

WORSBOROUGH:
ITS
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS
AND
RURAL ATTRACTIONS.

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P R E F A C E .

SOME years have passed away since the writer of the following pages commenced his topographical inquiries, more for the gratification of his own tastes than with any idea of their ever assuming the form which they here present. At that time Richard Elmhirst, Esq., M.D., of Lincoln, a warm lover of antiquarian pursuits, and the Rev. John Andrew, of Worsborough, were living, and by both these gentlemen considerable encouragement and not a little information were given to the writer. Had they been still among us, it is thought that no two persons would have been more gratified at the appearance of the present volume, connected as it is with a township in which both felt so deeply interested, than themselves. The writer proceeded with his collections, adding at intervals to his stock, and some time since he was induced to contribute to a local journal* a series of papers, embodying much of the information contained in the present volume. These appeared to be so favourably received, that, at the request of various friends, he has been tempted to give the whole in a more connected form, together with much additional matter which was scarcely suited to the

* *The Barnsley Chronicle.*

columns of a newspaper. The whole having been re-arranged and consolidated, no effort has been spared to make it as correct and complete as possible. In doing this, the uniform kindness and courtesy which the writer has met with, and the interest evinced, in various quarters, during the progress of the work, have been most welcome to him. Although the labour has been found to be somewhat greater than was anticipated, the task has been nevertheless to him an agreeable one. Many scarce and valuable books and manuscripts in the British Museum and other libraries, in which scattered notices of the district are to be found, have been consulted, and laid under contribution. Papers in the possession of W. H. Martin-Edmunds, Esq., from whom the writer has invariably met with the greatest courtesy and assistance, have furnished their quota of information,—whilst the parochial registers, as well as other local documents, have been thrown open for the same purpose by the Vicar of Worsborough, the Rev. John Newman, and from these sources much original information has been obtained. The Enclosure Act and Award, the Tithe Commutation Act, the Manor Court Rolls, and other papers, have also been consulted with the corresponding advantages to be expected therefrom. By F. W. T. Vernon-Wentworth, Esq., the lord of the Manor of Worsborough, the author's labours have been most kindly appreciated and encouraged; indeed, not only on the present, but on a previous occasion, his countenance and patronage have been generously accorded. Especial thanks are due to C. Jackson, Esq., of Doncaster, for much valuable assistance rendered, and for many additions which his own collections have supplied; to that gentleman also the author is indebted for the portrait of Mrs. Pope, and the view of Wentworth Castle in 1730, which

add much, as it is hoped, to the attractiveness of the work. To other persons also the writer desires to tender his thankful acknowledgments, both for information and illustrations which embellish the work; he may particularly mention, among these, the Rev. William Elmhirst, of Elmhirst; J. C. Milner, Esq., of Thurlstone (whose ancestors were long resident at Rockley Old Hall); Mr. S. J. Cooper, of Mount Vernon; Mr. Joseph Mitchell, of Swaithe Hall; the Rev. J. Mason, of Pindar Oak; Mr. C. Wright, of Worsborough, and Mr. Guest, of Hay Green.

Dr. Miller, in his *History of Doncaster and its Vicinity*, 1804, gives a scanty account of Worsborough. In the elaborate and well-known *History of the Deanery of Doncaster*, 1828, Mr. Hunter has of course furnished a most valuable store of information relating to this locality, but, as might be expected from a work of that extended character, this is in many respects necessarily brief. To collect, arrange, and present to the reader whatever has been thought worthy of remark by different authors, as well as to give such other notices as have come under the writer's own observation, is the chief object of this work. The materials have grown upon his hands until the present volume is the result. Many notes incidentally bearing upon Worsborough will be found, which by some may be deemed irrelevant to the subject matter in hand, but these are identified, more or less, with the immediate district, and will be found to contain information which is not perhaps generally known. Should, however, these by some be considered trivial, it must be remembered that the work professes only to be a History of Worsborough, and, on that account, they may have their comparative interest, and thus be entitled to a place here, while

from a more comprehensive work they would probably be excluded. The author makes no pretension to antiquarian excellence, and, in prosecuting his present work, he has maintained the simple desire to collect whatever information he could that appeared to be connected with this important part of the Wapentake of Staincross. By that means he has hoped to promote a spirit of inquiry among the inhabitants of the district, with regard to topographical pursuits, and, in this respect, he ventures to imagine that he has not been altogether unsuccessful. The information he is enabled to give, from various sources which are inaccessible to the general public, he conceives will be perused with interest by a large portion of readers, while the accounts of the family of Rockley, Dr. Obadiah Walker, Edith Turner, the mother of Pope, William Shaw, and other features, will be found to contain much that has not been hitherto brought together. The writer has endeavoured to collect and concentrate the scattered rays of local information, and has been thereby enabled to add to the general store of topographical literature that which he trusts will be regarded as not altogether an useless or uninteresting, though, as he himself cannot be otherwise than aware, no more than a very humble and imperfect contribution.

Barnsley, October 1st, 1872.

