

**A HAND BOOK AND GUIDE TO PRESTON.
CONTAINING HISTORICAL RECORDS –
TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION – TRADE AND
COMMERCE – PUBLIC BUILDINGS – PARKS,
AND INSTITUTIONS –
CHURCHES AND CHAPELS – THE ENVIRONS
AND THEIR ATTRACTIONS, ETC.**

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A Hand Book and Guide to Preston. Containing Historical Records – Topographical Description – Trade and Commerce – Public Buildings – Parks, and Institutions – Churches and Chapels – the Environs and Their Attractions, Etc. by William Pollard

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WILLIAM POLLARD

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*Historical Records—Topographical Description—Trade
and Commerce—Public Buildings—Parks, and
Institutions—Churches and Chapels—The
Environs and their attractions, &c.*

BY WILLIAM POLLARD,

Author of "THE GUILD MERCHANT OF 1842,"
"THE STANLEYS OF KNOWSLEY," &c.

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PREFACE.

THE great "Wizard of the North"—the immortal author of "Waverley," whose magnificent genius and magic pen called into existence the most splendid productions of the literature of his age—was wont to say that the preface was the only part of his works that gave him any trouble. To him, evolving a gorgeous romance was a delight; to indite a preface, a torture. On one occasion he wished the preface to his work to be placed at the end; because, he said, his experience had convinced him, that, in the majority of instances, the reader perused the last pages first.

Far be it from the author of this modest effort, to place himself for one moment in the same category with Sir Walter Scott, to whom indeed, he is less even than an evanescent shadow. But in common with the illustrious novelist, he feels the difficulty of writing even his humble preface. The compilation of this unpretending volume—for he claims for it the merit only of a compilation—has been to him a labour of love. To trace the early history, the rise and the gradual development, to its present increasing prosperity; to mark the vicissitudes, the romantic incidents, the varied episodes, which constitute the memorable past of Preston one of absorbing interest—was to him a task of delight.

If the reader is afforded but a tithe of the pleasure in perusing it that the author has experienced in compiling it, the latter will be amply rewarded.

The author is indebted to many local celebrities for the information necessary to produce this work; amongst whom he begs to tender his especial acknowledgments to Mr. William Dobson and to Mr. Charles Hardwick. In reference to the former, his charming "Rambles by the Ribble" ought to be in the hands of all who value exquisite scenic delineation with profound thought; whilst Mr. Hardwick's valuable production possesses a county as well as a local interest. The author also expresses his indebtedness to Mr. Porter's "History of the Fylde," and to Mr. Hewitson's "Stonyhurst College, Present and Past." To each and all of these gentlemen, the author tenders his grateful obligations.

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