

**THE CHURCHYARD  
MANUAL.  
INTENDED CHIEFLY  
FOR RURAL DISTRICTS**

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The Churchyard Manual. Intended Chiefly for Rural Districts by W. Hastings Kelke

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**W. HASTINGS KELKE**

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“ Go to the grave, but not to sigh  
Because his transient date is o'er ;  
That which we here miscall ‘to die,’  
Means but to live for evermore.”

THE  
**Churchyard Manual.**

INTENDED CHIEFLY FOR  
**RURAL DISTRICTS.**

BY  
**W. HASTINGS KELKE, A.B.,**  
LECTURER OF DRAUGHTSMANSHIP.

WITH DESIGNS FOR CHURCHYARD MEMORIALS  
KINDLY FURNISHED BY  
**G. G. SCOTT, ESQ., AND W. SLATER, ESQ.,**  
ARCHITECTS.



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LONDON: .  
**C. COX, 12, KING WILLIAM STREET, STRAND.**  
1851.

*141. a. 222.*

## P R E F A C E.

THIS Manual, compiled solely for practical purposes, seeks only to commend itself to those who are more or less directly interested in its proposed object. This object is the improvement of rural churchyards. The crowded churchyards of large towns seldom admit of much improvement, except perhaps in the character of their memorials. It is far otherwise with those in rural districts; these, with few exceptions, may easily be invested with all the requisites of Christian cemeteries. Yet too often they present a neglected and an unbecoming appearance; and still more frequently they contain, and continue to receive, memorials of an objectionable character. These are evils of a serious nature, and are the more reprehensible because

the appointed guardians of churchyards have it in their power to prevent them. These officers, however, must not be hastily and indiscriminately accused of wilful negligence or indifference. Their non-interference oftener arises from an insufficient knowledge of the nature and extent of their authority; from their doubting the expediency of exercising it; or from their being unprovided with a specific remedy at the moment some acknowledged evil is about to be renewed. To assist in the removal of such obstacles is the express design of this Manual.

The Remarks on Churchyards are intended not only to show the importance of giving them a true Christian character, but also to point out the course to be adopted to effect this object.

The monumental designs, kindly furnished by experienced architects, supply appropriate models for future memorials.

The Collection of Epitaphs, it is hoped, will be found an acceptable aid towards improving the character of such inscriptions.



This little Manual, therefore, which makes no pretension to literary merit, is commended to the consideration of clergymen, churchwardens, and the fabricators of churchyard memorials; and, through their practical use of it, it is humbly hoped that it may not only be the means of leading to the improved appearance of many country churchyards, but also in some measure promote the honour and glory of HIM who is the life of them that believe, and the resurrection of the dead.

The Compiler offers his cordial thanks to G. G. Scott, Esq., and W. Slater, Esq., for their generous and valuable contribution of the designs with which this book is illustrated and enriched; but it must be distinctly understood that these gentlemen are not responsible for any architectural remarks which occur in it.

The Epitaphs, collected from various sources, have in many instances been considerably altered, not with the presumption of improving the originals, but to render them more simple, or to

adapt them to the purposes of memorial inscription.

By the kind and ready permission of Mr. Snow, the author of 'Lyra Memorialis,'\* several epitaphs have been transcribed from its pages; but, as they have been selected from the most simple, or have been simplified by the transcriber, they must not be regarded as fair specimens of the beautiful inscriptions in that book, which will ever remain an acceptable work to all who are interested in memorial inscriptions of an elegant and poetical character.

Cordial thanks are also due to the author of 'Things after Death,'† for his most kind and handsome letter assenting to a selection from the epitaphs in that work, which, in addition to 150 epitaphs, contains some interesting chapters on the Intermediate State, and on Family Burying-places.

\* Published by G. Bell, 186, Fleet-street.

† Published by Rivingtons, London.

The Compiler returns his warmest thanks to the following contributors :—

To his esteemed friend the Rev. Henry Linton, vicar of Diddington, Huntingdon, who generously transferred to this Manual a number of epitaphs which he had collected with a view to publication; to the Rev. John Evans, incumbent of Whixall, Shropshire, for his invaluable assistance and contributions; to the Rev. R. Eaton Batty, of Ackworth, Yorkshire; the Rev. J. A. Fenton, late of Norton, near Sheffield; the Rev. W. W. Ewbank, Everton, Liverpool; Edward Foycross, Esq., London; the Rev. C. W. Bingham, Bingham Melcombe, Dorset; the Rev. J. H. Snell, Buckland, Bucks; the Rev. G. Bryan, Hattoft, Lincolnshire; the Rev. B. White-lock, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells; "A Retired Stonemason:" and to the conductors of the Church and State Gazette for their ready admission of a correspondence which proved of considerable service to the Compiler of this Manual.