THE HISTORY OF THURLASTON, LEICESTERSHIRE, INCLUDING NORMANTON TURVILLE, NEW HALL PARK, AND BASSETT HOUSE: COLLECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, AND WRITTEN IN NARRATIVE FORM

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The History of Thurlaston, Leicestershire, Including Normanton Turville, New Hall Park, and Bassett House: Collected from Various Sources, and Written in Narrative Form by John Ordish Hulme

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JOHN ORDISH HULME

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OF

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INCLUDING

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BY

JOHN ORDISH HULME,

BEING

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CHURCH AND PARISH FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE YEAR 1897, THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA.

To

The Revd. William Townshend, M.A.,

Present Rector of Thurlaston,

and Rural Dean,

This History of the Church and Parish

is

by his permission

specially dedicated.

August 9th, 1904.

Halliday 7 Aug: 1929

Introduction.

To any one who attempts to write the History of a small Country Parish, there must naturally occur difficulties which are not experienced by the author of fiction or even of general history. The writer of fiction may give free play to his imagination in every direction, and no fault can be found with this so long as his writing is true to life and nature; the author of general history has plenty of material in National and Official Records, well preserved and duly authenticated, from which he can form a true statement of the subject he has in hand; while in both these cases, if the book be at all interesting, it may reasonably be expected to fall into the hands of perhaps thousands of readers, and obtain a wide circulation in the first and in subsequent editions. But, in a parochial history, unless some great national event or celebrated circumstance has occurred within its limits, the circulation it may be anticipated to acquire must necessarily, at the best, be comparatively small, the subject being only interesting to those who are either natives of the place or have lived in it long enough to feel connected with its welfare: to some others it may appeal from the fact that the parish is the resting-place of some dear relative or friend; while to a very limited number of other persons, generally known as *antiquarians*, who gladly avail themselves of any information that may be gleaned about the past, it may be found useful to increase the historical collection they have already accumulated.

Then, as regards the History itself, the labour of collecting the materials from many books and documents, of distinguishing between truth and mere conjecture, of deciding how much to insert as of importance, how much to omit as unnecessary to the object in view;—and the regret that must be felt in rejecting as worthless some local tradition long cherished by the parishioners, but of which no authenticated record can be found;—all these obstacles may well deter any person from attempting to write and publish the History of a small Parish.

In this particular case, however, having had special opportunities accorded to me during the past few years of collecting information about the ancient Church and Parish of Thurlaston, the encouragement I have received in the matter has prompted me to go on with the task; and it now seems fitting that no more time shall be allowed to pass away without placing before the parishioners as complete an account as possible of what has happened here in past ages.

As I have already privately and individually acknowledged the generous permission given me to peruse the valuable books and documents in the Reference Department of the Leicester Public Free Library, in the British Museum, in the Lichfield Cathedral Library, as well as other assistance, I now publicly tender my hearty thanks to everyone who in any way, however slight, has aided me by placing information at my disposal.

As very much of the history gleaned from the older chronicles is compiled in a style and language not suitable for general reading, I have thought it well to arrange the whole account in a more narrative form, and as far as possible in its proper consecutive order, so as to make it acceptable and instructive to all classes of readers; placing in an Appendix, for the sake of those who wish for them, as many extracts from the