



PREFACE TO THE PRESENT EDITION.

THE History of Whalley on its first appearance, in the year 1801, was hailed with general approbation. A scholar and a man of genius had condescended to irradiate with his learning and his eloquence a department of literature that of late had been mainly characterised by tedious details relating to the descent of property, and dry deductions of genealogy. Books of Topography had hitherto been books for reference only, but here was one that could be perused with gratification and delight.

The Author had great advantages in the field of his inquiries. A country of extraordinary natural magnificence and beauty, yet of the utmost wildness in its pristine condition, had become the thriving dwelling-place of a teeming and busy population: offering the most wonderful contrasts, and presenting for observation and comment continual changes in social progress. A Roman city yielded up a rich store of its buried treasures. A wealthy monastery unfolded ample records of its former grandeur and influence, and all the curious details of its internal discipline. The ancient lords of the territory had been historical personages, acting their busy parts in life among the highest of the ancient nobility, and merging at last in princes of the blood royal. Here were some of those forests which provided certain of their wants, and a large proportion of their pleasures, but under laws and customs very different to those of modern use. These were interesting subjects, and the materials for illustrating them were fortunately abundant. When such subjects and materials were treated not only with intelligence and taste, but with all those embellishments that were the fruit of brilliant talents and well-directed scholarship, the result was such as to persuade the world that a new era had arrived in Topography. The success which the author achieved encouraged him to pursue his inquiries in other neighbouring districts, and to produce a series of works, of which some account will be found in the ensuing biography.

The History of Whalley was reprinted in the year 1818 as a Third Edition; the Second Edition, dated 1806, not having been an entire reprint, but formed by many

cancellings, additions, and supplements. And this course of procedure constitutes, in fact, the chief defect of the Third Edition, as well as of the Second, and even, it must be admitted, of Dr. Whitaker's whole method, or want of method, as a local historian. The *limæ labor* was not a task in which he was disposed to engage. He took no pains to amend his original text,¹ but continually corrected it by supplementary statements, reverting to preceding passages, perhaps from memory only, and expecting the reader to do the same. Thus, in the course of the present work, he will often be found to introduce a subject for a second time,² amplify and elucidate his former statements, and sometimes, from a lapse of his really powerful memory, to which he too much trusted, actually to some extent repeat them.³

Many subjects are thus dislocated and divided, or discussed in several places, an arrangement which, if intentional, would show that the Author not merely expected that his book should be read throughout, but that the reader should retain in his mind all he had previously perused, as in other historical works of the highest class. Remembering, however, the more ordinary character of works of this kind, and the more ordinary uses to which they are generally applied, as books for occasional consultation, the present Editors have considered it desirable to make cross-references in such cases, and the book when completed will be rendered still further useful and available by an adequate Index, a very necessary feature in which it has hitherto been miserably defective.

Another matter to which in the revision of this Edition especial attention has been paid is the collation of documents, and the verification of quotations and references, many of which, it may be fairly declared, Dr. Whitaker had put forth with "all the carelessness of genius;" and this is said advisedly, not overlooking the claim to "correct and authentic transcripts," which, with singular self-deception, he makes in his first Preface. For the records the present Editors have had recourse to the original manuscripts, wherever they were accessible, and in such cases it may be asserted that, with scarcely an exception, they have now the satisfaction to present a more accurate and often much fuller text. For

¹ The reader will find a very extraordinary instance of this noticed in p. 31. Dr. Whitaker never withdrew (in any of his three editions) his hope expressed in 1796 (in his *manuscript* copy) that Mr. Towneley would write on the Roman Antiquities discovered at Ribchester, although Mr. Towneley had actually addressed the Society of Antiquaries on the subject in 1798, and the Society had published his memoir in 1799. Yet in another place, at p. 486, Dr. Whitaker mentioned the Dissertation on the Ribchester Helmet, printed in the *Vetusta Monumenta*, as the only literary essay that Mr. Towneley ever gave to the public.

² The most serious instance of this is Clitheroe, the history of which is given partly in Chapter IV. of Book III. and partly in Chapter II. of Book IV. The latter will fall in the Second Volume of the present Edition.

³ Among several other *repetitions* in the Third Edition, the same document regarding the Chapelries of the Classis of Blackburn that is printed in full in the note at p. 160 is afterwards given in abstract in the text at p. 416.

such blemishes as, they are sensible, may after all have escaped their notice they still solicit a candid indulgence.

In justice to themselves, and to the Publishers who are at the expense of this Edition, the Editors think it proper to specify further the extent of their additions. They must first remark, by way of anticipation, that they do not undertake to continue the recent history of the ancient Parish of Whalley during the last half-century. That would not only have enlarged the work to too great an extent, but it would have diluted its historical character, and have in fact made it a totally different book. The modern history of the district has been in part published in Baines's History of Lancashire, and more recently, to a certain extent, in Newbigging's History of the Forest of Rossendale. It may hereafter be written, more in detail, on a consistent and well-considered plan.

But in respect to the descent of great properties, and the correction and continuation of the lists of incumbents of the older churches, and the masters of the grammar schools, this edition will be rendered as complete as possible.

More particularly it is intended that the Pedigrees of the principal resident families, being brought down in all particulars to the present time, should impart a character to this edition which will deserve and insure a lasting reputation.

In every case, when such information is obtained as the Author would have probably been disposed to employ had it been available to him, the occasion is taken to improve the text and to add valuable information in the notes. Altogether this First Volume has received an accession of more than one-fourth of new matter: which the reader will readily distinguish by its being marked throughout with [].

The chapter on the Roman Antiquities of Ribchester is enlarged by the addition of fresh information and additional engravings to the extent of more than seventeen pages, including a description of Dr. Whitaker's own plates, which was hitherto wholly omitted.

To the documents illustrative of the history of the Abbey there are important accessions, from various sources, and especially from the singular commonplace-book or miscellany kept by the monks (and now preserved in the British Museum,) from which Dr. Whitaker himself made many extracts. Among these are the two political Poems in pp. 155, 156, only partly and incorrectly printed by Dr. Whitaker, but now rendered complete. The exceedingly curious Lectionary in pp. 193-199 is a new feature, and a document of which the Editors know of no parallel belonging to any English monastery.

The Seals engraved by Dr. Whitaker are now for the first time described, and the Seal of the Abbey itself has been found, and is engraved for the first time.

Among the documents relating to the Forests very large additions are inserted ; and, generally speaking, considerable use has been made of the records of the Duchy of Lancaster, which have become accessible in the Public Record Office. The various *compti*, and more particularly that relating to the Royal *equitium*, or haras, at Ightenhill Park, will be found to unfold many particulars of a character hitherto little understood. The lists of Foresters, Parkers, and Officers of Clitheroe Castle are now first compiled.

The Customs of the Honor of Clitheroe, at p. 292, are also introduced for the first time into this Edition.

An account of the principal records and other archives upon which this History is chiefly founded, (promised at p. 149,) it is proposed to prefix to the Second Volume.

The Author's own copy of the last Edition being now the property of the Publishers, his latest marginal notes have been available for use ; and others made by his amanuensis the late Rev. Samuel J. Allen, M.A. in a copy still belonging to his son the Rev. George Samuel Allen, M.A. of Manchester, have contributed a considerable amount of information ; whilst Mr. G. D. Tomlinson of Huddersfield has kindly communicated various manuscript corrections made in the first and second editions by Dr. Whitaker's antiquarian friend and coadjutor Mr. Beaumont of Whitley and Little Mitton. To Ralph F. Ainsworth, esq., M.D., of Manchester, the Editors are indebted for the loan of the copy of the First Edition formerly belonging to Matthew Gregson, F.S.A.

The Rev. Robert Nowell Whitaker, M.A. the present Vicar of Whalley, has, with the utmost kindness, answered the various inquiries with which the Editors have found it necessary to trouble him ; and many important communications have been received from the Rev. F. R. Raines, M.A., F.S.A. Vicar of Milnrow, and Hon. Canon of Manchester ; from William Langton, esq. of Manchester ; William Beamont, esq. of Orford Hall, Warrington, F.R.A.S. ; Mr. Dixon Robinson, of Clitheroe Castle ; Mr. Alderman Wilkinson, of Burnley ; Mr. William Haworth, of Burnley ; and other gentlemen. In architectural matters, Mr. William Angelo Waddington, author of *Architectural Sketches on the Calder and Ribble, in and around Whalley*, has earned their especial thanks, and particularly for his careful ground-plan of Whalley Abbey.