

# The Baptists of Yorkshire

Being the Centenary Memorial Volume  
of the Yorkshire Baptist Association



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## TO THE READER.

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The publication of this volume commemorates the centenary of the Yorkshire Baptist Association. At the annual assembly of the Association, in 1908, the Rev. John Haslam, D.D., proposed that the occasion should have its memorials in a "Centenary Fund" and in the publication of a "Memorial Volume." Dr. Haslam successfully undertook the accomplishment of his first suggestion, and a sum of more than £1000 has been placed in trust for denominational loan purposes. The completion of the second proposal is now before the reader.

The Committee appointed to prepare the volume requested Professor H. Wheeler Robinson, M.A., to contribute an article on "Baptist Principles before the rise of Baptist Churches." The result is an essay which will be of permanent educative value to the Churches.

Principal W. E. Blomfield, B.A., B.D., was asked to continue with a historical sketch of "The Baptist Churches of Yorkshire in the 17th and 18th centuries." The article under that title has demanded much patient investigation, and presents a succinct record of the origins of those early Churches, which, in a most humble and primitive environment, first testified to our faith, and hope, and love.

To Dr. Haslam—who of all our brethren is most familiar with the rise and progress of the Association—was entrusted the task of preparing the history of its hundred years. This duty has been to Dr. Haslam a labour of love, and has enabled him to revive the memories of many who, no longer in our earthly company, were in past days devoted to the service of Christ and His Church.

It was further decided to include a brief account of each Baptist cause now federated with the Association. The writers to whom this undertaking was assigned realised at once its pleasure and its difficulty. They desire to ameliorate the gentle criticism to which it may be exposed, by reminding the reader of the limitations of space to which they were necessarily subjected.

The Rev. Henry Dowson wrote an account of the associated Churches of the West Riding, in 1842, at which time the Association was represented by four Districts, with forty-two Churches and a total membership of 4717. In 1843, Dr. Evans wrote the history of the Churches of the East and North Ridings Association, which then numbered fourteen Churches with a membership of 1373.

To-day, we review seven Districts, with a total of 142 Churches, and 22,939 members. Nearly twenty Churches still remain outside the Association, and, therefore, are omitted from this volume.

From the historical accounts which have been furnished by the Secretaries of the Churches it has been necessary reluctantly to omit many interesting incidents. Not a few pages recorded the faithful service of men and women who have been as pillars in the temple of our God, but whose story would require a volume far beyond the possible

limits of the present work. All that our writers could hope to do was to submit a brief chronicle of each Baptist cause, and put within reach of the reader some knowledge, however slight, of every associated Church of our faith and order in Yorkshire.

The one hundred and seventy illustrations comprise a photograph of nearly every chapel, with pictures of ancient documents and properties. This will greatly enhance the interest of the memorial.

The contributors have completed their tasks with a deepened sense of love for their Denomination, and of gratitude to God who has so graciously guarded the dawning life of our early communities. The greater number found their nativity in cottages, barns, small upper-rooms, or hired school-houses, from whence they have emerged, by the patient loyalty and self-sacrificing faith of their people, into their present enlarged positions of testimony and service.

May the mantle of their faithfulness fall upon the Churches of to-day, and upon the readers of this memorial volume.

C. E. SHIPLEY,

*General Editor.*

37 STEADE ROAD, SHEFFIELD.

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