COLLECTIONS FOR A PAROCHIAL HISTORY OF WRAXALL

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OF

WRAXALL

BY

THE REV. GEORGE S. MASTER, M.A.

BRISTOL:
J. W. ARROWSMITH, PRINTER, QUAY STREET,
1900.

It is with the deepest regret we have to record the fact that the author passed away on November 8th, 1900, before his work was issued from the press; he was able, however, to correct the sheets up to the 127th page, and we can only trust that the remainder has been carried out as he would have had it done.

Rev. J. A. WADMORE, } *Joint Hon.*
F. WERE, } *Secretaries.*

The grateful thanks of the writer are tendered to the Rector of the Parish, the Rev. Henry Vaughan, for access to the valuable "Gorges" papers, left in his custody by the late Rev. Frederic Brown, and for much varied information; to The Lord Aldenham, for allowing reproductions to be made of privately engraved plates in his possession; to the Rt. Honble. Sir Edward Fry, Antony Gibbs, Esq., F. Were, Esq., C. E. Kempe, Esq., Mr. John Price, and other friends, for their valuable and kindly assistance; and to W. Hill Budgett, Esq., and the Rev. W. A. Woodward, for excellent photographic illustrations, to which reproduction has done but scant justice.

WRAXALL CHURCH (EXTERIOR).

From a Photograph by W. H. Budgett, Esq.

WRAXALL.

Of the etymology and meaning of this place, anciently written 'Werocosale,' I have no explanation to give.

The parish, an extensive one, bounded on the North by Portbury and Easton in Gordano, on the East by Abbot's Leigh and Long Ashton, on the South by Flax Bourton and Backwell, on the West by Tickenham and Nailsea, includes a large and varied area, extending over the brow of the hills on the North, and the rich meadow land of the broad valley on the South. A block of the Parish of Portbury, invading it on the North, interferes somewhat with the line of its proper boundary at Failand Hill. The prospects it commands include the Bristol Channel to Monmouthshire and the Wye, with the Cotswolds and intervening Gloucestershire country, the mountains of Wales, the wider expanse of sea towards the West, with the Holmes, Worle Hill, and Woodspring, the villages and churches of Dundry, Barrow-Gurney, Flax-Bourton, Backwell, Chelvey, Congresbury, Yatton, Worle, Uphill, Kenn, Kingston-Seymour, Nailsea, Tickenham, and Clevedon, with the Mendips on the South. Its picturesque, irregular limestone slopes are clothed with indigenous yews of fantastic growth, and coppices of hazel, while its meadows produce mighty elms. It is intersected on its higher ground from East to West by the high road from Clifton to Clevedon, and along its lower level by a branch of that from Bristol to Weston.