and improvement that had taken place, and was taking place, in Leeds and neighbourhood, not only as regards the population, the places of business, the streets, and public buildings, but also as regards the moral, social, and religious condition of the people, he offered his *Sketches* of local *Worthies*, as they then were, or rather portions of them, to Mr. John Hamer, printer and publisher, who had succeeded Mr. Heaton, for insertion in the *Leeds Herald* (a Monthly Journal and Railway Time Table), which were at once accepted. After eight or nine contributions had appeared, the compiler found, on making a more extensive search, that his materials increased much faster than they were wanted, and that it would take a very long time to exhaust them at the rate of two or three pages a month. He therefore expressed a wish to have them, when re-written and enlarged, re-published in a separate form, and at as low a price as possible. Prospectuses were issued, and in a very short period upwards of 300 copies were subscribed for.

The number of copies now bespoke, as may be seen from the subscription list, amount to upwards of 650; and many more names might have been obtained, if it had been thought absolutely necessary. Doubtless such a work has been frequently contemplated from Thoresby's time to our own. Several, somewhat similar, have been published in other parts of the country; therefore why should not Leeds, which has been styled the Metropolis of the West-Riding of Yorkshire, have also a book of its *Worthies*?

The author is exceedingly obliged to all the subscribers, but especially to the earlier ones, who not only gave in their names for two or more copies, but also allowed him to retain them (notwithstanding a little opposition), thereby evincing their confidence in him. He only hopes that they may be satisfied with the book as a whole. Of course, as a first attempt, it will have many shortcomings. Many things, doubtless, will have been inserted that ought not to have been inserted; and many more things omitted that ought not to have been omitted; but the size and small price of the book, with many urgent engagements, must be an excuse to a certain extent. It is the first of its kind, at all events, in this neighbourhood, and it is to be hoped that it will not be the last. Why should not each large town or city have a similar, if not a superior, collection? And not merely "Biographical Sketches of their Worthies," but also a Local (as well as a National) Portrait Gallery? There is now a decided tendency in that direction: may it grow and flourish!

The compiler's object in publishing this book has certainly not been to make money, because the little he will receive from it will not half or quarter repay him for his trouble, &c. But the work has been a labour of love; and if it afford only a tenth part of the pleasure to the reader that it has to the compiler, it will not have been written in vain. His thanks are due to those who have forwarded contributions, and also to those who have kindly revised these *Biographical Sketches*.\*

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\* Here it might be observed that by *revising the Sketch* is meant merely looking it over and passing it, if free from error; if facts have been wrongly stated, correcting them: thus it is, as it were, a general voucher for the

But his best thanks are chiefly due to the Messrs. Baines and to Mr. Kemplay, for their great kindness in allowing him to examine those volumes of the *Leeds Mercury* and the *Leeds Intelligencer* which are not in the Leeds Library, without which these *Sketches*, especially the later ones, would have been very meagre indeed. Much valuable information has also been derived from the biographical notices in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, &c.

It will be said, perhaps, that the merits of all, or most of the *Leeds Worthies*, have previously been recorded by contemporary writers. They have, at least to a certain extent, by Thoresby, Whitaker, and by a few others, as in the local newspapers, whose ponderous and costly folios can only be consulted in great public repositories, or in the libraries of the wealthy—mostly inaccessible, and always inconvenient, to the general mass of readers, and still more so to the majority of those who reside in the neighbouring villages. And these notices are very frequently in detached fragments, and rarely brought together under one connected view.\*

His principal aim, therefore, has been to collect and arrange these scattered notices, and to gather together in one volume these *Biographical Sketches of the Worthies of Leeds and neighbourhood*. Disclaiming all pretensions to authorship in the compilation of these *Biographical*

accuracy of the statements, without the revisers being at all responsible for any eulogistic phrases the *Sketches* may contain. Several gentlemen have desired their names to be omitted on that account; many have been, others were received too late; but with this explanation, it is to be hoped that they will all be satisfied. It was the only way of insuring accuracy, and their names being attached, takes the responsibility off the compiler's shoulders, and makes the burden much easier to be borne when there are many, and several of them well able to bear it. Many of the *Sketches* were examined, and returned unaltered; many only slightly corrected, and several were not returned at all, it being, perhaps, considered unnecessary. Thus the *Sketches*, as they appear, are almost wholly as they were when written.

\* It was intended to have had as a Frontispiece a fine Engraving of the Leeds Town Hall, or a first-class wood Engraving of Thoresby's portrait; but the expense of printing such a vast amount of matter in the shape of *Notes*, which must otherwise have been omitted, has been so great, that the small profits leave no room, unfortunately, for either the one or the other.—There must almost of necessity, in a work of this character, be occasionally some slight repetition, either in the text or notes, which cannot altogether be avoided; neither is it, perhaps, at all times desirable that it should be, seeing that with a little repetition much new information is always recorded.

*Sketches*, he is still disposed to think they will not be found deficient in interest, or wanting in variety.

This work professes no more than to introduce to the reader a slight acquaintance (for further information references are given to larger works, in connection) with the several *Worthies* that have been born in, or connected with, this large and important town and neighbourhood. As it comprises characters in every profession, of all parties, and several religious denominations, the author has not undertaken to decide upon the professional merits of those whose *Lives* he has endeavoured to depict, but has faithfully detailed the judgments which have obtained public credit. As to matters of opinion, whether political or religious, his rule has been to make each speak for himself in his own words, or by his own actions. He enters into no engagement to withhold his own sentiments occasionally; but he does not judge, much less condemn, the judgment of others.

Should a second edition of this work be desired in two or three years' time, the compiler would then endeavour to make it much more worthy of the public support than it is at present. Contributions, corrections, &c., might be sent to the publisher, Mr. John Hamer, at the *Mercury* office, Leeds; or to the Rev.

RICHARD VICKERMAN TAYLOR.

GREEN-MOUNT TERRACE,  
HOLBECK, LEEDS, *April*, 1865.