

**RIBBLESDALE; OR,
LANCASHIRE SIXTY
YEARS AGO. IN
THREE VOLUMES. VOL. I**

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Ribblesdale; Or, Lancashire Sixty Years Ago. In Three Volumes. Vol. I by Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth

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SIR JAMES KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH

**RIBBLESDALE; OR,
LANCASHIRE SIXTY
YEARS AGO. IN
THREE VOLUMES. VOL. I**

RIBBLESDALE

OR

LANCASHIRE SIXTY YEARS AGO

BY

SIR JAMES KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH, BART.

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOL. I.



LONDON

SMITH, ELDER, & CO., 15 WATERLOO PLACE

1874

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P R E F A C E.

A FEW WORDS of introduction appear to the Author desirable in order to prevent misconception.

The scene of this story is chiefly that part of Ribblesdale which lies between Clitheroe and Ribchester, together with those portions of the valleys of the Hodder and Calder which extend a few miles on either side of the main stream to which they are tributaries. The names of places in this region are not changed, and the author has endeavoured to describe them with fidelity. But the reader would search in vain for two or three accessories, such as the Bendwood Cliff. He may find the beech wood, at Pendleton, on the flank of Pendle, but not the rock, the water-

fall, and the Owlets' Hole. No other important change has been made in the picture of Lancashire scenery.

On the other hand, Legh Court, in Cheshire, is the result of a combination of separate features.

As the frame-work of the story is so far real, it becomes the Author to declare that the dramatic action never had any association in fact with the scenes; that the principal characters in these volumes are not portraits; and that the incidents never, to his knowledge, happened in any Lancashire family. He has even thought it prudent to brave the criticism of genealogists, by mixing with the names of the De la Leghs those of other old families, lest any one should be led to attribute the history contained in these pages to branches whose names are as familiar as household words in Lancashire.

The pictures of life in the cattle fair, in the hand-loom weavers' cottages, in the homesteads of the hill farmers, in the halls of the small

yeoman-squires, in the homes of the Puritan manufacturers of sixty years ago, the Author avows to be drawn from his own knowledge and experience. To make these sketches of what he observed in his early youth has been one principal motive with him for writing this tale. But he has endeavoured to subordinate this object to the dramatic action.

The story is founded on the antipathies and rivalries of the ancient gentry with the families enriched by commerce. Sixty years have not passed without a great change, both in the characteristics of the trading classes, and in their relations to the hereditary aristocracy of Lancashire. For that reason, it has seemed desirable to paint a picture of what those relations were in the first few years of this century.

The Hindles are typical of many families of manufacturers, with the whole household economy of which the Author was familiar. If there be anything like a portrait in the volume, it is that of Mr. Hindle and his household. His

daughter is only personally ideal, and in the conditions by which she is surrounded. Her beauty, grace, and accomplishments have been endowments of ladies in families which have rapidly risen, like the Hindles, from a humble and obscure position.

The intention of the Author has, however, not been confined to a picture of society in Lancashire sixty years ago. He has hoped by the story to hold up for admiration the virtues of each separate class, to justify the individuality of their characteristics when they were worthy of approbation, and to expose to scorn their follies and vices.

He has also had a personal pleasure in describing scenes of great beauty, near which he has long lived, and a visit to which will repay the time of any tourist who can appreciate the charms of repose in an English landscape.

68 CROMWELL ROAD, S.W.

December 1, 1873.

RIBBLESDALE.

CHAPTER I.

SIXTY years ago, no scene brought out more clearly the characteristics of the people of the Lancashire and Yorkshire border than a country fair. As the population and the facilities of intercourse have increased, the ordinary markets have almost superseded these annual gatherings of the people of the district. The shepherds and herdsmen of the Scotch border frequent them less since their flocks are transported by the railway. The travelling packmen, the cadgers with ponies, the wandering tinkers with portable stoves, the braziers, whitesmiths, and knife-grinders with their shandrys, or small carts, and the brush-makers, rug, mat, and carpet-dealers with their vans, are, to a great extent, superseded by the settled tradesmen of