



PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

I HAVE ISSUED a second edition of this book because, after the first edition had been exhausted, there still continued to be a demand for it.

The second edition contains nearly four times the matter of the first, because an extra sixteen years of my own labour, added to the labours of many kind and competent toilers in this domain, has placed at my disposal new materials which enabled me to do so.

In my first edition I stated that it was not my intention to include the whole history of the parishes. In this second edition I have adhered to that intention. But I know that I have not given a complete history of the time I myself selected as the one I would illustrate. I have not done so because I could not. It may happen, though, that at no far distant time, circumstances will place before us all the existing materials of the story I have given in fitful snatches. If in this, my second effort, I shall have succeeded in calling forth greater attention to my subject, I shall be thankful that, having done all in my power, I have not laboured in vain; and should there be in years to come a fairly complete mediæval history of the parishes of which I write, I shall have accomplished, by arousing the interest and endeavours of worthier pens, the very result that I have eagerly striven to obtain. And such a result is my hope; a hope not based on vain or idle fancy. The increasing, intelligent, and exacting demand for full and accurate local history, manifested so surprisingly of late years, is to me an ample guarantee of the work being performed in due time; and I hope to see it become possible to throw a light upon the past history of all our parishes not less obscure to present readers than the dawn of a summer's



PREFACE.

morning is to the noontime of its day. It is not necessary for me here to call attention to the details of my story. Many of the great events I mention identify the parishes with a metropolitan prominence; most of the events, great or small, are the imperishable footmarks of our civilisation. They are to be traced—not dimly and by conjecture, but plainly and by facts—through the nineteen centuries of our career, and in tracing them we discover that

“That they who live in history only seem to walk the earth again.”

It is hoped that the illustrations in the book will not be the least acceptable portion of it. They have been got together at considerable expense, and by the hearty co-operation of zealous friends; and I here beg to thank Mr. J. Dixon, of Leeds, for the gift of the sketches that bear his name. I have also to repeat my thanks to the Vicars of Cawood and Wistow, the Revs. A. B. Day and H. Greeves, for their personal assistance not less than the ready manner in which they placed all the documents relating to their churches and parishes in their custody at my disposal. I have deemed it my duty to speak, in the body of this work, with some severity on the state of their churches, and I do so speak because, apart from the welfare of the fabrics, I felt that the zeal and energy they displayed in their labours met with but a cold reward at the hands of the apathetic of more than one class.

W. W.

LEEDS, *Feb. 28th*, 1882.

