

**MEMORIALS OF A DISSENTING CHAPEL,
A SKETCH OF THE RISE OF
NONCONFORMITY IN
MANCHESTER, AND OF THE CHAPEL IN
CROSS STREET WITH NOTICES OF ITS
MINISTERS AND TRUSTEES**

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Memorials of a Dissenting Chapel, a Sketch of the Rise of Nonconformity in Manchester, and of the Chapel in Cross Street with Notices of its Ministers and Trustees by Sir. Thomas Baker

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SIR. THOMAS BAKER

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CROSS STREET CHAPEL, MANCHESTER, IN 1856.

MEMORIALS
OF
A DISSENTING CHAPEL,
ITS FOUNDATION AND WORTHIES;
BEING A SKETCH OF
The Rise of Nonconformity in Manchester
AND OF THE ERECTION OF
THE CHAPEL IN CROSS STREET,
WITH NOTICES OF ITS
MINISTERS AND TRUSTEES.
BY
SIR THOMAS BAKER.

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1884.

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IN MEMORIAM
HELEN DARBISHIRE BAKER,
A WORSHIPPER
FROM HER CHILDHOOD TO HER DEATH
IN THE CHAPEL -
WHOSE HISTORY AND WORTHIES
ARE COMMEMORATED
IN THIS VOLUME.

*Memories throng upon me of much that was loving and true
and good in her whose name consecrates these pages.*



P R E F A C E .

THE account of Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, contained in the following pages, was read at a meeting of the members of the congregation on 29th May, 1854, and a long report of it appeared in the *Manchester Guardian*. A few additions have been made to render it more complete.

The special interest which attaches itself to the Chapel arises from its being the first Nonconforming foundation in Manchester, and from the circumstance that the Rev. Henry Newcome, for whom it was built, was for a time one of the officiating ministers of what had been the Collegiate, but was, during the period of his ministry, simply the Parish Church of Manchester. When a change took place in the political parties of the country and the Church was reinstated in its ecclesiastical dignities and revenues, he was no longer permitted to continue his ministerial services there. He had been elected one of its ministers by the people, not by the Chapter. He had not been episcopally ordained and therefore was considered as having no claim to the dignity and as not qualified for election as a Fellow, and the full number of Fellows was made up without him. Many of his

former bearers sympathised with him in his fallen fortunes, supported him in his wanderings, and, as far as the times allowed, attended upon his ministrations. These were the friends who, when liberty of worship was permitted, erected the Chapel to which the account refers. At first the land was vested in a few of them without any declaration of trust. When their religious services had been conducted for twenty years without interruption, and they became assured that the right of religious thought and practice was fully established, a trust was created declaring the Chapel to be held for purposes of public worship. From that time to the period at which the account ends there had been ten appointments of trustees, which include the names of many who were distinguished, some as active citizens, others for their literary and scientific attainments, and some from having filled the highest official positions in the town and county. Their names are recorded hereafter, with short notices of their families and personal histories. The Chapel has furnished its complement of public men who have been attendants at its services. Seven names may be selected of gentlemen who have discharged the duties of High Sheriffs of Counties, eleven who have been Members of Parliament, and ten who held the highest civic authority in Manchester as Boroughreeves or Mayors. For nearly one-third of the period which has elapsed since its incorporation the city has been presided over by