

**RECORDS AND
TRADITIONS OF
UPTON-ON-SEVERN**

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Records and Traditions of Upton-on-Severn by E. M. L.

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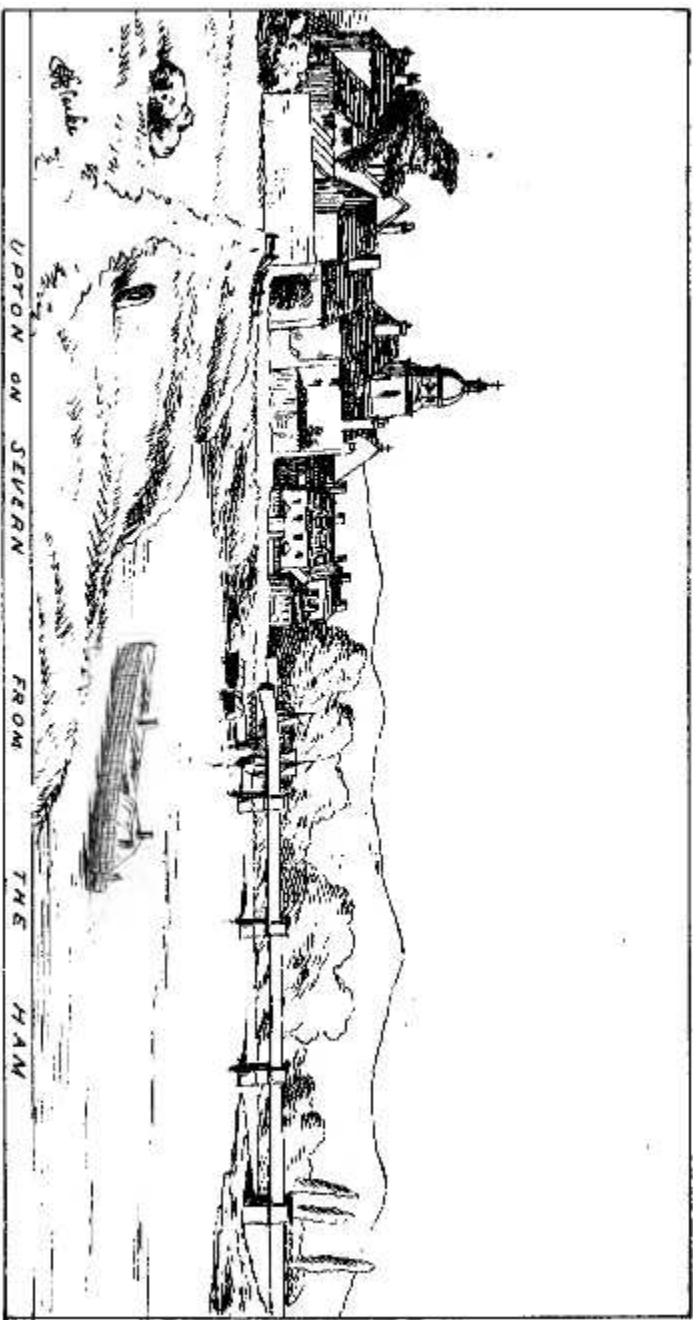
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UPTON-ON-SEVERN.





UPTON ON SEVERN FROM THE HAM

RECORDS AND TRADITIONS

OR

UPTON-ON-SEVERN.

BY

E. M. L.

With Thirteen Illustrative Sketches

BY

CHARLES CATTERMOLÉ AND G. R. CLARKE.

M. O. L.

London :

HOUGHTON AND GUNN,
102, NEW BOND STREET.

UPTON-ON-SEVERN: W. E. COOPER, High Street.

1869.

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PREFACE.

THE following pages were originally intended to be a manuscript account of the old traditions of Upton, illustrated by pen or pencil sketches. The manuscript has become printing and the sketches lithographs, in compliance with the wishes of many of our neighbours who desired to possess some views of the town, and also some account of its past history. The materials also have outgrown the limits which were at first proposed. When old registers and account-books, and ancient feoffments and leases were investigated, subjects of interest hitherto unthought of came to light, and supplied links between important portions of our parochial story and the national or county history of the period.

I have had every aid that could be afforded by neighbourly kindness. The libraries of Pull Court,

Revised - October 10, 1926

Ham Court, and the Rhydd Court, have been open to me, and Mr. Dowdeswell has not only lent me his books but also given me valuable assistance from his own store of reading and local knowledge. The lives of the earlier rectors and the historical sketches could hardly have been written had I not been allowed the use of these libraries, and been further supplied by antiquarians in Worcestershire, and other parts of England, with extracts from rare books and information concerning knotty matters in history.

As regards the assistance rendered by parishioners, where all classes have been so courteous and so helpful, it may appear somewhat invidious to single out any for special acknowledgment. But, while I heartily thank the very many who have lent me their aid, candour compels me to own that the contributions most interesting to myself, as regards both matter and form, have been mainly derived from the poor, especially those of advanced age. From conversations by cottage fire-sides, on the banks of Severn, and across the garden-border or the washing-tub, I have been enabled to embody, in chapters IV., V., and VI., much material that has been floating loose for many years in the memories and household talk of our people.

It will be obvious that this little volume claims no merit on the score of deep research or originality. Critical eyes will probably need no spectacles to discover many omissions and deficiencies in technical knowledge. Nor can I vouch for the entire accuracy of every one of the "tales," but I have endeavoured in each case to "tell the tale as 'twas told to me," and have scrupulously rejected every fragment of oral tradition, however tempting, which rested on the testimony of only one informant. In three of the chapters I have only attempted to weave into some sort of texture the filmy gossamer of old traditions and the more tangible threads of modern reminiscences.

I have found my task a pleasant one; all the more so for the hope that, when completed, it may yield an hour's interest or amusement to many valued friends among the former and present inhabitants of Upton-on-Severn.

It will hardly be considered that any excuse is necessary for the views of Upton which accompany the letter-press; but I am requested by my fellow-labourer in this volume to apologise for the want of finish in the sketches. Elaborate engravings would have done more justice to the scenery and buildings, but they would have been too expensive for a volume which is only destined for limited circulation.

To Mr. Cattermole we owe much gratitude for the spirited and artistic drawings with which he has favoured us, and which so well illustrate some interesting points in our history.

E. M. L.

RECTORY, UPTON-ON-SEVERN,
December, 1868.