

**HISTORICAL MEMORIALS OF
BROAD STREET CHAPEL,
READING: BEING SKETCHES OF
ITS PASTORS AND ITS PROGRESS**

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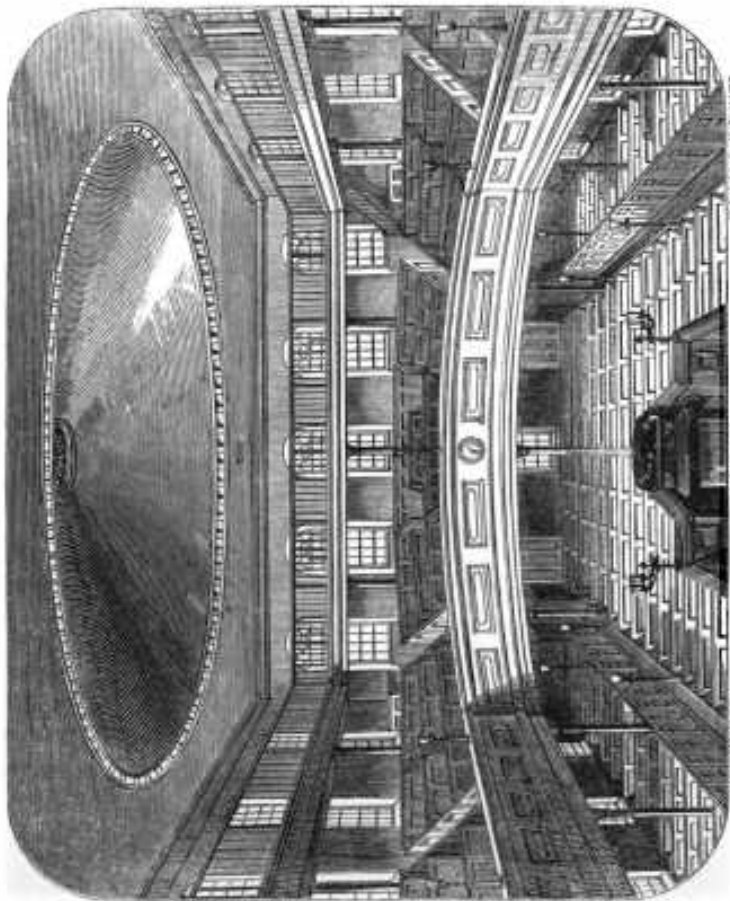
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WILLIAM LEGG

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INTERIOR OF BROAD STREET CHAPEL.

Historical Memorials

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BEING SKETCHES OF ITS PASTORS AND ITS PROGRESS.

BY

WILLIAM LEGG, B. A.

Pastor.



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Preface.

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THIS is a book of remembrance. It seeks to record the faith, the piety, the patience, the alms-deeds, the painful labours, and the peaceful progress, of a Church that has worshipped, and of Pastors who have served it in the Gospel, on a time-honoured spot. The records of the Church should be more minutely legible than all other history beside, as the latter traces God in Providence, the former, in Grace. The Church does not willingly suffer the memory of her good and useful to fade away. She calls them into her service, and is blessed in their usefulness, when living; and consecrates them to an honorable mention, and for a bright example to her children, when dead.

The following History was read by the Pastor at a Tea Meeting held in the New Hall, Reading, on the evening of Monday, December second, eighteen hundred and fifty, for the purpose of celebrating the fiftieth year since the erection of the Chapel to which it refers. It is now published at the request of those who heard it. After it had been read, the following resolution was unanimously passed :

Moved by Mr. J. Brain, sen., and seconded by Mr. T. C. Williams, " That the History of the Church and Congregation connected with Broad Street Chapel, which has now been read, should call forth our adoring gratitude to God for graciously preserving his cause there for so many years ; for the peace and prosperity at present granted to the Church, and the Institutions which it cherishes ; and for enabling us to celebrate this fiftieth year since the opening of the present sanctuary, under cir-

cumstances so well calculated to awaken hope for the future: and that our much-esteemed Pastor be requested to publish these interesting records as a memorial of the Lord's goodness."

As to the propriety of publishing under this sanction there can be no doubt, and if the occasion had not led to its being done now, it is probable that the records of the elder time would soon have perished, as it was by the merest incident that some of the most interesting materials were discovered, while for another portion the writer is indebted to a Friend who delights in antiquarian research. In publishing the fourth chapter, the Author feels that he has tried a somewhat hazardous experiment. He can only say that he has spoken the truth in modesty. The confession of faith was requested for publication at the time when it was made, but for various reasons the request was not complied with, and the rest of the docu-

ments had been made public in the natural progress of events. He sends forth the book with an earnest prayer that the blessing of Him who is Head of the Church universal, without which our doings are nothing worth, may rest upon it.

CASTLE HILL,

MARCH, 1851.