



SEDBERGH, GARSDALE, AND DENT

PEEPS AT THE PAST HISTORY

AND

Present Condition of some Picturesque Yorkshire Dales.

BY THE

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P R E F A C E .

THE aim of the following pages is to indicate the leading features, and the leading features only, of an ancient and interesting parish—to concentrate in a single focus whatever is most noteworthy respecting its history, scenery, institutions, worthies, and present condition. So many things, which for generations have been associated with our parochial life, are changing, or have changed recently, that the time seems opportune for putting them on record, before the existence of the old is entirely merged and forgotten in the new.

A limited space is an effectual bar to prolixity; and though I have overstepped the bounds originally assigned, I have been obliged to exclude many details which seemed to possess a fair title for admission. This will explain why, in the case of documents which are usually set forth in full, I have contented myself with a summary, an extract, or an allusion. I have, however, taken some account of all matters of primary and general interest which have come under my notice; and I trust that an intimate acquaintance with the locality has enabled me to select and combine judiciously, to correct occasionally, and to add something of my own invariably.

Dr. WHITAKER'S "Richmondshire" is avowedly the basis of the early history of the Church, the School, and the Manor. In the case of the School, Miss PLATT, while writing her "History of the Parish and Grammar School of Sedbergh," had unrestricted access to the Governors' papers, and it would have been superfluous for me to undertake afresh an examination which she had already accomplished so carefully. I have, therefore, in my account of some of the Masters, been greatly indebted to her labours—a circumstance of which I desire to make the fullest acknowledgment. Over ground thus pre-occupied I have, however, stepped with a light foot, treating the subject from my own point of view, and in accordance with my own plan, and leaving behind me a multitude of documents and details undisturbed and intact.

In respect of the Churches at Sedbergh and Dent, I have had the benefit of a perusal of the Reports of official members of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and these have been valuable in a province with which I have no special acquaintance; but the restoration of both Churches since the Reports were written, has brought to light several additional features, which I have duly noticed.

Many friends, by loan of books or by answers to inquiries, have lightened my task; and I may, in this connection, thank Miss SEDGWICK for the use of a copy of Whitaker's "Richmondshire;" and Mr. W. P. BOUSTEAD—the enviable owner of "Sadda's bergh"—for the scarcely less indispensable "Memorial" by Prof. SEDGWICK. The Vicar of Sedbergh, the Rev. E. W. SOUTH, courteously granted me access to the registers at all times. Mr. T. DOVER kindly furnished me

with a notice of the origin of manufactures at Sedbergh; and Mr. J. IVESON had in his possession a sketch of the old Market Cross, which has been useful. The Rev. D. T. ALLTON and Mr. A. INMAN obligingly communicated some information concerning Garsdale; and Mr. W. NIXSON did the same in respect of Dent-head. But it is to Mr. W. ROBINSON, of Sedbergh, that I am chiefly indebted, for the use of old documents which have helped me to illustrate the social history of the parish; and my old friend Mrs. WATSON also contributed in the same direction.

Other obligations, of various kinds, are acknowledged in the text as they occur.

Slips and inaccuracies, which seem almost inseparable from works of this kind, I am not so sanguine as to suppose that I have entirely avoided; but I have striven hard to do so, and I trust they will be found few and far between, and of no great importance.

I have appended to the Index a Glossary of Dialect Words unexplained in the text, which, though familiar to natives, are elsewhere among the “things not generally known.”

The work has been to me, in a great measure, a labour of love; and I shall be well satisfied if the united endeavours of pen and pencil should be deemed not altogether unworthy of the subject.

W. THOMPSON.

GULDREY LODGE, SEDBERGH,
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