THE HISTORY OF SEDGLEY PARK SCHOOL: STAFFORDSHIRE

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The history of Sedgley Park school: Staffordshire by F. C. Husenbeth

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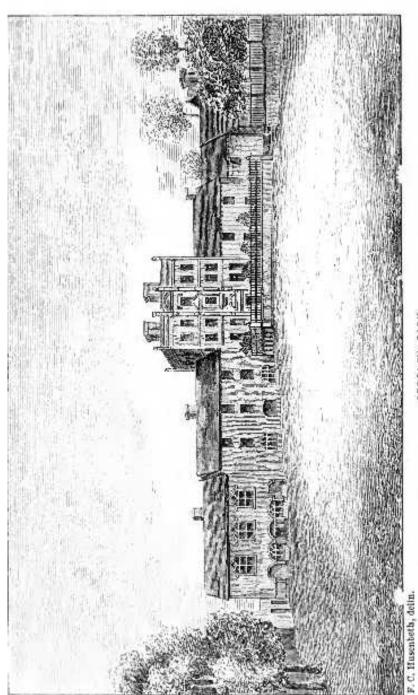
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F. C. HUSENBETH

THE HISTORY OF SEDGLEY PARK SCHOOL: STAFFORDSHIRE





SEDGLEY PARK.

THE HISTORY

OF

Sedgley Park

SCHOOL,

STAFFORDSHIRE.

BY

F. C. HUSENBETH, D.D.,

AN OLD PARKER.

"Tell us the former things what they were: and we will set our heart upon them."—Isaias XLI., 22.

LONDON:

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DEDICATION.

To THE RIGHT REVEREND

JOHN,

FIRST LORD BISHOP OF BEVERLEY,

Assistant at the Pontifical Throne, &c., &c.

MY DEAR LORD,

The History of Sedeley Park
must be dedicated to a Parker. Could one
more worthy of such dedication be found than
yourself? It is the production of an old
schoolfellow and humble friend of your Lordship. It was his happiness in the golden days
of youth to tread with you the old Park
"Bounds,"—to play with you,—to study with

you,—to pray with you. He followed in your path in after years to the ecclesiastical state; though certainly non passibus equis,—but at a very humble distance. But he has been always honoured and blessed by your kind and warm friendship; and the present opportunity is gladly embraced to dedicate this work to your Lordship, the oldest living prelate among Parkers, on this 54th anniversary of your own coming to Sedgley Park, by

My dear Lord,

Your devoted humble Friend and Schoolfellow,

F. C. HUSENBETH.

Cossey, February 2, 1856.

PREFACE.

This History has been written at the earnest and repeated request of many friends and brother Parkers. The author needed no pressing to undertake it; for never, since he knew Sedgley Park,—now a long half century and more,—has he ceased to think of it with fond affection, amid other and distant scenes, and in all the varied circumstances of life:

" Neque, si male cesserat, usquam Decurrens alio; neque si bene."

But he hesitated, from the difficulty of the work; and now that he has in his own fashion accomplished it, he is sensible that it will require of the reader, and especially of a Parker, much indulgence.

The author has endeavoured to note the chief events and characters at the Park for almost a century; but how many must have escaped his knowledge! Every Parker has his own store of reminiscences; and it must happen that many will be disappointed at not finding all theirs

The author has sought to make the book interesting, by the introduction of many little anecdotes, familiar events and features; but here he may be blamed for going too minutely into trifles and frivolities. attempted the History of a School; but perhaps it will be thought that he has said too little He foresaw these of studies and education. and other difficulties, and this made him long reluctant to undertake a work, which, however his heart might fondly cherish, his ability might fail duly to accomplish. But time kept passing, and he considered at last that it would be best to do what he could, before he himself should also pass away; and be now throws himself on the indulgence of his brother Parkers, for the many imperfections of the following pages. He has simply done what he could with materials drawn almost exclusively from his own notes and recollections; but he cannot hope that his memory has been always accurate. It was an occupation extremely pleasing and soothing to the writer; he felt regret when it was brought to a conclusion; and he could but involuntarily exclaim with the great poet of modern times:

[&]quot;But this is o'er-my pleasant task is done, Which ever playing round me came and smiled."