

**BRIEF MEMORIALS OF
THE EARLY HISTORY
OF CHIPPING NORTON**

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Brief Memorials of the Early History of Chipping Norton by Charles Kirtland

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CHARLES KIRTLAND

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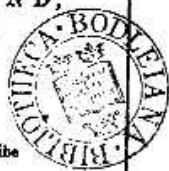
WITH AN APPENDIX CONTAINING NOTICES OF REMARKABLE
ANTIQUITIES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

BY CHARLES KIRTLAND,
Secretary to the British and Irish Mission,
LONDON.

"Describe the Borough,"—though our curious tribe
May love description, can we so describe
That you shall fairly streets and buildings trace,
And all that gives distinction to a place?
This cannot be; yet moved by your request,
A part I paint, let fancy form the rest."

CRABER.

G. B. SMITH,
CHIPPING NORTON, OXON.
1871.



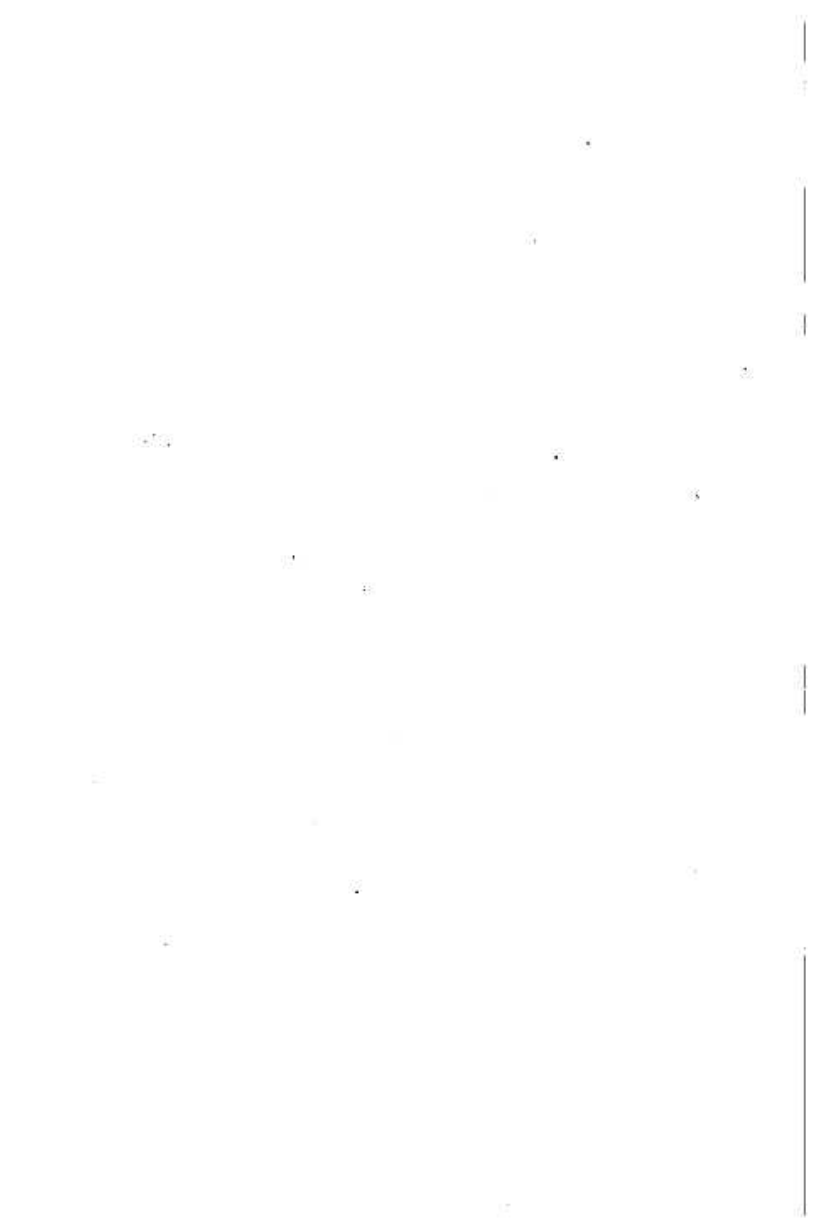
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S. B. SMITH, PRINTER,
CHIPPING NORTON.

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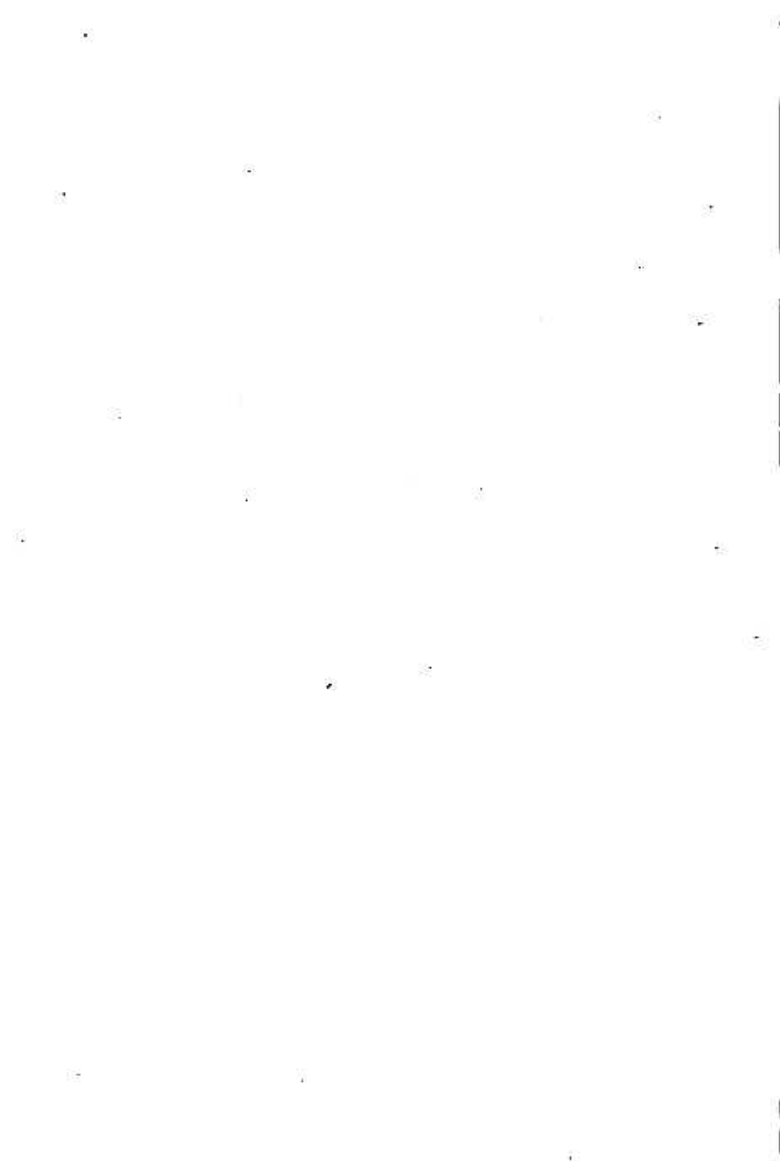
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INTRODUCTION.

On Wednesday Evening, the 29th of March last, I delivered a Lecture on "Chipping Norton and the Neighbourhood in the Olden Time," in the Town Hall. The conviction that I brought no special qualifications to a work such as that, made me hesitate to occupy the position of a public teacher on the occasion. My occupation leaves me but slender opportunities for literary pursuits: but having had—for some years past—a wish that the inhabitants of my native town should hear what could be said about its early history, I have devoted—during the last three years—such fragments of time as I could spare, to inquiries which related to the subject. I have simply been a collector and compiler of materials that are buried in rare old books, and spread over a period of seven or eight centuries. These materials I first threw into the form of a lecture, and the lecture has now grown into a small book, which I respectfully dedicate to ALL CLASSES IN THE TOWN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD OF CHIPPING NORTON.



CHAPTER I.

Pride of Antiquity. Claims of Home.

AMONG the different forms of pride of which human nature is the subject, the pride of antiquity is not the least prominent. "We have Abraham to our father" is a Jewish boast, but it embodies a universal sentiment. A peasant farmer, who lived in a mud cabin, and probably shared his bed-room with his pigs and poultry, once boasted to me that he could trace back his pedigree—not quite so far as the Deluge, but to a remote period. We are prouder of *Old* England than of *Great* Britain. The order of precedence at Court pageants and ceremonials is determined by the date of the patent of nobility. A scion of a great ducal house has immortalized himself in a well-known couplet—

"Let laws and learning, trade, and commerce die;
But give us back our old nobility!"

How we worship old castles, abbeys, cathedrals, and old ruins. What an authority in all local matters is that venerable and half mythical personage, "the oldest inhabitant!" The subject possesses additional interest from the fact that it relates to *home*. This word exercises a fascination over the mind which belongs to no other in the language. Our holiest memories, our deepest sympathies, our strongest affections, and our pleasantest associations all centre in