

XI.—OBITUARY NOTICE OF THE REV. JAMES
RAINE, D.C.L.,

CHANCELLOR OF YORK MINSTER AND A V.P. OF THE SOCIETY.

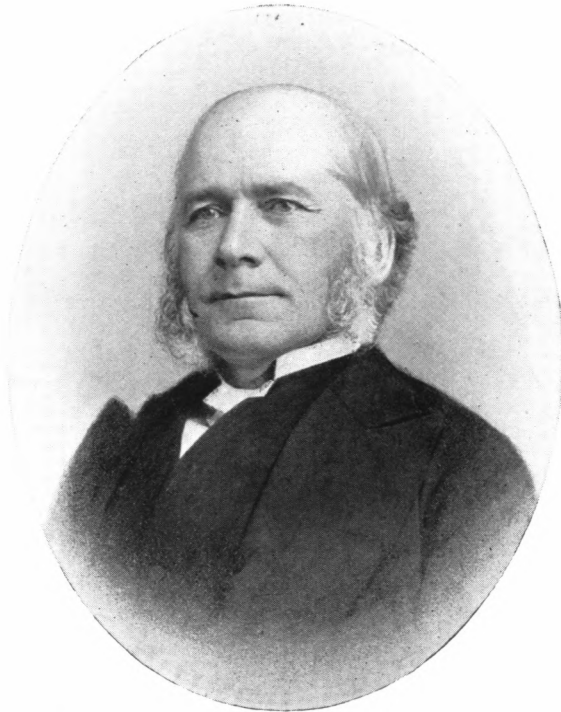
By RICHARD WELFORD, a vice-president of the society.

[Read on the 31st March, 1897.]

One by one the links which unite present day archaeology to that of a past generation disappear; one by one veterans in the widening field of archaeological investigation fall out of our ranks. Since 1890 death has erased from our muster roll the honoured names of John Clayton, Dr. J. Collingwood Bruce, the rev. Geo. Rome Hall, William Woodman, and, lastly, the subject of this paper, the rev. James Raine, chancellor of York. Thus, ever, 'the old order changeth, yielding place to new.' For us, who represent the newer generation, it remains to imitate the patient zeal of these venerable and venerated men, and, in the paths which they have marked out for us, to walk with earnest desire and reverent fear.

Chancellor Raine was the only son of the rev. James Raine, better known in later years as Dr. Raine, historian of North Durham, author of *St. Cuthbert* (a work which arose out of the discovery of the saint's remains in 1827), and editor of numerous books and papers illustrating medieval life, customs, and manners in *St. Cuthbert's* patrimony. Dr. Raine, if not a founder of this society, was one of its early and constant supporters, for he joined it in 1815, two years after it had been formally established, and he continued to be an active and honoured member till his death in December, 1858. James Raine the younger, born at Crook hall, near Durham, and cradled, as it were, in archaeology, imbibed his father's tastes, adopted his father's cult, and, joining our society soon after he had arrived at man's estate, remained with us, as member of council and a vice-president whom we delighted to honour, until his lamented decease last year. Believers in heredity may perhaps find in the mental characteristics and literary pursuits of the two Raines support for their theories and confirmation of their views.

Having received preparatory training in the Grammar school, the younger Raine matriculated at University college, Durham. His



*Believe me
Very truly yours
J Raine*

THE LATE REV. JAMES RAINE, D.C.L.,
CHANCELLOR OF YORK MINSTER, AND A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.



collegiate career was successful, his promotion rapid and substantial. For, having taken his degree of B.A. in 1851, he obtained a fellowship in 1852, proceeded M.A. in 1853, and was sent to Newcastle as principal of Neville hall in 1854, being also about the same time elected secretary of the Surtees Society. Mr. Raine's Newcastle appointment was in succession to his friend the rev. Wm. Greenwell, who for two years had directed the fortunes of Neville hall—the residential department of a reconstructed college of medicine to which the university of Durham had extended its beneficent arms.

Shortly after his settlement in Newcastle, viz., on the 4th of October, 1854, Mr. Raine was elected a member of our society, and at the May meeting following he read his first paper to the members. At that time the *Archaeologia Aeliana* was in a state of transition. The old quarto series had been condemned as cumbrous and inconvenient, and the younger members, thirsting for reform, were advocating a change to octavo. Mr. Raine joined the reformers, and when, at the annual meeting of the society in 1856, the alteration was sanctioned, he was elected a member of the council, and one of a committee appointed to superintend the printing of the *Archaeologia* and all other the society's publications. By a happy coincidence the paper selected to inaugurate the new series was that which he had read in 1854: 'A Memoir of Anne, Countess of Pembroke, Dorset, and Montgomery, and daughter of George, third Earl of Cumberland.'

The commendation with which this, his first contribution to anti-quarian literature, was received encouraged the principal of Neville hall to further enterprise in the same direction. He read to this society in 1855 a biography of sir Edward Radclyffe, second baronet of the house of Dilston, and contributed to the *Archaeological Journal* some notes upon 'A Remarkable Sepulchral Brass of Flemish Design in the Church of Wensley, Yorkshire,' followed, a year later, in the same journal, by a paper on 'Divination in the Fifteenth Century by aid of a Magical Crystal.' These maiden efforts of his, if not very elaborate or recondite, show very thoroughly the bent of his mind and the lines within which his literary career was destined to run.

Neville hall was closed in 1856, and after a period of retirement with his father at Crook hall Mr. Raine accepted, in 1857, the curacy of All Saints with St. Peter the Little, in the city of York. There,

favoured with leisure and opportunity, he was able to pursue the studies that lay nearest to his heart. There, archives, rich and full-laden, awaited exploration; vast treasures of history and archaeology invited examination and disclosure. Mr. Raine explored, examined, and disclosed. The first-fruits of his research were given to the society in whose publications he had flushed his pen. The second volume of our octavo series contains two contributions from his store: a genealogical article on the Pudseys of Barford and a selection of nuncupative wills from the Yorkshire registries, both dated 'York, January, 1858.' Volume five opens with a more elaborate paper, the longest with which he favoured us—a history of the Swaledale village of Marske. With its pedigrees and family notes, its concise evidences and references, the account of Marske may be cited as an admirable example of the manner in which the history of a parish ought to be written, everywhere and always.

Meanwhile Mr. Raine's researches among York records were revealing themselves in another channel. The Surtees Society had assigned to the elder Raine the editing of several of their volumes, among them being collections of wills and inventories from the registries of York and Durham. These publications, in which new light was thrown upon the history, manners, and language of the upper and middle classes in the northern counties at an interesting period of national life, were of exceeding interest and value. Shortly before the death of his father, Mr. Raine edited for the society a volume of wills, etc., from the registry at Richmond, and afterwards continued the *Testamenta Eboracensia* down to a fifth volume, interspersing them with many other useful compilations. For, as secretary during forty years, his was not only the discerning eye that selected fit subjects for publication, but the working hand that contributed to accurate production. He also edited for the society the *Fabric Rolls of York Minster*; a *Memoir of Mr. Justice Rokeby*; a selection of *Depositions in Criminal Cases*, from the originals in York Castle; that most valuable addition to the history and literature of Tyneside, *The Priory of Hexham: Its Chronicles, Endowments, Annals, etc.*, in two volumes; the *Register of Walter Gray, Archbishop of York, 1215-55*; a *Selection from the Poems of Lawrence, Prior of Durham, in the twelfth century*; and a collection of *English Miscellanies*.

Another volume of the Miscellanies, and some Account Rolls of St. Leonard's Hospital, York, which he had undertaken to edit, remain to be completed.

All these books, it may be observed, are of direct and distinct utility to the church historian, the compiler of county history, the collector of parochial records, the genealogist and biographer—to all, indeed, whose investigations cover the northern counties in medieval times. Thus they fulfil in a very notable degree the intention with which the Surtees Society was founded—namely, to illustrate the intellectual, the moral, the religious, and the social condition of that region which, extending from the Humber to the Forth, and from the Mersey to the Clyde, constituted the ancient kingdom of Northumbria.

‘ From ancient scribe, old tome, and manuscript,
From church and cloister, and from garrulous crone
Brought forth, with painful lore and curious art,
Into the sunshine of the present day.’

Outside of his editorial labours in connection with the Surtees Society, Mr. Raine found time for literary work of some magnitude and considerable responsibility. In 1863 he published an instalment of a work entitled, *Lives of the Archbishops of York*, founded upon MSS. collected by the rev. William Henry Dixon, a deceased canon of York cathedral. Only one volume was issued, containing memoirs of forty-four archbishops, extending from A.D. 627 to 1373. Yet, as Mr. Raine relates in the preface, he had made on account of this work collections on the same scale for biographies of some seventeen hundred other persons, spreading over a period of twelve centuries; had ransacked almost the whole range of the history, biography, and topography of England, and in part of other countries; and, finally, to make his book as complete as possible, had given up nearly a whole year to daily toil among original evidences in the public offices. Small wonder that the second volume of a work so tedious and exacting has not yet found its way to the printer.

To the official publications issued under the direction of the Master of the Rolls, with the general title of ‘Chronicles and Memorials of Great Britain and Ireland during the Middle Ages.’ Mr. Raine contributed in 1873, a volume of *Historical Papers and Letters from the Northern Registers*, illustrative of the general history

of the North of England, particularly in its relation to Scotland ; and, later, two volumes dealing with *The Historians of the Church of York and its Archbishops*. In these, as in all other compilations of his, one sees evidence of plodding industry and indefatigable research, the result of natural aptitude and cultured taste. Everything to which he set his pen bears marks of that patient genius which, in its fullest development, consists of an infinite capacity for taking pains.

Among the literary and antiquarian institutions of York Mr. Raine moved as the guiding spirit, the wise counsellor, the generous benefactor. He was vice-president of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, and curator of its antiquities ; the librarian of York minster ; an active member of the Yorkshire Archaeological and Topographical Society ; and chaplain to the Merchant Guilds of the city. These occupations gave him control over muniments of great value—historical, ecclesiastical, and commercial—and enabled him to restore, preserve, and utilise them to public advantage. The librarianship of the minster was a position which his training, acquirements, and amiable manners specially qualified him to fill. For he was essentially an amiable man—bland, placid, and cheerful—ever ready to assist the enquirer and to guide the student through the toil and weariness which are inseparable from antiquarian research. He made an elaborate catalogue of the literary treasures preserved in the minster, and by his influence added to those treasures the wonderful collection of Yorkshire books, acquired during many years' patient search by that enthusiastic bibliophile the late Edward Hailstone. To his assiduous care York owes the preservation and restoration of her ancient records, damaged by flood and dilapidated through neglect and the ravages of time. At a great meeting held in the city shortly after his death the dean of York, summarising his services to the citizens, described him as 'pioneer, guide, and fellow-labourer in many complex and obscure fields of work—one who has supplied many a missing link, who has found the clue to many a tangled skein, who has kindled a light in many dark places, who has dissipated many baseless traditions and theories, and has brought into prominence much which was unknown before. . . . He gave to all who asked him freely, indiscriminately, from his store of hardly-acquired knowledge ; he gave readily

and cheerfully of what was the fruit of years of study and enquiry—the harvest of long seasons of careful reading.’

Next to the Surtees Society and the minster library, the institution which secured Mr. Raine’s most attentive consideration was the Yorkshire Archaeological and Topographical Society. To the members of that organization he was at all times a judicious adviser and a helpful ally. He contributed to their ‘Transactions’ papers (1) ‘On the Materials for Topography of the Wapentake of Agbrigg’; (2) ‘An Original Grant from Edmund de Lacy, Constable of Chester, to his tenants at Westchep, near Pontefract’; (3) ‘A Notice of Henry Jenkins the Yorkshire Centenarian’; (4) ‘On the Dedications of Yorkshire Churches’; (5) ‘The History of Marske,’ reprinted from our *Archæologia*; and (6) ‘Notices of Scoresby and the Family of Blake.’ It was for this society that, in 1888, he edited and enlarged from the MSS of Thomas Burton, a local antiquary and collector, a history of the ancient manor, town, and collegiate church of Hemingbrough, near Selby, originally parcel of the possessions of the priors of Durham.

Mr. Raine joined the committee appointed, in 1891, at the suggestion of Dr. Hodgkin, to superintend the production of a complete history of Northumberland. His father had been the rev. John Hodgson’s friend and biographer, and this was a project which appealed to his earliest and tenderest sympathies, for it promised the realization of Mr. Hodgson’s plans, and the termination of that comprehensive undertaking which the historian, single-handed, vainly strove to accomplish. Placing at the disposal of the committee an invaluable collection of wills, copied by his father and himself from the registry at Durham, he added, later on, the great stores of material relating to the town and shire of Hexham which he had gathered together at York when compiling for the Surtees Society his two volumes on Hexham priory. Throughout the new history of Northumberland run quotations from Raine’s *Testamenta*, and the greater part of the third volume of the series is his entirely. His last appearance among us we owe to the unflagging interest which he manifested in the proceedings of the history committee. On the 26th September, 1894, he came from a meeting of that committee to our monthly gathering in the castle, over which he presided, and after that evening many of us saw his face no more.

Upon Mr. Raine's clerical activities this is not the fittest place to dilate. We knew him chiefly as scholar, historian, and antiquary. Yet it may be permitted to describe his ecclesiastical progress if only to show that the church does not always withhold honour and emolument from those who combine archaeological pursuits with the study of theology and the cure of souls. Mr. Raine's preferments were these: In 1866 he was made canon and prebendary of Langtoft in York minster; in 1888 canon residentiary; in 1891 he exchanged the prebendal stall of Langtoft for that of Laughton, to which is attached the chancellorship of the cathedral. Meanwhile, in 1885, by a re-arrangement of parishes, he had become rector of All Saints with St. Crux, and in the same year was elected a member of convocation. This latter post he continued to fill until his death, and with so much acceptance that the lower house had commissioned him to compile from past records a history of their privileges, claims, and proceedings. In 1882 his alma mater, the university of Durham, in recognition of his services to antiquarian literature, conferred upon him the honorary degree of D.C.L.; and upon the passing of the Clergy Discipline Act, in 1892, he was appointed one of the assessors for the dean and chapter of York. Curate, rector, canon residentiary, member of convocation, and chancellor—these are preferments which reflect the honour they convey.

It has been remarked that although an accomplished editor and compiler, Mr. Raine published but one original work—a condensed history of York, which appeared in Longman's series of *Historic Towns*. To most of us this imputed defect constitutes Mr. Raine's chief merit. Between authorship and editorship there is no wide gulf fixed. But, if comparison be challenged, it may fairly be asserted that he who brings to the light that which has been hidden, and with toil and sacrifice presents it to the world, vivified and serviceable, achieves much more for posterity than the man who merely re-writes, with his own gloss, that which was easily accessible. Compared with the literary bovril so plentifully supplied to us in these days, a book of Mr. Raine's editing is a luxurious feast, nay, a banquet of delights.

