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NORTHUMBERLAND AND
DURHAM**

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THE PLACE-NAMES
OF
NORTHUMBERLAND
AND
DURHAM

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

by

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PREFACE

THE study of English place-names is steadily advancing in its methods and extent and in the present volume an attempt is made to deal with two more counties. Work on them has taken much the greater part of eight years, sadly interrupted by the war and other circumstances. These interruptions have had their bad influence in making it more difficult than usual to secure that uniformity of handling and presentation which is desirable in a theme of this kind. On the other hand, they have enabled the author to take advantage of the ever-growing literature—English and Scandinavian—that deals with these matters. As one reads it, the unhappy conviction is more and more brought home to one that no single county can be dealt with satisfactorily apart from a survey of the field of English place-nomenclature as a whole. In the disorganised condition of English place-name study it is impossible to look for those happy results that have already been attained in Norway, and are fast becoming possible in Sweden and Denmark, as the result of organised research, aided by the State. Those who recognise the importance of these studies must labour to secure similar co-operation in England, and, in the meantime, endeavour to keep interest alive by such single-handed efforts as they can individually make.

The present volume follows the general lines of study laid down by Skeat, Wyld, and Moorman, but there are a few points in which it endeavours to work on newer and