

**REMAINS, HISTORICAL AND LITERARY,  
CONNECTED WITH THE PALATINE  
COUNTIES OF LANCASTER  
AND CHESTER, VOLUME 7. - NEW  
SERIES; THE OLD CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
LIBRARIES OF LANCASHIRE**

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**RICHARD COPLEY CHRISTIE**

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1885.



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OLD LIBRARY, BOLTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

THE  
**Old Church and School Libraries**  
of Lancashire.

BY  
**RICHARD COPLEY CHRISTIE,**  
CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER,  
PRESIDENT OF THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE volume now offered to the members of the Chetham Society contains all the information which I have been able to collect respecting the Old Church and School Libraries of Lancashire, which were in existence before the year 1750. Only one part, however, can claim to be exhaustive or complete—that which deals with the Church Libraries founded by Humphrey Chetham at Manchester, Bolton, Turton, Walmsley, and Gorton. As to these, I believe that I have been able to put together all that is known or likely to be known of their foundation and history. Of the other libraries, although much is set down that has never before appeared, and although the accounts are, I hope, more accurate than any that have hitherto been given, yet of several much more might be added by anyone resident on the spot, and prepared to give the necessary time to an examination of the libraries themselves, and the documents and records belonging to the several parishes or schools. The libraries of Astley, Burnley, Cartmel, and

Hawkshead, have never received anything like a thorough examination. Each of them deserves an accurate catalogue, and I have no doubt that a thorough examination of the books would result in the discovery of volumes, certainly of equal, possibly of greater rarity and interest than those which I have noticed. The preparation of anything like a complete account of the contents of these libraries would have involved at least a week's work in each, and to state the results would require more than one volume. Of several libraries, notably Astley and Heskin, the present is the first account, and, indeed, in the case of Astley, the first notice of its existence, and although the number of libraries which I have found now or formerly existing is much greater than I had any idea of when I began to make preparations for this volume, I cannot doubt that a more diligent enquiry would result in the discovery of other libraries in the county, of some of which, it is probable, that even their custodians are ignorant. In more than one instance where I was positively informed by those who ought to know, that there was not now, nor ever had been, any library, a diligent search has resulted in the discovery of books in at least one case now existing, and in several others only recently lost, of which their legal custodians had no knowledge.

In order to obtain the best possible information on the subject matter of this volume, I addressed the following circular letter to the incumbent of every parish in the