



MORLEY: ANCIENT AND MODERN.

By WILLIAM SMITH, F.S.A.S.,

EDITOR OF "OLD YORKSHIRE."

WITH ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY ILLUSTRATIONS; AND INDEX.



And Reminiscence deftly trips
Them and "old times" between,
And tempts their conversation-lips
With memories sweet and keen.

WILL CARLETON.

Home of our childhood! how affection clings
And hovers round thee with her seraph wings!
Dearer thy hills, though clad in autumn brown,
Than fairest summits which the cedars crown!

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

London:

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND Co.,

1886.





THE volume herewith presented to the reader is a sequel or companion to the two previous works of the author, on the history of his native town. The "Rambles about Morley," and "The History and Antiquities of Morley," published respectively in 1866 and 1876, have distinctive features of their own; and it is hoped that this History (written in 1886) will be found to possess a freshness which will insure for it a welcome perusal, not only by those who have read the previous volumes, but also by others who would like to have a description, in greater detail, of village life in the West Riding of Yorkshire, in the early years of the present century.

It would be an act of presumption on my part to send forth this volume, were I unable to record anything further regarding our ancient town than already appears in print; but in gathering material for this work, I have found much new and valuable matter, which adds to our previous knowledge respecting the place and people in bygone days.

Our town has not been "at a standstill" during the last one hundred years. Indeed, if some Morley Rip Van Winkle were just emerging, not from a twenty years' but a century's sleep, and were to seek his old haunts, he would miss nearly all the ancient landmarks; would find that the old buildings, which in his day were the homes of his neighbours, had been all swept away; and would enquire, all but in vain, for the descendants of his former friends and acquaintances.

Morley, therefore, having obeyed the law of progression, and changed from village to town, with a Mayor and Corporation, it has seemed to me a fitting opportunity to bring the history of the place

down to the period when it is starting upon a fresh career, so far as regards its local government and social standing. There is a wide gap between the time—five hundred years ago—when Morley contained ninety-five inhabitants, to the present day, when it has become a parliamentary division, and a municipal borough, with a population of eighteen thousand souls; and an account of the steps by which it has been raised to this position cannot fail to possess great interest for thoughtful readers.

With regard to the help I have received in the preparation of this volume, I gladly take this opportunity of recording my sincere thanks to the following gentlemen. For original drawings, I am indebted to Walter Hanstock, Esq., A.R.I.B.A., of Batley, whose spirited sketches of Howley cannot fail to prove interesting; also, to Mr. Walter Crawshaw, of Dewsbury, whose pen-and-ink touches of village character will be found to be true to the life; and to Mr. William Scruton, of Bowling. To Mr. John William Knight, of Bradford, I am likewise indebted for gratuitous artistic labour. For the loan of blocks, which add much to the attractiveness of the volume, I am under obligations to Llewellynn Jewitt, Esq., F.S.A., of Derby, editor of *The Reliquary*; to Mr. William Andrews, of Hull, editor and author of many interesting works; and to Mr. William Cudworth, author of "Round about Bradford." The whole page views of ancient and modern buildings in Morley are reproductions, from photographs taken by Mr. J. Firth, photographer, Morley.

Though deeply conscious of many defects and shortcomings in the execution of my task, I yet indulge the hope that the volume may be the means of perpetuating the memory of many persons and circumstances associated with the history of Morley in both ancient and modern times, and that, throughout its pages, the stranger as well as the resident may gather some items of useful information.

Osborne House, Morley, near Leeds,
May-Day, 1886.

W. S.