

**THE PAROCHIAL HISTORY OF
ACKWORTH, YORKS, WITH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL,
ANTIQUARIAN, AND
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES & RECORDS**

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The Parochial History of Ackworth, Yorks, with Archaeological, Antiquarian, and Biographical Notes & Records by J. L. Saywell & R. V. Taylor

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J. L. SAYWELL & R. V. TAYLOR

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PAROCHIAL HISTORY
OF
ACKWORTH,
YORKS.,

WITH ARCHÆOLOGICAL, ANTIQUARIAN, AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES & RECORDS,

BY THE

REV. J. L. SAYWELL,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND AUTHOR OF THE
"HISTORY AND ANNALS OF NORTHALLERTON, YORKS.," &c.,

WITH AN

INTRODUCTION

BY THE

REV. R. V. TAYLOR, B.A.,

AUTHOR OF "YORKSHIRE ANECDOTES," "WORTHIES AND CHURCHES OF
LEEDS," &c.

"Rem omnem a principio audies."—*Ter.*

"Res fortasse vęrae, certe grāves."—*Cic.*

PONTEFRAC T:

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1894.



TO
ROWLAND, BARON ST. OSWALD,
OF
NOSTEL PRIORY,
WITH WHOSE FAMILY MUCH OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF
ACKWORTH IS INTERWOVEN,
AND TO THE
LORDS OF THE MANOR OF ACKWORTH,
THIS VOLUME IS, BY KIND PERMISSION,
DEDICATED
BY THE COMPILER.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

EVERY parish in England ought to have upon the shelves of its village library an attractive, reliable, and inexpensive volume of its own history. Until now Ackworth has not; but here it is. Let those who like it, read it, and those who don't, produce a better. It is not by any means complete, but it will form a good foundation upon which someone else can, if they think fit, rear an ornate superstructure. What has been built, however, cannot be pulled down. J. L. S.

INTRODUCTION.

HAVING been requested by my friend, the Rev. J. L. Saywell, to write an introduction to his "Parochial History of Ackworth," I do so with peculiar pleasure, because it will afford me an opportunity of saying a few words on Parochial Histories in general, and on the "History of Ackworth" in particular. It is pleasing to observe that much greater attention is now paid to Parochial Histories and subjects of research than formerly. Parochial Histories seem to be very much wanted at the present time, as there is a growing demand for them; several having been recently published, including those of Askrigg, Hemingboro', Northallerton, Ingleton, Morley, Pudsey, etc. It is not an easy thing to write the history of a parish, from the earliest times to the present, with the Roman remains, Saxon earthworks, Danish antiquities, Norman architecture, Domesday extracts, ancient wills and fines, or transfers of land, etc. In order to make a Parochial History as complete as possible, it is very desirable that it should be well indexed, not only as regards persons and places, but also the principal subjects. It should also contain as many engravings as possible of the principal persons, places, and subjects, with pedigrees of the most important families. It is also desirable that biographical sketches of the principal people in each parish should be included. The clergy, as a rule, from their position and education, are best qualified for preparing these Parochial Histories, as each one ought to be as familiar as possible with his own parish, having the registers, with lists of clergy and patrons, etc., in his own possession, with a certain amount of the requisite leisure. It is almost the work of a lifetime to become fully conversant even with the principal events in our Parochial Histories, and then one ought to have a general knowledge of those in the immediate

neighbourhood. Many clergymen are now issuing Parish Magazines, with a page or two of local history each month, but, unfortunately, there are comparatively few people in our country parishes who care sufficiently about the ancient history of their native places even to spend a penny in purchasing a parish magazine, much less subscribe 2/6 or 5/- for a history of their parish. Very often the outsiders, and those who have gone away, care more for it than those living in the place. These local histories seem to be much more appreciated in America than they are in this country. Even a small, or poor history is better than none at all; being not so difficult to compile, less expensive, and much easier to enlarge. Now that the Bishop of Carlisle has followed the example of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the late Bishop of Durham, in recommending the clergy to write the history of their parishes, it is most desirable that the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Ripon should do the same with respect to the numerous parishes in Yorkshire, and then a complete and comprehensive "History of Yorkshire" would be speedily accomplished, an undertaking which would be of great service to the Church generally and especially agreeable to the principal people in each of the respective parishes. Many of the clergy have already published a considerable amount of local history in their parish magazines, which might be utilised, and reference might also be made to the various Directories, Diocesan Calendars, Lawton's "Ecclesiastical Collections," to the different histories already published, to Bawdwen's "Domesday Book," to Kirkby's "Inquest," the "Nonce Rolls," the "Liber Regis," the Surtees Society's Publications, Langdale's "Topographical Dictionary," the Yorkshire Archaeological Journals, and the Record Series; Allen's, Baines's, Bigland's, Black's and Murray's "Yorkshire," and also to Torre's and Archbishop Sharp's MSS. at York, and the Diocesan Registers, etc. In order to prove that Parochial Histories are very much wanted, I might quote the following extracts from a letter by the

Rev. Charles A. Wells, Organising Secretary of the Church Defence Institution. "At the recent Church Congress at Wakefield, the question of the best means of instructing the classes, as well as the masses, in the origin, history, revenues, and work of the Church was proposed, but does not seem to have received any very definite reply. You will perhaps, therefore, allow me to make one or two practical suggestions, as to the best way of attaining the object in hand: 1. A history of the Parish Church, its architecture, registers, and endowments, written by one of the clergy, or some other well qualified person, should be circulated in pamphlet form throughout every parish. This is the first step towards arousing interest in Church history and Church work. 2. A list of rectors or vicars, from the foundation of the Church and formation of the parish, should be placed within or without every Church; and, where possible, the names of patrons, curates, and churchwardens should be added. If the parochial chest will not furnish requisite information, a visit to the diocesan registry generally will. 3. Local biographies are also most interesting, of which each parish might easily furnish one or more. 4. Interest should also be secured in the local press, mis-statements should be at once corrected, and sound information given; short articles and notes on Church questions, with local sketches, should be offered to the different editors. 5. Historical and instructive leaflets should be widely circulated, and lectures on Church history, illustrated by the magic lantern, should be arranged for in every parish during the winter months. Both illustrated lectures and leaflets can be obtained on application to the offices of the Church Defence Institution." It is, therefore, most desirable that the clergy should be encouraged to do what they can towards writing a history of their own parishes. The Rev. J. L. Saywell, who has written the "History of Northallerton," and who was formerly curate of Ackworth, is well qualified to write the "Parochial History of Ackworth," and it is hoped that the

book will have an extensive sale, so as not only to pay the expenses of the press, but also to leave the compiler a margin of profit for his trouble; otherwise there is no encouragement for others to copy his example, in writing and publishing the histories of their parishes, etc. Ackworth is a place well known for its Foundling Hospital, and Quakers' School; the benevolent John Fothergill, M.D., F.R.S., and John Gully, the sporting M.P., etc. Mr. Saywell has set a praiseworthy example to his brother clergymen, who, having exceptional opportunities for becoming acquainted with the history, past and present, and the local traditions and customs of the parishes under their charge, can render immense service to antiquaries, archæologists, and county historians, by preserving, for the information of future generations, matter of much general interest, which would otherwise lie hidden, or be forgotten.

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