



# RAMBLES ABOUT MORLEY,

WITH

DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORIC SKETCHES ;

ALSO, AN ACCOUNT OF THE

Rise and Progress of the Woollen Manufacture

IN THIS PLACE.

ILLUSTRATED WITH A PLAN OF MORLEY, AND NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS

BY

WILLIAM SMITH, JUN.,

PRESIDENT OF MORLEY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE ;

*Author of "Adventures with my Alpen-Stock, and Carpet-Bag, or a Three Weeks' Trip to France and Switzerland.*

To roam in fancy in each cherished scene,  
The village graveyard and the village green,  
The woodland walk remote, the greenwood glade,  
The mossy seat beneath the hawthorn's shade,  
The white-washed cottage where the woodbine grew,  
And all the favourite haunts our childhood knew.

KIRKE WHITE.

LONDON :

JOHN RUSSELL SMITH, 36, SOHO SQUARE.

MORLEY : S. STEAD, BRUNSWICK STREET.



MORLEY OLD CHAPEL.  
AS IT WAS.



## P R E F A C E .

Thirty-six years have passed away since Norrison Scatcherd, Esq., published his "History of Morley and the Surrounding Villages." No one we presume will deny that since that time a new era has dawned upon this place. On this account we have been led to suppose, that a work showing not only what Morley has been in the past, but what it now is, would be acceptable to our friends and neighbours.

Under the general, yet we trust, not inappropriate title which we have chosen, we purpose introducing our readers to some of the objects of interest, ere they have for ever gone, and to those reminiscences of the past, with which our village haunts are crowded. Yes, emphatically "Our Village," the place where we were born; where we passed the joyous days of infancy—the spring-time of life; where we are now battling for the bread that perisheth, and where we hope, when "Life's journey is over" to be laid in the graveyard,

"Where the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

It is of this spot—Morley—one of the nooks or corners of Old England, we purpose to write a series of chapters; of its past history, in some measure, but more particularly, of what may justly be termed its modern history, as comprised within the last one hundred years; also, to notice the various spots in the village and neighbourhood, which, while memorials, also suggest a moral on the subject of that progress, under the influence of which, the locality and people are fast changing their character. We intend to write about its topographical, historical and other associations; with biographical sketches of some distinguished individuals connected therewith; and other matters worthy of being chronicled, and read, by those at least, who take an interest in the place of their birth.

In submitting this book to our friends and the public, we hope that it may be found to contain many interesting particulars, especially with regard to the past, not hitherto known to them. With reference to the history of the Old Chapel, we are enabled to give an account of

the origin and foundation of the CHAPEL OF SAINT NICHOLAS, which was built on the site, as we believe, of the Saxon Church of "Saint Mary's in the Wood." This information obtained from most reliable sources, seems to have escaped the notice of the first historian of Morley, otherwise, it would have saved him endless speculations and gratified his thirst for knowledge respecting this ancient edifice.

As to the success of our endeavour to produce a volume of local matter, which should combine useful information with intellectual pleasure, we leave it to the judgment of those of our readers who are acquainted with the place of which we write. We have not indulged in speculations, gratifying perhaps to the Antiquarian, but dry and unmeaning to the general reader; on the other hand we have aimed at giving a plain and simple account of the place, which can be read and understood by all. We are well aware of the many shortcomings in this work, but in extenuation we may say, that we have done the best we could with the materials at our command.

We have found our task more than usually difficult. To write concerning persons who have lived or are still living in our native village without giving offence, seemed almost impossible; but we have endeavoured to avoid, any omission of what is praiseworthy, as well as anything which could be considered for a moment, to savour of flattery, which we utterly detest. With Bishop Jebb we would say, "If I have written a sentence or a word that can bear a captious or unreasonable construction, I earnestly entreat a more lenient interpretation." We have aimed at truth, neither disguising it, nor intentionally misrepresenting it, from fear or affection towards any party or individual whatsoever.

In conclusion, we beg to return our best thanks to all who have in any way assisted us, more especially to W. Wheater, Esq., of Leeds, author of "The History of Sherburn and Cawood" for a communication, and at the same time, we return our acknowledgments to our numerous subscribers.

ALMA HOUSE, MORLEY.

*April 12th, 1866.*