

**MEMORIALS OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OR
'OLD INDEPENDENT MEETING
HOUSE,' MILBOURNE PORT**

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Memorials of the Congregational Church or 'Old Independent Meeting House,' Milbourne Port
by Mrs. E. R. Pitman

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MRS. E. R. PITMAN

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OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
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MILBORNE PORT.

BY
MRS. E. R. PITMAN,

AUTHORESS OF "HEROINES OF THE MISSION FIELD;" "MISSION LIFE IN
GREECE AND PALRESTINE;" "VESTINA'S MARTYRDOM;" "CENTRAL
AFRICA, JAPAN, AND FIJI," ETC., ETC.

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INTRODUCTION.

THIS work has been a long "labour of love." Ten years ago the writer commenced collecting these "Memorials," and since then no opportunity of gaining information has been allowed to pass unimproved. Her best thanks are due to those friends who have assisted her by lending old records bearing on the subject; notably to Rev. E. H. Perkins, who lent a MS. compiled by a Mr. Simon King, and to the late Samuel Newton Parsons, Esq., who allowed her to make extracts from an old church book in his possession, and indicated the existence of information in other quarters. Other authorities have been consulted, such as "Fletcher's History of Independency," Dr. Calamy's "Nonconformist Memorial," and a valuable old MS. "History of the Presbyterian, Independent, and Baptist Churches in England

and Wales," compiled by Mr. Walter Wilson, and now in the Dissenters' Library, London. This History gives much valuable information concerning a period of some eighty years, which otherwise would be unknown.

This work would have been issued sooner, but that a promise was given to Mr. Parsons that it should not be published in his lifetime. Now he has passed away, and as a large outlay is being made by the Church (of nearly £300 in the total) for renovations and improvements in the chapel, the time appears to have come for the completion of this history. The writer's work is entirely gratuitous; after paying for the cost of publication for this edition (500 copies), the entire surplus will go into the Church's treasury, to assist in the payment of the debt. It is sufficient privilege for her to serve God's cause in this way, and to gain the commendation and praise of Him who has promised that "a cup of cold water" given in His Name shall "in no wise lose its reward."

E. R. PITMAN.

MILBORNE PORT

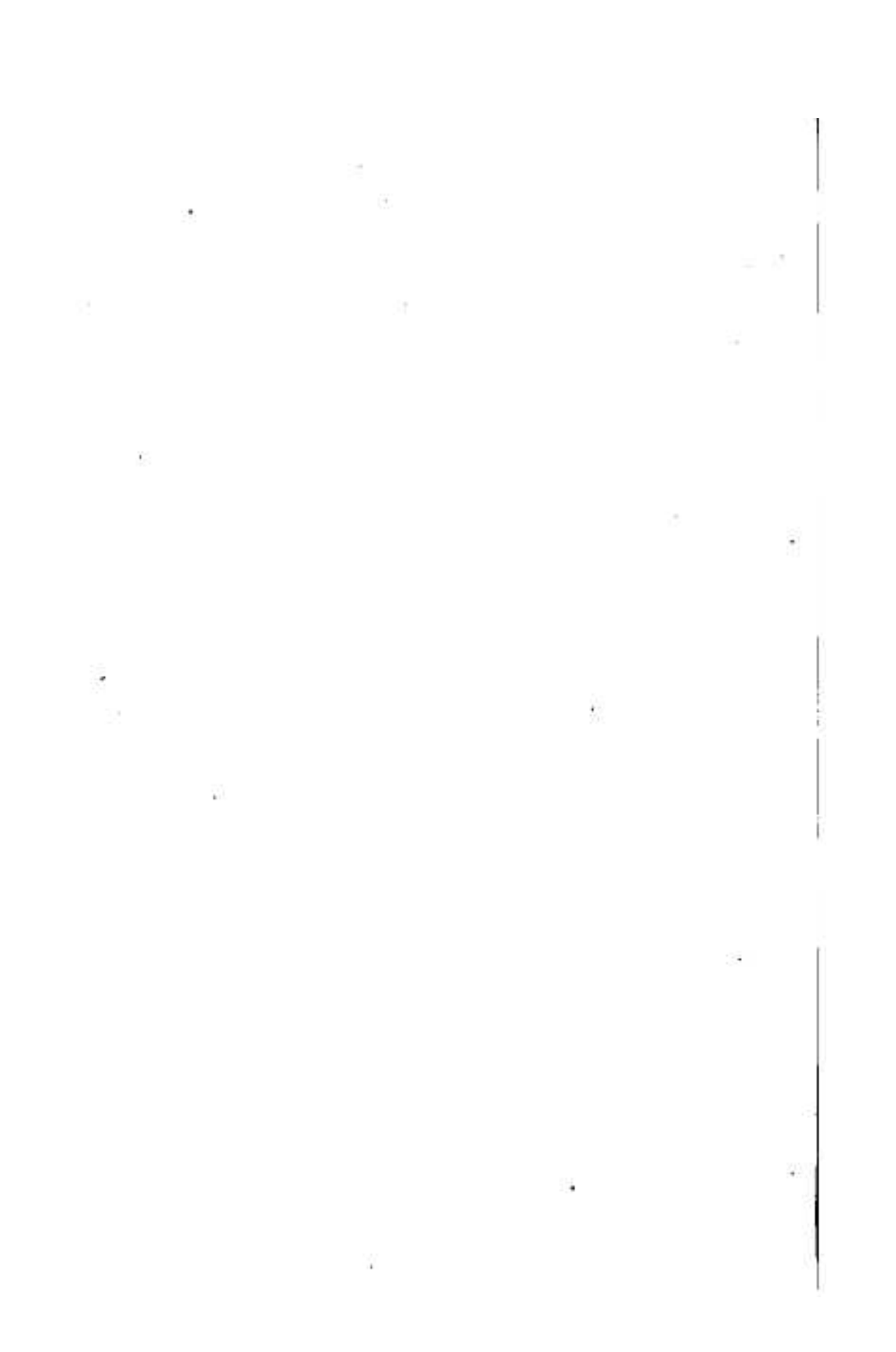
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MEMORIALS.

CHAPTER I.

CHRONICLES OF MILBORNE PORT.

MILBORNE Port is an ancient borough, situated on the borders of Somerset and Dorset, in the midst of the Blackmore Vale. It is an old-fashioned, picturesque town, now somewhat decayed, but still retaining relics of its former importance. It is watered by a rivulet rising at Bradley Head, near Milborne Wick, a little hamlet north-west of the town, which rivulet runs into the Parret, and is known as the Ivel or Yeo. The name of the town is derived from the Saxon word *bourn*, "a stream," and *mylen*, "a mill," thus signifying the connection of the river with the mills. The word *port* is said to signify "a town," so that in our old Saxon etymology the literal meaning of the name would be "Mill-stream Town." Or, according to other authorities, the word is derived from *porta*, "a gate." The "Domesday Book," compiled in the reign of William the Conqueror, states that there