

PREFACE TO VOLUME II.

I UNDERTOOK to write the History of Wigan as a labour of love, well knowing that when my efforts were finished the annals of such an ancient and important borough would by no means be completed, and therefore I could not reasonably hope for more than the silent sympathies of those interested in such a work; but so great has been the encouragement, represented by critics and subscribers, that I have determined to prepare a third and last volume, which will bring the history of the town down to the present time.

Although by no means hopeful of pleasing everybody, as the impossible must necessarily be unattainable, I have overlooked no means and spared no efforts to make my History of Wigan a good, true, comprehensive, and interesting local work, and I believe that this second volume will be doubly welcome because of the great amount of hitherto unpublished matter, taken chiefly from the Corporation documents, registers, and churchwardens' accounts, which will be pleasing not only to the general reader, but to the antiquary.

The period embraced in this volume begins in 1640, the Commonwealth being by far the most important part of the History of the Borough, and ends with the Court Leet transactions of 1742, thus leaving nearly a century and a half to be written about.

References to the sources of information are invariably and carefully noted.

DAVID SINCLAIR.

Wigan, April, 1883.

