

THE HISTORY OF DETLING.

A HISTORY of Detling! Is it possible that "little Detling" can boast a history? or at least one worth writing or reading? To the former question we unhesitatingly and emphatically answer, *Yes*; the latter we leave to be answered by those who shall have the patience to wade through the following pages.

Indeed there is no parish, however small and seemingly insignificant, which has not *some* history of its own; and a history which, if not important enough to occupy a prominent place in that of its own county, still less in that of the county generally, does not possess some interest for its own inhabitants. This much may be said for even "little Detling." It certainly cannot boast of the ruins of a Castle—of doubtful origin, whether British camp, or Norman watch tower, or both—like Thurnham on the one side, or the remains of an Abbey—though of somewhat doubtful repute—like Boxley on the other. Nor can it be traced out in the time-honoured pages of Domesday Book,

in the rent roll of king, or archbishop, or abbot, or knight, as *they* can under the antique forms of *Boseleu* and *Thorneham*. It has no place in old Leland's "Itinerary." Quaint William Lambarde, in his "Perambulations through Kent," does not deem it worthy of mention. Camden, in his "Britannia," passes it over in silence. Phillipott, his zealous energetic Assistant, in his "Villare Cantianum," certainly devotes a page to it, but is so absorbed in contemplating the knightly spear of William de Detlinge, the illustrious representative of the family in the reign of Edward III., that he scarcely deigns to say anything about the place itself. Even Hasted, that prince among County Historians, while tracing out the later history of the Manor down to his time, devotes but little space to the general history of the village.

Yet, though thus often ignored and slighted, Detling has a history, and as State Papers and even County Histories are rarely accessible to the general reader, it shall be the author's endeavour to trace out and expand that history and present it, if he can in an acceptable form, as his contribution to the "DETLING INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION."*

* In the Autumn of 1879 the writer proposed to his Parishioners that, by way of finding occupation at home during the long evenings of the winter, they should all exercise their ingenuity and industry in some work or other, according to their tastes or skill; of which an Exhibition should be held in the Spring, when Prizes should be given, and an opportunity be also afforded for the sale of any articles of their handiwork. In the indulgence of a little fondness for Antiquarian research, he set himself to collect and arrange the materials for this little history of his Parish.

His best thanks are due to his kind neighbour, G. N. Cooke, Esq., of "The Croft," for the free use of his library, and for much valuable local information; as also to Walford D. Selby, Esq., of the Public Record Office, and to G. E. Cokayne, Esq., Lancaster Herald, for much ready help in their respective departments.