



## P R E F A C E.

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NEARLY three centuries have elapsed since Leland and Lambarde, the fathers of English Topography, were pursuing their useful labours. Since that time there has been a succession of men who have applied themselves to collect the scattered fragments of the history of the civil or ecclesiastical divisions of our country, and to arrange them in proper order. The result of the labours of many inquirers in this department of our historical literature has been given to the public through the press ; so that the number of the counties, or of the inferior subdivisions, of which the public are in possession of minute and accurate descriptions, now exceeds the number of those which are not described.

It is something to a country, and especially to the curious and critical inquirer into its arts, its literature, and its history, that there are books which contain minute descriptions of distant objects, from which the information desired may often be gained with as much advantage as it would be were we to undertake a toilsome journey to visit the object for ourselves. Yet it can hardly be denied that, through some cause or other, topography has fallen amongst us into some degree of disrepute. But who will venture to say that it does not lend a useful light to inquirers in almost every department of our national literature? who will say that there is not room for the exercise of some of the higher powers of the mind? or that learning, both classical and indigenuous, may not be successfully applied? And if, amongst our topographical writers, there are some who have possessed no other quality but plodding industry, and some of even a lower form, whose volumes consist only of the pilfered stores of some ingenious or pains-taking predecessor, there are others who have brought to the study both knowledge and genius such as would ennoble any subject, and in the ranks of those who have cultivated this department of our literature, there are some, living and dead, from whom the public admiration will never be withdrawn.

The disrepute in which topography is held by some cultivated minds, may perhaps arise from the habit of looking upon the whole field of literature, and seeing that topography is almost confined to England,—it appears to have the general voice against it ; or of accounting nothing valuable which is not sanctioned by the example of the classical ages. True it is that topography, in the sense in which it is now used, is a literature peculiar to the English nation. It cannot be said to have extended itself even to Wales or Ireland. No shire of Scotland has yet been described as our English counties are described. Foreign nations have admirable descriptions of their principal cities and towns, but their topographical writers have not yet learned to ascend the rivers, and penetrate the recesses of their pasturable forests, showing us where men in the infancy of society fixed their habitations, and where and how the village churches arose in the infancy of Christianity. So little do foreign nations know of their country, that even Pæstum remained to be *discovered* within the memory of man. The antients had no topography. Strabo and Mela are geographers. But who is not ready to say,—would that they had ! How inestimable would be a work on a Roman province, composed with that minuteness and accuracy and painful research which appear in our own “ Surrey ” or “ Durham. ” Those who are disposed to undervalue our topography should remember this ; and also that topography is not the only subject in which England has the proud distinction of taking the lead among the nations of Europe.

It limits the empire of imagination. So does science. It is admitted that where the genius of topography has set her foot, there are no interminable wilds, no trackless forests, no inaccessible fastnesses, no unknown haunts of human society or of solitary hermits. But the domestic incidents which she brings to light, the display which she makes of antient customs, and the occasional glimpses which she affords of the manners of ages long gone by, invite to that more agreeable fiction in which fable

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is united with historic truth, delighting while it instructs the reader. Perhaps we owe "Kenilworth" to Ashmole.

Topography may reckon amongst those who have devoted themselves to her, some very celebrated names. To mention none who are living, she boasts of Leland, Camden, Dugdale, Gale, Stukeley, Warton, and Whitaker, men who have a high reputation in other departments of literature; and other names of great celebrity, men who are distinguished only by their topographical writings. But she may rest her claims, not only to escape reproach but to rank high among the historical literature of our country, upon the curiosity and value of the information to be found gathered together in the books which compose a topographical library. No books aid, equally with these, researches into the progress of society, and the relative positions of different portions of it at different periods. There are the materials from which we gain our best acquaintance with the history of the arts which support or embellish life; there are treasured up the remains of fading superstitions, lost usages, peculiarities of manners and of dialect, which serve to illustrate the origin and progress of nations, or of political institutions which are still flourishing. The topographical writer, better acquainted than the general historian can be with the scene of memorable events, will ordinarily be found describing those events with a more minute accuracy; better acquainted also with the domestic history and private circumstances of eminent persons, he sees relations and dependencies which escape the more general observer, while they have had considerable effect in determining their public conduct. It is in books of this class that we find accounts of the works of our remote ancestors, some existing, some entirely abolished and lost. We are introduced to the mystic circle of the Druids; the sepulchral tumulus of the antient Briton; the roads, the altars, the temples, and other remains of our Roman conquerors; the earth-works of the Saxons; with the castles, churches, monuments, and effigies, remains of the feudal times. There we see the direction taken at different periods by the benevolence or the piety of our ancestors. No such critical investigations of claims to hereditary distinctions are to be found as those which appear in some of our topographical works, as there is assuredly no more successful mode of investigating genealogies than by pursuing the descent of lands and manors with which an honourable name has been connected. Even the splendour and purity of our aristocracy may have been in part preserved by the labours of our old topographers; as certain it is that a claimant of an honourable title, in this very session of parliament, finds a powerful argument arising out of "The History of Warwickshire," against a claim which has other appearance of being unfounded. In lower affairs of life the information contained in these books has been of service in perpetuating or preserving the purity of charitable foundations, and in diffusing information generally on questions of descent, so often misapprehended, and where misapprehension too often opens the door to litigation. The genealogical details have sometimes a higher bearing. It is a question at this moment of no small political consequence what proportion of the population of the Morea are of genuine Greek descent. It would no longer be a question had the Morea ever had its topographical historian. By the decision of it the policy of more than one state might be influenced.

But why should not topography make at once her appeal to the taste and feeling of every one not utterly devoid of a natural curiosity, and especially to every one of cultivated mind, if there is not a great difference between living in a described and an undescribed county? The difference is analogous to that between living in an old and in a new country. In the former case, there is not an edifice, a church, or a manor-house, a cross or a little fragment of ruin, that is not connected with some incident or some character that makes it an object of interest. Topography calls up the spirits of the past generations. We see them gliding among the trees planted by them. We see them in their proper apparel, and with all the rank and port which belonged to them. Where there is no written recovery of the past, we can live only with the present generation; in the ages which are gone by, all is indistinctness, and the want of accurate knowledge often betrays itself in ludicrous absurdities.

What we have chiefly to regret is, that, in this island, remote as it is from the primæval seats of civilization, there is less to reward the diligence of the topographical inquirer. Ours is after all a new country. Not so new as some, but compared with other countries of the civilized world we are but of yesterday. Of the great majority of the places mentioned in these Volumes, the earliest notice is in the days of king Edward the Confessor, not quite eight hundred years ago; and what is the case with the Brigantian portion of the island is the case with other parts of it; even our most illustrious cities, *ÆVÆ SVLIS*, *EBORACVM*, or *LONDINIVM* herself, as objects of topographical interest, sink into insignificance

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when we name Rome or Athens, Tyre, Babylon, Thebes, or the Holy City, or any *πολιν μεγαλην και ευδαιμονα* of Xenophon. Neither has poetry yet thrown her charm over our native hills and streamlets, and exalted every little village that arose upon our plains. Still, to Englishmen, England is their native country; and to the ingenuous mind that word *patria* atones for a thousand defects, and gives her charms above really fairer regions. For my own part I may say, with the elegant-minded Evelyn, "it is the country of my birth and delight."

Dear country! oh, how dearly dear  
Ought thy remembrance and perpetual band  
Be to thy foster-child, that from thy hand  
Did common breath and nouriture receive.—F. Q. II. 10. 69.

That the district which, in the following pages, I have attempted to describe, and to exhibit whatever of history belongs to it, surpasses other portions of our island in its claims upon our attention, I dare not affirm. That it falls below them I should unwillingly admit. It seems to me to present many objects of great interest, and to invite to some curious inquiries. I consider myself, however, not as one who had to select some particular district with the view of making it the subject of historic and topographic inquiry, and who might therefore be presumed to select that which was the most fertile of objects of public curiosity, but as having had this particular district in a manner forced upon me by the necessity of my birth and early residence. I may take the liberty to say of myself now, at the conclusion of a somewhat laborious undertaking, what one, of whom I am an humble follower, said of himself, that I had a "natural propension" to these studies, which manifested itself almost at the earliest period to which memory can ascend; and the ever-stimulating spirit of minute historic research naturally applied itself to those parts of the country which were most easily accessible.

I may further be allowed to say of myself, that the collections out of which this work has arisen, were not brought together with, at first, a prospective view to publication. I was induced, some years ago, by representations which it is unnecessary to set forth, to lay before the public some account of the country more immediately surrounding my original place of residence. A knowledge that that work was well received, and a sense of the value of works such as this, have been the principal inducements with me to yield to the wishes of some partial friends, and to endeavour to throw the light of history on another portion of the county. The district is little known, for by far the greater part of it has never been approached by any topographer; and with respect to the work of my late friend, Dr. Miller, I may say, without incurring the censure of the judicious, "Peace to the manes of a truly amiable and worthy man!"

I do not interfere with any design for a general history of this great county. I am not one of those who think that such a work would be the stone of Tydides to any modern antiquary. I can see distinctly how it might be executed by some one hand in a manner to do justice to the grand design; but then there must be a period of thirty or forty years devoted to it, with ample leisure for the needful researches and for reflection upon the result of those researches, by some one who possessed *the natural instinct*. At present there is no probability that such a work will be attempted; and one or two generations at least may be expected to pass away before the gentlemen of Yorkshire have the benefit of such a work as that which is possessed by their neighbours on the other side of the Tees.

Dr. Whitaker, indeed, was led on by degrees to contemplate the grand design; but he begun too late in life, and he sunk under it. There was also in that work too much sacrificed to the inferior objects of embellishment and ornament. Upon any plan the volumes of topography must be large and expensive; but they need not be made so extravagantly expensive as they must necessarily be when brought out in so superb a manner.—The name of Dr. Whitaker must not be mentioned but with an expression of that respect and admiration in which he must ever be held. If in his later works, especially when, descending below the line of the Calder, he approaches the confines of the country described in the present work, he betray an absence of that minuteness and extent of information which are required in works of this nature, I do not hesitate to avow my conviction, that on the whole view of his character Yorkshire possesses in him one of the proudest names which topography has yet to boast. Where shall we find so much sound learning, accurate research, perspicacious criticism, and elegant composition, brought into her service as in the latest edition of his "History of the Original Parish of Whalley"? This tribute he deserves.

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It is remarkable how little has been done for any portion of the county beside what Dr. Whitaker has accomplished. For the North Riding scarcely any thing but what belongs to Richmond, except Mr. Graves's unpretending but very meritorious work on the archdeaconry of Cleveland. The published labours of our topographers on the East Riding are almost confined to accounts of Kingston-upon-Hull, of which there are several, and where are still some gentlemen who are attentive to the historical interest which belongs to the country around them. The Eboracum of Drake is the history of a city, but it contains also a topographic survey of the townships forming the Ainsty. By far the best book on the West Riding is the Ducatus Leodiensis of the amiable and simple-minded Thoresby; and when to this is added Mr. Watson's Survey of the spacious parish of Halifax, what have we more of the West Riding which can be said to belong to the body of legitimate topography?

Neither assisted by the published labours of any former antiquary, nor misled by his errors, I have entered in this work on the examination of the antient state and successive changes of the lands which in their ecclesiastical connection form THE DEANERY OF DONCASTER. That term does not show to the ordinary reader the real extent of the district which is the subject of these pages. It is the whole of what can be properly called the southern portion of Yorkshire. It extends from the point at which meet the three counties of York, Derby, and Chester, to where the county of York abuts upon Lincolnshire. In the researches preparatory to this work, I have endeavoured, as far as was practicable, to adhere to the rule *accedere fontes*; and it is proper that some account of those sources should now be given, that, if in future times questions arise respecting the accuracy of any statements in the following work, it may be known on what authority the writer had proceeded. I cannot hope to have escaped all inaccuracy. Interwoven with this account will be found the grateful acknowledgments of the author to many gentlemen who have aided his researches.

What may be regarded as the *prima stamina* of the whole work is a personal survey of every place mentioned in it, and every object described in it. Nothing is spoken of which I have not myself inspected, making notes upon the place, trusting as little as possible to recollection. The churches, which in many places are the sole objects of curiosity, I have examined with close attention. The monumental inscriptions, often the only record of persons eminent and useful in their day, have been copied, and all which are in any respect remarkable are here faithfully presented to the world, while of others only the material circumstance is exhibited, as it may be useful to some inquirer when, perhaps, the original itself may have perished. I ought to add, that the church notes were taken at different periods, and few since 1824. Inscriptions which have been very recently placed in the churches of the deanery may not therefore be found in this work.

In those topographical tours much information was collected from intelligent inhabitants of the several villages; and I am bound to acknowledge the courteous attention which I have received from many persons in these inquiries, but more particularly from the reverend the clergy of the deanery.

The history of a district is very much the history of the property of that district; and this divides itself into two parts, the ecclesiastical and the lay property. Again, the lay property lies for the most part in a lord paramount, as he is often called, that is, the person holding immediately of the crown; in a subsidiary lord, sometimes in a lord removed one step further from the crown, and in freeholders or copyholders, tenants to the lord. To attempt to give an account of the descent of mere freeholds or copyholds would be useless and impracticable; but of the course which the feudal superiority has taken, from its origin to the present day, an account is indispensable in a book which pretends to give an historical view of any district, especially since whatever there may be in a village to excite curiosity, or to invite attention, is usually connected with the line of its lords; and whatever changes have taken place in the condition of the villagers, have for the most part originated with them.

And for the accomplishment of this portion of his task the topographer has the assistance of the Domesday-book. The present arrangement of property is to be referred for its origin to the times just preceding the preparation of that famous record. We have there the various townships which form, little changed, the present villare of England, arranged under the names of their feudal superiors, or those who in after times were called, as to all which they did not keep in demesne, the lords paramount, that is, lords who held their lands of no other but the king. This record shows us in a most lucid manner the original distribution of property throughout this region. Whatever difficulties there may occasionally be in the descriptions given of the various townships, in that there are no difficulties; all is simple,

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clear, and easy: and we may observe that, with respect to the county of York, we have the benefit of a recapitulatio, which is denied to other counties.

Sometimes we find in the pages of Domesday the name of some person who held single townships of the tenant in chief, and so became the founder of the sub-fees. This is, however, but rarely the case in respect to the district before us, except in the lands held by Laci and Perci. For these persons we must be indebted to other sources of information. Here the *Liber Niger* lends some little assistance; and with respect to the honour of Tickhill, an important part of this district, a very early list of the tenants of that honour is preserved in the *Testa de Nevil*. It is, however, too well known to all who have attended to inquiries such as these, that the reigns of the sons, grandson, and great-grandson of the Conqueror are times of darkness, and that it is not till the reign of Henry III. that we have much direct and regular information respecting the descent of properties, however great. In the dark period before that reign we are obliged to collect our information, in the best manner we can, from the records or the charters of the religious houses, most of which were founded during that period, and had most of the lords of the subsidiary fees amongst their benefactors; or from pleadings exhibited in later times, when it was necessary to set forth a title from an early period; or from solitary and casual notices in record, chronicle, or charter, under which head may be placed the occasional notices in the Pipe Rolls of the Exchequer.

So little remains of the transactions in the first century and a half after the conquest, that it is only in the tenancies in chief, or the paramount lordships, that we are to expect an unbroken chain of descent. These tenancies were for the most part in the hands of the most eminent persons of the time, those whose actions were the subject of the general historian, and whose deaths were of sufficient consequence to claim a place in the public chronicles of the age. The largest tenancies of this class in the district before us returned at an early period to the crown. With respect to the sub-lords, excepting some whose fees were so extensive that they rivalled the over-lords in power and consequence, and forced themselves on the attention of the general historian, it rarely happens that a continued series can be given through that century and a half, though it also often happens that we may show persons holding the property in one age, which, in the next, is held by persons who use the same name of addition, and who may therefore be presumed to be the sons of the former.

But from the reign of king Henry III. the aspect of affairs is different. From that time we have various surveys of the lands held by the over-lords, in which the names of those who held the sub-fees are given, and in some instances the names of various lords who held the lands at different periods. Kirkby's Inquest is one of these; this was taken in 1277, the fifth of Edward I. The record called the *Nomina Villarum*, which belongs to the 9 Edward II. is another. Domesday Book, the *Liber Niger*, and the *Testa de Nevil*, have been printed. Kirkby's Inquest and the *Nomina Villarum* seem to claim the earliest attention of the commissioners of the public records. I speak my own experience when I say, that no single records have afforded more useful and more extended information than these have done. The Pipe Rolls only, on account of their high antiquity, and their closer bearing on the public transactions of the realm, can be said to surpass them in their claims on the attention of those commissioners. But, besides these records, we have surveys of the tenancies under the lords of Hallamshire, of the reign of Henry VI. and later periods; we have several surveys of the honours of Tickhill and Pontefract, the last of which is of the year 1577. This, which is usually called Bernard's Survey, is of peculiar value; showing not only who were then the tenants of the several manors composing those great honours, but the previous holders of them, and in most instances the holders of them at several different periods, all certified on oath.

The printed works are of easy access, and much is due from the persons engaged in the topographic illustration of our country to the wisdom and liberality of parliament in having caused so many valuable records to be printed, and distributed in public libraries throughout the kingdom. But, with respect to the authorities still in manuscript, I must here state that the Kirkby's Inquest and *Nomina Villarum* which I have used, are an antient copy of the parts relating to the county of York, in the curious library formed by the late John Wilson, esq. of Broomhead-hall, a gentleman to whom I have endeavoured to pay a tribute of respect in a former work. But the copy of the *Nomina Villarum* has been compared with another in the British Museum, Harl. 6281, with which it too well agrees, both having been copied from an original, to me unknown, by some person who was not skilful in decyphering the characters

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before him. The surveys of the manors comprehended in Hallamshire I saw among the evidences of his grace the duke of Norfolk. Bernard's Survey, and another more antient survey of the honour of Pontefract, I first saw in the collections of John Hopkinson, of Lofthouse, a collector of the reign of Charles II. These collections, which I shall have occasion to mention afterwards, were submitted to my inspection in the most obliging manner by their present proprietor, Miss Curren, of Craven. The surveys of the honour of Tickhill, of which there are several, have descended in the family of the Foljambes of Aldwark. The originals I must acknowledge that I have not had an opportunity of consulting; but I have what I can rely upon as being very faithful transcripts made of them many years ago.

These surveys or extents present the outline. It is filled up, for the most part, by the aid of inquisitions; and by inquisitions I here mean inquisitions post mortem. When any one died holding lands, the king's writ issued to the escheator to summon an inquest to determine of what lands he died possessed, the tenure of those lands, and who was the heir. These are the leading subjects of the inquisitions, and it is manifest at once how important they must be for carrying down the descent of property, and how certain must be the record of that descent which is supported by evidence such as this. But they sometimes contain more than this. Collateral circumstances, such as settlements and provisions for younger children, are occasionally found, and it is no unusual circumstance to find the last wills of the deceased party recited at full in them. These inquisitions begin in the reign of Henry III. and are continued to the middle of the seventeenth century. Most of the original records are in the Tower; and though I must gratefully acknowledge the kindness of Mr. Petrie in offering to transmit to me copies of any inquisition which it appeared of peculiar importance to consult, yet an unwillingness to impose labour on the person who must have been employed in copying what might not after all be of any importance, left me rather to depend upon abstracts of these inquisitions more within my reach. And here I must, in the first place, acknowledge the assistance derived from the labours of Dodsworth, an antiquary whom no fatigue could deter, who shrunk from no labour, however uninviting or unintellectual. His manuscripts, both those in which he has transcribed or abstracted inquisitions and charters, and those in which he has deduced conclusions from them (which are, however, few, compared with those of the former class,) are, as is well known, among the stores of the Bodleian library. By the kindness of the rev. Drs. Bandinell and Bliss I have had the most unlimited access to these precious volumes; and there is scarcely a page in the following work which does not bear witness to the use which has been made of them. Secondly, many inquisitions I found abstracted in the collections of Hopkinson. Thirdly, many are so fully abstracted, that to read the abstract may be considered as equivalent to reading the originals, in the series of volumes at the British Museum, there known by the name of Cole's Escheats, one of the most valuable of the manuscripts in that repository. Fourthly, I have seen many inquisitions in exemplifications in private collections: and, lastly, the printed calendars have in some instances alone been used.

The account given of the descent of manors from extents and inquisitions has been aided by charter evidence. As charters merely related to private intercourse between man and man, there was no public registration of them, no common depositary, but they remained in the archives of the families by whom they were executed, or accompanied the property to which they related. Of these I may with truth say, that, for the purposes of the present work, I have perused and abstracted more than three thousand; but it is remarkable how few of them throw any valuable light upon the state of the country, relating chiefly, as those which I have seen do, to the smaller properties. Neither do they afford matter for any curious general conclusions. Some of them, however, are of a higher character, and it will be seen, particularly in the second volume, of what use evidence of this kind may be made. The great mass of charter evidence used by me was collected by Mr. Wilson, the gentleman before mentioned; but no inconsiderable portion of original charter evidence has been submitted to me by gentlemen who possess the great lay interests within the deanery. And here I cannot but call to mind the small but singularly curious collection of evidences of the early Fitz-Williams, which are now at Milton in Northamptonshire, and which have been permitted to be used for the purposes of this work by their noble proprietor.

I owe also to the right hon. the lord Wharnclyffe the privilege of access to whatever of charter evidence has accompanied the antient hereditary estate of Wortley. But it has happened there, as in other instances, that evidence once existing is no longer to be found in the depositaries where it would naturally be sought. In the reign of king James I. Dodsworth abstracted the Wortley evidences as they

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then stood, and these abstracts now form a large portion of one of his volumes. His abstracts are all made as a person intent on topographical history would make them, and are as useful as the originals themselves would be. And I am happy to add that those of the Wortley family are not the only private charters belonging to this district of which he has left full and complete analyses, but that we have in his manuscripts abstracts of the evidences of Rockley of Rockley, Burdet of Birthwaite, Cutler of Stainborough, Barnby of Barnby, Mauleverer of Letwell, Mounteney of Wheatley, and Morton of Bawtry, all now extinct, but in his time among the most considerable families in the deanery.

Nor are these all. He has left abstracts of minor collections of evidences, of single charters which fell by chance into his hands, and of the charters of families whose residence was remote from this part of the county, but whose transactions, as trustees or in other ways, affected interests within it.

To him also I owe what I know respecting the fines passed of lands in this county.

To his abstracts of wills, proved either at York or at London, I have been greatly indebted; though many pieces of this species of evidence, the most curious and interesting of all, as any one may satisfy himself who shall peruse the *Testamenta Vetusta* of Mr. Nicolas, I have had the opportunity of perusing at length.

When the course of descent of a manor is shown, the next thing is to discover transactions of its lords respecting it, or transactions which throw light upon the character of those who held it. Here it will not be expected that much can be discovered. Grants of free warren, markets, and fairs, notices in the Hundred rolls of usurpations, patent grants for particular purposes, with occasional summonses to assist in military affairs, these form for the most part all that can now be recovered of the men of consideration in the middle ages, except what may be collected from their private charters. For all these, the volumes published under the record commission have been of singular advantage.

Sometimes, however, we have more to relate; and pleas on trials or petitions to parliament exhibit interesting facts. For the former I have been chiefly indebted to Dodsworth and Hopkinson; for the latter to the Rolls of Parliament, a work which, owing in a great measure to the want of an index, has not been used as it ought to have been by the topographical inquirer.

In preparing the accounts of the descents of the feudal interests, assistance has also been derived from the labours of industrious and ingenious persons who applied themselves to the investigation of the gentilitial antiquities of the English nation. The superior fees have been for the most part in the hands of persons who ranked among the baronage of England, and some of the fees of the second class were also held by families in whom there were hereditary claims to distinctions. Concerning all families of those ranks much information has been collected, and much has been published. On the house of Warren, to whom Coningsborough and the Level of Hatfield belonged, we have a work in two quarto volumes; and of the Lacis, the Mauleys, and other families, the pages of sir William Dugdale's *Baronage* afford ample information. I have used, however, such information sparingly. I have wished as much as possible to keep this work free from the repetition of that which was already before the public, and have preferred, rather than to transcribe from printed works which are equally the property of every one of my readers as of myself, to offer a few remarks upon the accounts of these great houses given by my predecessors, as supplementary to their labours, though conscious that the work might thereby incur the imputation of being meagre where it ought to be full. Our topographical works must, after all the compression that can be applied to them, be sufficiently large, and a topographer cannot, in my opinion, be too sparing in his use of that information which has long ago been made *publici juris* by some industrious predecessor.

In families of a rank below the baronage in whom these feudal interests have been vested, a different course has been adopted. Where the account of them was to be derived from manuscript authority, and not from printed books, I have ventured to consider myself in the light of one who is the first to write upon the subject, and the genealogical details which follow may be hereafter to others what the works of previous inquirers into the history of the baronage of England have been to me. And here I must acknowledge the great assistance which I have derived from the labours of some of the old officers of the college of arms, whose visitation books contain a vast body of genealogical information. Tonge, Norroy, visited Yorkshire in 1530. In the middle of that century there appears to have been several imperfect visitations undertaken by Harvey, Dalton, Glover, and Flower.<sup>1</sup> In the years 1584 and 1585

<sup>1</sup> See Gough's *Anecdotes of British Topography*, vol. II. p. 405.

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was the first great and complete visitation. This was undertaken by Glover and Flower, and valuable indeed is the mass of information which they have brought together. In 1612, Richard Saint George, Norroy, held a visitation, where we find not only many of Flower's pedigrees continued, but accounts of other families who in that interval had become seated in the county, or had shot up into gentry. Since that time there has been only one visitation, which was held by one of the most illustrious of those who in any age or nation have devoted themselves to the study of antiquities, sir William Dugdale, who, in the summers of 1665 and 1666, completed a general visitation of this great county.

I owe my thanks to the officers of the college of arms, and especially to my friend, Charles George Young, esq. the York herald, for the most liberal access to those valuable records. Dr. Bandinell obliged me with the use of a fine copy of the visitation of 1585, and I have had the benefit of other copies at the Museum, (where are all but Dugdale's,) and in other hands.

But though these books must undoubtedly be regarded as containing the best and most authentic information in respect of our gentilitical antiquities, I must add that very valuable information has been obtained from other sources. Dodsworth has left many genealogical notices, partly collected from the inquisitions and charters, partly from the collections of Archer, Kniveton, and others, and partly from the information of his own contemporaries and friends. A pedigree in his hand of three or four descents, of persons with whom he lived, and where against a principal name he has written "*e cujus ore,*" may be received with as much confidence as the genealogical details sanctioned by the heralds. Hopkinson's pedigrees of West Riding gentry have had a high reputation ever since the time of Thoresby, who made great use of them in his *Ducatus*. The original volume, with the continuations by Thornton, the recorder of Leeds, was among the collections of Hopkinson with the use of which I was favoured by miss Curren. Hopkinson's pedigrees come down to about 1680, and are of great value. Thornton continued only the families in his own neighbourhood. These families are brought down still lower by a transcriber of Hopkinson, whose manuscripts are now in the public library at Leeds. Some of Hopkinson's pedigrees are continued by an unknown hand which transcribed his labours, about the year 1730, in two volumes, which have been entrusted to me for the use of the present work by Robert-William Hay, esq. a native of Brodsworth. But the best additions which have been made to Hopkinson are those by the rev. John Brooke, rector of High Hoyland, and John Charles Brooke, esq. the Somerset herald. The latter was the gentleman to whom, of all her sons, the county might have looked for an ample display of her history and topography, and no more severe loss did she ever sustain than in his premature death in the passages of a theatre. The continuation of Hopkinson by the two Brookes is now in the library of the heralds' college, to which the Somerset herald left his collections, where it is numbered J. C. B. No. I.

But what Brooke did for the illustration of his native county is not to be looked upon merely as a continuation of Hopkinson. In other volumes of his collections we have many original pedigrees of families who stepped into the rank of gentry, and became possessed of lands and manors, after the time of Hopkinson. These I have found of signal use, as well as many remarks of his on points not genealogical.

There is an excellent copy of Hopkinson's pedigrees in the British Museum, Harl. 4630; and I may observe, that in the Museum copies of the visitations are to be found additional genealogical notices, often brief, but always more or less acceptable.

Of general collections of Yorkshire genealogies, which have been used in the preparation of this work, may be mentioned a volume relating principally to the East Riding, but with some useful notices of West Riding families, compiled about the year 1595 by some unknown but judicious hand. One of my earliest labours in this department of topography, was a transcript of this volume, which was at that time in the possession of my late friend, R. W. Moulton, esq. of Wickersley. From another volume, containing many West Riding families, neither in the visitations nor in Hopkinson, compiled about 1650, once the property of the rev. John Watson, rector of Stockport, I have been favoured with many useful extracts by his relation, the present Holland Watson, esq.

Again, the pedigrees which, within the last century, have been from time to time entered in the records of the college of arms have afforded valuable information in this department; and I may take leave to say that some have been either wholly compiled or continued by myself from original evidence, personal knowledge, or the information of the families themselves or of their friends; and that there is

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scarcely a pedigree throughout the following work which has not been compared in respect of some of its statements with documentary evidence.

In a few instances I have had the benefit of particular histories of particular families. Thus, when the head of the house of Wentworth was made a peer, he employed his relation, William Gascoign, to collect a genealogical account of his family, not confined to the line of Wentworth only, but embracing other of the allodial families of this district, of which the lord Wentworth and earl of Strafford was at that time the representative. The original of this is not known to exist among the evidences at Wentworth-house, but there is a copy of it by Withie among the Harleian manuscripts. The history of the house of Fitz-William, compiled by Hugh Fitz-William, early in the reign of Elizabeth, a manuscript of singular interest and beauty, is among the treasures at Milton, and the use of it has been permitted for the purposes of this work. A genealogical account of the house of Wortley, compiled in the time of sir Richard Wortley, with some useful biographical notices, has enabled me to present a better account of that great family, than could have been prepared only from the documentary evidence which exists; a curious history of the family of Rokeby has been lent to me by Mr. Rokeby, of Northamptonshire; and, lastly, the history of the family of Foljambe, compiled by Dr. Nathaniel Johnston, now among Gough's manuscripts at the Bodleian, has left little to be collected in that line of descent, and but little to be done to continue it to the present generation.

The deduction of families necessarily forms a part of topographical works; but I must intreat the reader to bear in mind, that they only find a place there as they serve to illustrate and to exhibit the descent of properties. In works strictly genealogical, the history of manors and advowsons is properly made subservient to the history of some stirps which had connected itself with those manors. But in a work professedly topographical the history of the stirps is only subsidiary to the history of the manor. Hence, till a family allied itself with a particular property, any history of that family appears to be irrelevant. What can be more destructive of unity of design in a work of this nature, than to give a history from perhaps the reign of Henry III. of a family whose deposit was in Norfolk, in a work devoted to the topography of Devonshire, because late in the reign of George III. they might have become possessed of a manor in that county? Or what would be more out of place than, in this work, a history of the whole house of Lumley, peculiarly attractive as it is to the genealogist, because, in the person of sir Thomas Lumley, they became possessed about a century ago of a seat and fine estate in this deanery? The bulky appearance of some of our books of topography is principally to be attributed to a neglect of this propriety. Nevertheless it is a propriety which may be observed with some exceptions. It seems proper to show from whence came the first of a family who acquired an establishment in the county on which the topographer is engaged. If it was a family indigenous, or which had long resided in the county before it had acquired one of the great interests within it, then also it may seem not improper to waive the observance of the rule; and it is at least an interesting subject of inquiry, where has vested in later times the representation of persons who once held high and commanding stations among the gentry of the county.

In some few instances there are genealogical notices of families who do not appear to have allied themselves with any of the feudal interests within the district, and are only connected with it by residence or considerable estates, and having been by the heralds classed among the gentry.

But the genealogies in this volume are to be regarded only as subsidiary to the history of the descent of property; and the information they contain is put in the tabular form, rather than thrown into a continued narrative, because in that form it is more clearly apprehended, as a map presents a more intelligible view of the surface of a country than can be gained from any written description. It is in the families of whom these pedigrees are given that the great interests have descended. In a few instances I have been enabled to add biographical notices of some of the chiefs of these families, and to illustrate their history from remains of their correspondence. Some of the letters interspersed through these volumes I owe to the collections made by Hopkinson and Wilson; a few to the volumes of unpublished correspondence of the great earl of Strafford at Wentworth-house; the original notices of lady Mary Wortley Montagu, and her husband and son, I owe to the kind mediation of the rev. Dr. Corbett with another member of that lady's family; and the curious particulars of sir Philip Monckton and of Dr. Berrie to the kindness of the right hon. the viscount Galway, who has aided in the most condescending and obliging manner in the preparation of this work.

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The difficulty is great of obtaining accurate information of the descent which even considerable interests have taken in the period since the inquisitions ceased. A topographer cannot ask for the sight of documents which are still important to the sustaining of a title. Still, transactions of which these great interests are the subject, are for the most part too ostensible not to be matter of public notoriety. In some instances the most authentic and valuable information has been received from gentlemen in possession of these interests. And it has happened, perhaps fortunately for the topographer of this district, that a large proportion of the greater interests have not been unstable during the last century and a half, but have descended in the families of those who held them while still inquisitions were in use.

I pass to the sources of information respecting the ecclesiastical department of this work.

In the early ages of society the rights of the possessors and cultivators of the soil were correlative with a right inherent in ecclesiastical personages to a certain portion of the produce, to be employed in purposes connected with religion, and perhaps also with charity. This portion was rendered to the officiating minister in some edifice raised for the convenient performance of the rites of Christianity, containing a font, an altar, and surrounded by a burying-ground, with convenient space within the walls for the assemblage of the people inhabiting its vicinity, either for the solemnization of rites of a more personal nature, or of those in which all had a common interest. A church, a presbyter, and a certain district, the tithe of which belonged to the presbyter for the use of his office, constituted a parish. But the presbyter had usually a manse and certain portions of land beside the revenue that he derived under the denomination of tithe, or from oblations at particular seasons, or on account of particular services. The distribution of the country into particular parishes took place at so early a period that it is not to be illustrated by documentary evidence, and the progress of that distribution (for it is manifest to all who have looked intimately into the subject, that all inquiries into the time when England was divided into parishes are completely nugatory, for that this distribution was going on for several centuries, as the lords of manors became rich enough or devout enough to think of erecting a church for the use of their tenants,) is only to be learned, if it can be learned at all, from a comprehensive survey of the state of the country. We learn for the most part who were the founders of the churches, that is of the parishes, by observing in whom the patronage was vested in the earliest times to which we can ascend, who was usually the possessor of the principal or the sub lay fee; or by grants, many of which now remain in the chartularies of monastic institutions, which some early patron made of the church to some religious foundation. Of the parishes and parish churches within this deanery, there is only one of which we have any direct and positive evidence respecting its foundation, the church of Doncaster; of which Bede distinctly relates that it was founded by king Edwin, under the auspices of Paulinus. Of many other of our churches, however, we have indirect evidence of their foundation almost equally decisive.

Where the constitution of a church in a presbyter, persona, or rector, has remained undisturbed on its primitive basis, there is little for the historian to do but to collect, in the best manner he is able, an account of the descent of the right to nominate the rector; and, secondly, to show who in succession have held that highly important office in a parish. Moduses are private agreements between a rector and his parishioners respecting the collection of his tithe, and these are far too dangerous things to be meddled with by the topographical historian. But it has happened in many parishes that the original constitution has been subverted; the rector has disappeared, and a new character has been introduced, the vicar, vicarius, the vicegerent of the rector, or of the community or lay person who came to represent the rector. The origin of this was the affection of the patrons to the monastic establishments in the first instance, and in the second the leaning of the diocesan to the interests of those communities. A patron, while he kept the manor, would give the church, that is, the right of nominating the persona, to some monastic foundation. A bishop would allow that foundation not only to possess this right of nomination, but to participate with the person nominated in the profits of the benefice. In other words, the monastic body became the persona, and took in the first instance the profits of the living, while the parochial duty was performed by a clerk nominated by them as their vicar or deputy. But the diocesans were not so inattentive to the rights of the secular clergy as to allow the monastic institutions to make what bargain they pleased with their deputy; they usually interfered between the monastic body and the vicar, appointing what portion of the profits of the living should be set apart for the maintenance of the vicar, and what should remain to the monastery. This is what is meant by the ordination of a vicarage. In some of the parishes within the limits of this work no vicarage was ever ordained; but

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in general we find that vicars were appointed, and in speaking of such parishes it becomes the duty of the topographer, first, to show what portion of the profits were severed from the rectory and settled upon the vicar, and secondly who, under the denomination of vicar, have supplied to the parish the loss of its resident rector.

Now in all matters of this kind the best information is to be obtained from the collections of our great ecclesiastical antiquary, Torre of Snydal. This gentleman spent many years upon the registers of the see of York, and has thrown into the most lucid order a vast treasure of information respecting the several benefices throughout the diocese, and the succession of patrons and incumbents, whether rectors or vicars. His plan was to notice, first, very briefly, in whom the lay interest was vested at an early period, in which he has followed Kirkby's Inquest for the most part; next, in whom the patronage of the church was vested in early times; by whom given, if given at all, to any religious foundation; when the church was appropriated, and what division was then made of its profits; other arrangements of a temporary nature; and, finally, a close catalogue of incumbents, with the names of the persons by whom they were presented, the time of their institution by the ordinary, and the means by which they vacated their preferment. This is so complete that little is left to be desired. In the few instances in which I have had the opportunity of comparing Torre's account of the ordinations of the vicarages with copies of the instruments remaining entire among the records of the see, he has performed his task with so much ability, that he has left nothing behind but the mere husk and shell in which all that was valuable in these wordy instruments was enveloped.

Authentic copies of these valuable digests have, through various channels, flowed in upon me; but by far the greatest portion of the labours of Torre upon this deanery, was transcribed by myself from the books in his own hand, now in the possession of the dean and chapter of York, having obtained access to them through the kindness of Mr. Archdeacon Eyre, to whom I have owed other obligations in the progress of this undertaking.

We are indebted to Torre also for what are called his testamentary burials. It has been usual in all ages for persons to give directions in their wills respecting the places in which their bodies shall be interred. Torre went through the wills proved at York, and extracted from them all clauses relating to the place of interment of the testator, and has appended them to the accounts he has given of the churches in which such interments were to take place. His testamentary burials are far from being complete, but they are, as far as they go, of great use, sometimes enabling us to appropriate the uninscribed tomb, or that from which the inscription has disappeared.

Torre, who was a most diligent antiquary, has left many volumes of genealogical collections, which are still in the possession of his descendants. The peculiar feature of these collections is, that descents in Dugdale, or in less public authorities, are illustrated by extracts from the records of the see of York, and from the wills repositied in the archives there. The succeeding pages will bear witness to the use which these collections have been to me, and I must express, very sincerely and very heartily, my obligations to the rev. Henry Torre, the rector of Thornhill, at whose house I was permitted to consult them.

Respecting early ecclesiastical affairs I have also had the assistance of Dodsworth's abstracts of the registers of the see. These are now among his manuscripts at the Bodleian, and it is worthy the attention of all who are interested in the ecclesiastical history of any portion of the diocese of York, that there is amongst them a very full abstract of the register of archbishop Zouch, of which the original is not now to be found. A curious instance of the effect of this discovery may be seen under "Coningsborough."

Torre died, at the age of 50, in 1699, but his collections can hardly be said to be continued beyond 1687. From that time to the present the catalogue of incumbents will be found less complete, having been compiled, for the most part, from the information of living persons, the parish registers, monumental inscriptions, lists of the clergy of the deanery made at different periods, aided by some extracts from the registers of the see in one of Gough's manuscripts at the Bodleian. I am conscious that some imperfections will be found in this department, and I must trust to the reverend the clergy to excuse the omission of their academic honours, of which I found it utterly impossible to obtain a correct account.

At the dissolution of monasteries the rights which they had possessed in the benefices passed to the

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crown, and were in most instances granted out at an early period to private persons, who thus became the personæ or rectors of the parishes. Of these grants I have received some useful information from the augmentation office through the kindness of Mr. Caley. I have endeavoured to trace the course which these interests took, especially when, as was sometimes the case, the right of appointing the vicar accompanied the possession of what was reserved by the rector.

We have two valuable surveys of the benefices throughout the kingdom. The first is that which is usually called pope Nicholas' Taxatio, having been made at the instance of pope Nicholas IV. about 1291. The other, which is far more full of information, is the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII. made in 1535. Both these have been published under the record commission, and being thus of easy access, I have only in a few remarkable instances given from the Valor the account it contains of the profits of each benefice. There is another survey, of less value than either of these, but still containing some useful information, made in the reign of Philip and Mary, and published by Stevens in his *Monasticon*, from the communication of Thoresby.

It is not quite clear when the system of creating new parishes whenever a lord of a manor chose to erect a church was put an end to; but it seems to have been about the latter end of the reign of Henry I. After that time whatever edifices arose devoted to the purposes of religion, the minister placed in them was not allowed to appropriate to himself tithe or even offering which had been accustomed to accrue to the rector of the parish in which the edifice arose. Hence the chapels, often, but erroneously, called parochial, which have arisen in this deanery, and which are to be found in all the northern parts of the kingdom. These chapels were erected for the convenience of particular portions of the community, forming in their collective character the body of parishioners; and usually in consequence of representations to the ordinary that their dwellings were at inconvenient distances from the parish church. But being erected for the convenience of particular portions of the parish, it was reasonable that that portion should provide the maintenance of the officiating minister, and this was accordingly usually done, but often poorly enough, by setting apart some portion of common ground for his use, or by actual donations by some well disposed persons of houses and land. Often these chapels were made seats of peculiar and personal services, and it was the priest's duty to perform certain masses for the souls of the founders and their families, who in return settled upon him portions of land. All this was sometimes done without any entry being made of it in the registers of the see, though the concurrence of the archbishop must have been obtained wherever the right of baptism, the nuptial benediction, and sepulture, was obtained for these chapels. It is, however, a certain fact, that the registers of the see contain very little information respecting these minor ecclesiastical foundations. Here Torre's labours fail us. I have endeavoured to retrieve the origin of all; often with too little success, but, in some instances, I trust that the information contained in these volumes will be regarded as valuable accessions to the ecclesiastical history of the diocese of York.

Some of the chapels in which the rites of baptism, marriage, and burial were not performed, fell at the reformation; but most of those to which the privilege of administering those rites had been extended, continue to the present day, and have had a succession of regular incumbents. It is to be desired that a complete catalogue of the incumbents should have been made, but that I found impracticable.

The chantries, which were private foundations for the purpose of securing the performance of masses for the souls of particular persons, were sometimes connected with these minor edifices, as at Bolsterstone, by which the lord of a manor secured the double object of masses for himself and family, and the residence of a priest amidst his tenantry. But they were more frequently placed in the parish churches. In the church of Doncaster there were five. Additions were sometimes made to the churches for the convenient performance of these private services, and much of the painted glass with which the windows were decorated, many beautiful fragments of which still remain, were introduced into the churches at the time of the foundation of these chantries. A knowledge of them is therefore essentially necessary to every one who would describe with proper discrimination the churches as they at present appear, often the only object within the whole compass of a parish which requires or deserves any particular description.

Of these private services we have two lists. One, which is usually called archbishop Holgate's return, is printed in Stevens' *Monasticon*, from a copy in the ninety-second volume of Dodsworth's collections. Another makes part of the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII. 1535. The former of these (which is,

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in fact, the latest by a few years in its date,) contains more information respecting the founders, but the latter is more abundant in showing the sources of the revenue by which they were maintained. From the latter we collect the name of the incumbent of each, who in most cases would be the last, as the chantries, and every service of a like nature, were all swept away by a statute of the 1 Edward VI.

In a few instances, either from Torre's manuscripts or from detached pieces of evidence, we are enabled to give a detailed account of the particular objects contemplated in some of the foundations, and the particular duties required of the incumbent.

In describing the parish churches I have had the benefit of notes taken of them by Dodsworth two centuries ago. I ought to say of about half of them, for of nearly one half either Dodsworth omitted to visit them, or his notes have been lost. These notes have been of singular service. Much painted glass, now imperfect or wholly destroyed, was entire in his time. Brasses, now removed, were still attached to tombs when he visited the churches. Inscriptions, now defaced, or the stones entirely removed, were legible in his day. Arms, not now to be found, were then to be seen carved on the stalls, roof, or walls, or glowing in the windows. On the whole, one of the most pleasant parts of my labours has been comparing what the churches now are with what in his time they were. The heralds have left us a few church notes taken on their visitations. Sir William Dugdale prepared a beautiful manuscript of Yorkshire monuments from Dodsworth's notes and those of others. Hutton, a divine, and collector for the ecclesiastical antiquities of England, left a few notes of South Yorkshire churches, in a manuscript now in the library pertaining to the cathedral at York. Torre left a few church notes from Sandal and one or two other places in this deanery. Mingled amongst Brooke's collections are many transcripts of monumental inscriptions. But though all these have been used for the purposes of this work, I must profess that there has been here nothing comparable to the valuable assistance afforded by Roger Dodsworth.

What Johnston's church notes might have done for us I cannot with certainty say. It is said that his Yorkshire church notes fill a thousand pages; but I venture to predict that the opening of that book, whenever it shall be opened, will add little that is valuable to the account of what is and was to be seen in our churches, given in these volumes after Dodsworth and others.

In describing two or three of the churches I have had the benefit of some still earlier church notes. They were made by a monk of Roche, before the dissolution of his house. The original manuscript belonged a century ago to Mr. Canby, of Thorne. I have endeavoured in vain to trace it, and must content myself with the few extracts from it incorporated with other topographical collections made by the rev. Abraham De la Pryme.

From our ecclesiastical antiquities the transition is easy to our monastic. Two houses of the first rank arose within the deanery of Doncaster, the monasteries of Roche and Bretton. Nostell, a wealthier house than either of these, stood upon the confines of the deanery, its demesne extended within its limits, and it held six of its churches appropriated. I shall not, therefore, be accused of trespassing beyond my assigned limits if I consider this religious house as belonging to my subject. Besides these, we have two small houses of ladies, Hampole and Wallingwells, the college of Rotherham, an alien priory at Ecclesfield, and several houses of friars. Of Roche no chartulary is known, and I am principally indebted for the account given of it to the labours of Dodsworth, Dugdale, Tanner, and Burton. But for Bretton I have had, in addition to what is to be found in the authors just named, the use of a large chartulary prepared but a little before the dissolution of the house, for the sight of which I have been indebted to Godfrey Wentworth Wentworth, esq. of Wolley. To the same gentleman I have also been indebted for the sight of a chartulary of St. John of Pontefract, a house not situated within the limits of this work, but enjoying land and tithe within it, a chartulary remarkable for the curious and interesting nature of its contents. For Nostell I have consulted the great chartulary in the Cotton library; but I have also had the advantage of perusing what is of more value than a mere chartulary, a miscellaneous volume containing matters relating to the house, written by one of the canons about, as it seems, the reign of Edward IV. Beside various statements of accounts, this manuscript contains the treatise "*De Actibus Priorum Sancti Oswaldi*," in which we have a kind of chronicle of the house, from the foundation to the reign of Edward III. This manuscript is in the proper deposit, the library of Charles Winn, esq. who has succeeded to the canons in the possession of the demesne of Nostell. I

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owe many thanks to him for the opportunity he has afforded me of making use of this volume, and also of a chartulary of Nostell after it passed into private hands, showing its successive proprietors, the Leighs, Gargraves, Irelands, and others.

These, then, have been the sources from whence the information diffused through these volumes has been for the most part derived. But there still remain a few other manuscripts of which I have had the use, and requiring some notice in this place.

At the end of the seventeenth century Abraham De la Pryme, a clergyman, and early fellow of the Royal Society, made some not inconsiderable collections for the history, natural and civil, of the Level of Hatfield Chase, the place of his nativity. These collections, though injured by the carelessness of some former possessor, are now in the Lansdown department of the British Museum, and there I had the privilege of access to them, through the kindness of Mr. Ellis, before they were generally placed in the hands of those who are admitted to the reading room of the Museum. Besides these, De la Pryme left an Ephemeris or Diary of his own life, in which he has inserted many historical and biographical matters. This has been entrusted to me by William-John Bagshawe, esq. of the Oaks in Norton.

De la Pryme's notes are admirable for the history of Hatfield Chase; but that portion of the ensuing work would not have been so complete as I flatter myself it may be found, if I had not had the benefit of the labours of another gentleman, who, fifty years after the time of De la Pryme, employed himself in collecting materials for the history of that Level. This was George Stovin, esq. of Crowle, grandfather of the rev. Dr. Stovin, the rector of Rossington, who in the most obliging manner acceded to the request of a friend, and allowed me the unrestricted use of a well-filled volume.

Biographical memoirs of both these collectors will be found in the ensuing work; where also I have endeavoured to throw together a few particulars of the life of the rev. George Hay-Drummond, once vicar of Doncaster, the son to the archbishop of York. This gentleman at one period of his life seriously meditated to undertake the history of Doncaster and some places in its vicinity, particularly those in which the estates of the Kinnoul family lay. A man of his elegant turn of mind could not but have produced an agreeable work. He relinquished the undertaking, leaving what he had collected in a large portfolio. This portfolio his son, Mr. Hay, has entrusted to me in the most gratifying manner, and I have received much useful assistance from the notes and references it contains.

In reviewing what has been done by former antiquaries in retrieving the materials for the history of this portion of the county of York, it is perhaps matter of surprise that so much has been collected and so little arranged. In all Dodsworth's manuscripts we do not find that in a single instance he has brought together what his volumes contained on the history of any one town or village, so as to show us how in his opinion his collections might be used for the benefit of topography. Stillingfleet's abstracts at the Museum are but a dry detail of facts. Even John-Charles Brooke was a collector without having digested or arranged any part of his collections. It is supposed that Dr. Nathaniel Johnston threw what he had collected into some kind of topographical order. These collections are in a great measure, I know, formed from Dodsworth. Still there cannot but be matter of his own; and I look forward with some anxiety to the time when the possessors of them will see that it is an honourable distinction to have their names connected with the literature of their country, as the name of that ancestor is who purchased these collections, through the writings of Burton and of Stukeley.

Were I to mention all the offers of assistance I have received from gentlemen residing in the deanery, all the real assistance, and all the encouragement with which my labours have been cheered, it might be taken rather as matter of self commendation and display, than the expression of respectful and grateful feeling. I must not, however, be withheld from mentioning that valuable assistance has been derived from information communicated by sir F. L. Wood, bart. of Hemsworth, Joseph Scott, esq. of Badsworth, the rev. the rectors of Badsworth and Burgh Wallis, Godfrey Higgins, esq. the rev. the vicar of Doncaster, the rev. Dr. Inchbald, and the rev. Mr. Hett, Francis-Offley Edmunds, esq. Henry-Gally Knight, esq. James Rimington, esq. Edward Oates, esq. Mr. Woodcock, of Hemsworth, a gentleman intimately acquainted with the parishes lying near his residence, and Mr. Jonathan Alderson.

To these must be added my friend Thomas Mason, esq. of Copt Hewick, to whom I owe not only many useful suggestions of his own, and zealous efforts to promote in any way the success of my labours, but the opportunity of being permitted to consult the collections of Hopkinson; nor can I ever

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forget the pleasant hours passed with him in the house at Bierley, a house sacred to literature and scientific research, in the pursuit of matters pertaining to my subject through those voluminous collections.

To the rev. Godfrey Wright, of Bilham, I owe thanks for many most friendly attentions, and for assiduous and very successful endeavours to assist in the completion of this undertaking; and to Henry Bower, esq. of Doncaster, who has been ready at every emergency to supply information in the points where it was deficient, from his own stores or by active inquiry, and who has devoted himself with all the earnestness of friendship to obtain that attention to the prospectus of this work, without which it would never have been undertaken. On this account I owe also thanks to others.

I must also be permitted, before this long preface is brought to a conclusion, to offer my very respectful and grateful acknowledgments to viscount Milton for the kind interest he has been pleased to take in this work, for personal attentions to the author, for communications of great value respecting Wentworth, and for plates of the monuments of some of his ancestors: and to sir Richard Hoare, himself highly eminent among the topographical writers of the present age, for the access which he has allowed to many rare publications to be found in his unrivalled library of topography and history at Stourhead, a house and domain as beautiful, as richly furnished with books, with pictures, and with choice monuments of antiquity, as that of Buslidianus, the friend of Erasmus and More, and where the students in the history of our country meet with as elegant an hospitality.

I owe thanks also to several friends for the contribution of drawings of objects of interest in this deanery; and here I am especially indebted to the pencil of two ladies, most highly accomplished in this art, both sprung from many antient houses, who have been the pride and ornament, the patrons and benefactors, of these regions.

The map of the deanery will, I believe, be generally thought to be highly creditable to the skill and accuracy of Mr. Alexander.

In the selection of subjects for the engraver I have been guided rather by a consideration of what had not hitherto been engraved than by the claims in respect of beauty of the objects themselves. The ruins at Coningsborough are admirably represented in my friend Mr. Britton's "Architectural Antiquities," and have been engraved, over and over again, in general views and in the features of minute detail. This is also the case with the remains of the abbey of Roche, the churches of Doncaster, Tickhill, and Rotherham. It appeared to be a waste of labour to employ an artist again on what had been so well represented; and especially as this work aspires not so much to be received as an ornament of the drawing-room, as to be admitted into the studies of the curious.

It may be said that there ought to have been more of the natural history of this district. I answer, that there is little that is peculiar in its natural history, and that natural history is a subject entirely distinct from a history of the operations of man.

The more remarkable only of the charitable foundations are noticed in the following pages; for the rest the reader is referred to the report of the parliamentary commission on this subject, and the more elaborate report of the present commission of charitable uses, which will probably make its appearance before the second volume of this work is in the hands of the public.

While I look with conscious satisfaction at the assistance so kindly rendered from so many quarters towards the completeness of this work, I look with some unaffected apprehension to the expectations which may be entertained from it. From omissions of what ought to appear in a work of this nature, from statements which are in some minute points incorrect, no vigilance can guard. There are few persons who may not, in some instances, mistake in drawing their inferences from the evidence before them. *Neque semper chorda sonum reddit quem vult manus et mens.* Conscious of having been assiduous in collecting together evidence lying in distant depositaries, and of having with much thought and attention compared the various pieces of evidence which were presented, I commit the work to the candid judgment of the public, and especially of my countrymen of the county of York.

BATH, May 1828.