

**REMAINS, HISTORICAL AND LITERARY,
CONNECTED WITH THE PALATINE COUNTIES
OF LANCASTER AND CHESTER; VOLUME 5. -
NEW SERIES: THE RECTORS OF MANCHESTER,
AND THE WARDENS OF THE COLLEGIATE
CHURCH OF THAT TOWN; PART I; PP. 1-97**

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F. R. RAINES

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REMAINS

Historical and Literary ⁶⁰⁸⁷⁴

CONNECTED WITH THE PALATINE COUNTIES OF

Lancaster and Chester.



VOLUME 5. — NEW SERIES.

MANCHESTER :

Printed for the Chetham Society.

1885.

THE
Rectors of Manchester,
AND THE
Gardens of the Collegiate Church
OF THAT TOWN.

BY THE LATE
REV. F. R. RAINES, M.A.,
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

PART I.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.
1885.



PRINTED BY CHARLES E. SIMMS,
MANCHESTER.

INTRODUCTION.

THE contents of the present volume are derived from the *MSS.* of the late Canon RAINES, the notes on the early Rectors being from vol. xli. of the Raines' Bequest, and the Lives of the Wardens being from vol. xl.

It is evident that an accurate account of the Wardens was a project that had occupied a large share of the attention of this indefatigable compiler, who justly viewed the College as the spot around which the ecclesiastical history of the district was gathered,—“that noble and useful foundation for learning and propagation of religion in those northern parts” (*Strype Annals*, vol. II. i. p. 515).

Sir William Dugdale might perhaps properly be regarded as the antiquary who supplied the first incitement to the compilation of a continuous history of the College, for he printed a copy of the charter of Henry V. for the colligation of the parish church. (*Monasticon*, vol. iii. pt. ii. pp. 174-5, 1st ed.)

An investigator of considerable diligence, animated by sentiments arising out of local attachments, arose in the Rev. Richard Hollinworth, Fellow of the College before the civil troubles, and afterwards minister of the town.

His *MS.* called *Mancuniensis*, which has not yet been worthily edited, mainly centres round the Wardens of the College; and it has been the compilation to which subsequent writers have been largely indebted.

An older *MS.* list of the Wardens, comprising also particulars of the founders of the chantry chapels, was also in existence in the town, and more copies than one have been referred to. The original compiler of this list must have had access to authentic papers, and conversed with persons who had preserved some memories of the past. Canon Raines was inclined to attribute one copy of the *MS.*, dated *c.* 1730, to the Rev. Robert Asheton (*Lanc. Chantries*, p. 19; and see p. 14 of this work and other subsequent references). Another small copy, known as Aynscough's *MS.*, was in the hand-writing either of the Rev. Radley Aynscough, M.A., Fellow of Manchester College, 1727, who married a daughter of Dr. Wroe, and who died in 1728, aged 47; or of his son, the Rev. Thomas Aynscough, M.A., Fellow in 1761, who died 1793, aged 74; and one of these clergymen made some additions to it. Another copy of the *MS.*, fuller in detail, was in possession of the Rev. Joshua Brookes, of witty memory, brought down to the date of 1684 or 1686. This may perhaps be identified with a copy which was printed in *Local Gleanings*, 4to., vol. ii. p. 291. Another was in possession of a Mr. Reynolds. Two or three of these *MSS.* were in existence in the time of the Rev. John Greswell, M.A., Master of the Chetham College School about the year 1807, who has quoted them in his

collections for the history of Manchester, and he was perhaps the last person to use them. Canon Raines, who quotes Aynscough's *MS.* occasionally, had never seen the original, but derived the passages from Greswell's *MS.* What appears to be a copy of the original *MS.* occurs in No. 5836 of the additional *MSS.* in the British Museum; and another very indifferent copy was published in the *Manchester City News*, 3 October, 1885.

A very good list of the Wardens, based partly on one of these old *MSS.*, was published in 1773 (8vo, pp. 16) entitled, *An Account of the Wardens of Christ's College Church, Manchester, since the Foundation in 1422, to the present time.* Illustrated with an elegant view of Christ Church. (London: Printed by W. E. And sold by A. and J. Clarke, Booksellers, at the Bible and Crown, Market place, Manchester. MDCCLXXIII.) The similarity of phrases, &c., indicate that the compiler of this list had one of the old *MSS.* before him. The printed list of 1773 was used by the author of the very excellent *Description of Manchester* published in the town 1783, 8vo., said to be drawn up by "a native of the town," who refers to it as "an account printed here of the original foundation of the College, and a succession of Wardens, which was brought down to Warden Wroe." (pp. 23-4.) He further says: "The author had certainly seen good records, and has reported facts in a stile rather pedantic, and too diffuse for our narrative. There are some strictures on his characters, a little heightened with the acrimony of party; but as they throw light on the former

state of the town and its history, we shall endeavour to preserve the order and substance of this account, making such remarks in the course of it as may justify our observations."

Mr. Greswell, in the *MS.* already alluded to, made the Wardens the central figures of his researches. His position at the College gave him facilities for investigation in a wide range of literature; but he never lived to give perfection to his labour. His work, contained in a large and thick folio, brought down to the year 1782, is now at the Chetham Library, and its condition as well as its character are pretty fairly set forth in the Latin motto which he has placed upon the title-page, *Dum lego colligo*. A more finished work might have been looked for from one who was brother to the great scholar, the Rev. W. P. Greswell of Denton. In the year 1808 the compiler endeavoured, but in vain, to persuade Sir Richard Phillips to publish the *MS.*

After Mr. Greswell's death the *MS.* (according to Dr. Hibbert-Ware, vol. i. p. 415) became the property of Mr. Wm. Ford, the Manchester bookseller, who in 1817 proposed to issue it, with notes, to form what was to be an illustrated history of the Church and College; the architectural portion to be undertaken by Mr. John Palmer, and the whole to be on the same scale as Britton's *Architectural Antiquities*. This proposal fell through; and the *MS.* next passed into the hands of Mr. James Midgeley of Rochdale for £50. Dr. Hibbert-Ware mentions another transcript of this collection (vol. i. p. 40), which had been