

**STONYHURST COLLEGE, ITS PAST
AND PRESENT: AN ACCOUNT OF
ITS HISTORY, ARCHITECTURE,
TREASURES, CURIOSITIES, &C.**

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Stonyhurst College, Its Past and Present: An Account of Its History, Architecture, Treasures, Curiosities, &c. by A. Hewitson

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A. HEWITSON

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BY A. HEWITSON.

ILLUSTRATED BY DALZIEL BROTHERS.



"It is a goodly sight to see."

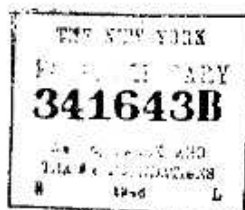
PRESTON:

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1870.

L.C.

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TO

THE REV. E. I. PURBRICK, S.J.,

Rector of Stonyhurst College,

THIS WORK

IS,

WITH PERMISSION,

MOST RESPECTFULLY AND GRATEFULLY

DEDICATED,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

P R E F A C E .

I have decided to publish this work because a full description of Stonyhurst College—one of the most valuable educational institutions in the country—is necessary; because I promised, some time ago, to give such a description; and because many persons have expressed a desire that, when written, it should assume the form in which I am now presenting it. All great establishments, wherein the brain and the heart of the nation's future manhood have to be enlightened, and broadened, and strengthened,—made fit to compete with the vast outer world of action, to take part in its battles, promote its virtues, and share in its triumphs—are of vital significance. It is essential that we should know something of such places; and I have, therefore, chosen one, amongst the many, for description—one allied with a body whose mental lucidity has never been excelled, and whose earnestness has not yet been equalled—one in whose school-rooms have been trained some of the most learned and most energetic of men—one around whose goodly masonry the memories and affections of many are entwined—one which sprang from the ashes of persecution and is becoming each year more potent and brilliant in the arena of success;—I refer to the great Jesuit College of Stonyhurst. In order that I may mislead no one, and that I may not, in any sense, be accused of either "partisanship," or "sectarian bigotry," it is necessary I should say

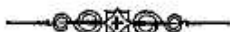
Brockton Jan 30, 1946

PREFACE.

that I do not belong to the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, my record of the College may be taken as that of an "independent witness." I have endeavoured throughout to be faithful; I have desired in all I said to be accurate; I have striven, from beginning to end, to be impartial—to leave out nothing worth mentioning, to describe truthfully all worth seeing. I have to thank many gentlemen for the assistance they have given me in the prosecution of my labours—the Rev. E. I. Purbrick, Rector of the College, who has facilitated, to the utmost of his ability, my enquiries, given me the fullest access to every part of the building, and kindly revised the proofs of this work; several of the priests in charge of different departments of the College; some away from it; T. Weld Blundell, Esq., of Ince Blundell, who has supplied me with important information regarding the transference of the old Stonyhurst mansion to the Jesuit Fathers; and other gentlemen directly or collaterally associated with the establishment. I have also to thank Mr. R. Pateson, photographer, of Preston, who furnished me with the views from which the engravings are taken, and has enabled me, by his photo-lithographic process, to reproduce facsimiles of two of the most valuable books in the College. The index I have annexed refers to the chief subjects of interest. I trust the work will be both interesting and instructive, and I now leave it to speak for itself.

Preston, December 17th, 1870. A. HEWITSON.

STONYHURST COLLEGE.



ALL over the world Stonyhurst College is known. It is the finest educational establishment of the Jesuits in Great Britain. For three quarters of a century its light has been radiating; and, as each year passes, the circle of its influence widens and brightens. It has been the *alma mater* of a multitude too vast for analysis; and from its doors has emerged a continuous line of men for every department of life—some for the regions of rank and opulence, many for the fiercely-competing world of secular business, and numbers for the more sacred arena of religion. Intellects of the strongest and clearest type, hearts of the sincerest and most devoted character, powers and capacities of the subtlest and finest mould have been trained and developed here; around it are many objects of particular interest; within it the beautiful, the rare, the olden, with a full measure of the elaborate, the most recent, and the most

useful in every department of educational life, preponderate. In historical association, in religion, science, art, literature, in the wealth of its antiquities, the complexity and uniqueness of its curiosities, saying nothing of its chief and most vital mechanism—that by which its education is promoted—Stonyhurst College stands supreme in this part of the country. We purpose giving an account of it, for the perusal of the public, more comprehensive than any yet written, and more accurate, if possible, than any which has been published. In its direct and collateral bearings the place is full of interest to all classes, whatever may be their creed, having a taste for the valuable, the beautiful, and the ancient. Many persons have visited Stonyhurst College; few have really seen it. That is no solecism, for the bulk of those who patronise it as sight-seers must, through a variety of circumstances—the greatness of the establishment, the shortness of the time at their disposal, &c.—be quick in their movements, and that precludes minute observation and a clear acquaintance with many of its finest details and most valuable treasures. A full description of the college, and yet one neither too tedious nor too prolix, is needed. We shall endeavour to give such a description—written plainly, for the popular mind, written so as to avoid the spirit of sectarianism, written truthfully and more with an eye to realised facts and actual objects—to what has been done and seen, to what has transpired, and may now be observed in the College, than to speculative points, and matters of opinion.

As an educational institution, Stonyhurst College does not date very far back; its origin is not lost in the "haze of centuries"; many of the general colleges in the south of England pale it completely in length of years; the bulk of our grammar schools surpass it on the score of antiquity; but by none has it been excelled, by few equalled in strength and rapidity of development, in success of action, in prosperity of career, and in the wide and deep range of its influence. Stonyhurst College is situated in a finely-rural and most picturesque part of North East Lancashire, thirteen miles from Preston, ten from Blackburn, which is its post town, and four from Whalley. It is 381 feet above the level of the sea, is environed with mountain ranges, whilst near it are beautiful vales, and quietly flowing waters, and extensive woodland scenery. Kemple End, which terminates the fell of Longridge, rises up with its dark, rugged brow in front of it; the Hodder, romantic and lovely, winds round its rear, and is then taken up by the Ribble and passed on to the sea; Whalley, with its olden abbey-ruins, nestles quietly amid a world of foliage yet farther back; Clitheroe, with its castle heights and tall surrounding chimneys, stands out defiantly, yet picturesquely, upon a lofty platform near the same quarter; away down to the south-west runs the hill range of Billington, skirted with the steam trails of passing locomotives, and ending with the tiny spire of Mellor; whilst directly to the east Pendle, with its witch lore and phantasies, raises its lofty sloping form, catching the gold