SMALLEY IN THE COUNTY OF DERBY: ITS HISTORY & LEGENDS

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CHARLES KERRY

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Trieste

✦ Smalley ✦

Church of S. John Baptist, Smalley.

Smalley

IN THE

COUNTY OF DERBY

ITS

History & Legends

BY THE

REV. CHARLES KERRY

Late Editor of the "Derbyshire Archæological Journal"; Author of "History of St. Lawrence's, Reading," etc., etc.

"Gather up the fragments . . . that nothing be lost"

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AND DERBY

1905

TO

ARTHUR RADFORD, ESQ.

OF BRADFIELD HALL, BERKS., WHOSE EARLIEST
ASSOCIATIONS WITH HIS ANCESTRAL HOME
CAN NEVER BE EFFACED, THIS LITTLE
BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
BY ONE WHOM TIME WILL
SOON RESTORE TO ALL
HE HOLDS MOST
DEAR

Preface

It has been said that a "parish is a county in miniature, and that the history of one is the history of all." To endeavour the *complete* history of a parish would be a very serious undertaking. I have not attempted it, because it could not be done. Sir Walter Raleigh was a great but unfortunate man. He wrote the History of the World in his prison. My little book has been written in a sick room, chiefly from notes made years ago, when Smalley in many ways wore an old-world aspect—with its old houses, its aged people full of legends and tales of their fathers, only too pleased to relate them, a population from the ancient home stock—each man carrying on the trade of his fathers, all combining to supply almost every local need. It is very different now.

Very few of the old standards are left, and the place naturally can have but little interest to the new settlers who are mostly employed at the neighbouring coal mines.

The last thirty years have witnessed a marvellous change in Smalley. The commencement of its decline dates from the beginning of the present long agricultural depression. Fifty years ago there were no less than twenty different occupations in the village; now, there are about seven. Once it was difficult to get out of the sound of the stocking frame; now, only one or two silk looms are left. There is no inducement for an enterprising youth to remain in the place: he hastens to populous centres, where, unfortunately, too often he finds there is no employment for him.

The good condition of the roads, and the near accommodation of the railways are detrimental to the shopkeepers, for the people, more for the love of excitement and change than for economy, carry their custom from home, while the importation of so much