

# CONGREGATIONALISM

## IN YORKSHIRE

*A CHAPTER OF MODERN CHURCH HISTORY*

By JAMES G. MIALL

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE late Rev. Thomas Scales, of Leeds, whose name is deservedly honoured among our Independent Churches, designed to compile a history of Yorkshire Nonconformity, and was engaged, during some years, in gathering materials for this purpose. The pressure of public engagements prevented him from building his detached fragments into a perfect whole. It is an affecting circumstance that his last entry was the record of the death of Rev. J. Paul, Wibsey (May 24, 1860). In proceeding from Gomersal to preach the funeral sermon for this lamented minister, Mr. S. was suddenly seized by a stroke, which terminated his own useful and laborious life.

After Mr. Scales' death, his papers became the property of the West Riding Congregational Union. The entire work was intended to embrace the history of the three Yorkshire Nonconformist denominations—the Presbyterian, Baptist, and Independent. The West Riding Congregational Union, being desirous that the project should be executed so far as it regarded their own body, placed the papers in the hands of the present compiler.

A few sentences only of the intended work were composed by the originator: these will be found under the head of "York." The mass of papers exhibits a miscellaneous combination of facts and dates, strongly illustrating the industry of the collector, but very incomplete and imperfectly arranged. Many considerable periods of time are passed over, informa-

tion regarding which needed to be sought out from independent sources; the records of other periods demanded re-examination and verification, and the notices of the churches given in the Appendix could only be furnished by a new and elaborate process of mosaic work. The volume may be therefore regarded as, in the main, a new compilation.

The Author has not aspired to be a laborious collector of trivial antiquarian details. This would have demanded more time than is compatible with his public and pastoral life. But much pains and labour have been bestowed on giving shape to the scattered materials, and the following up of the design by minuter touches must be left to other hands, though with the conviction that there is much which might prove worth the investigation. Nor has he studiously encumbered his pages with references which could be productive of no adequate advantage.

Among those to whose aid he acknowledges himself much indebted are G. Hadfield, Esq., M.P., Joshua Wilson, Esq., Rev. T. Hunter, Dr. Williams' library, Rev. J. H. Morgan, and Rev. D. Jones, secretary to the movement.

He dedicates this volume to the honoured memory of the late Rev. T. Scales and to the Congregational Churches of Yorkshire, especially those of the West Riding, and he commends them and it to the blessing of Almighty God.

*Bradford, July 13th, 1868.*

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