

**REMAINS HISTORICAL & LITERARY
CONNECTED WITH PALATINE
COUNTRIES OF LANCASTER AND
CHESTER. VOL. LXXV: LANCASHIRE
FUNERAL CERTIFICATES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649455966

Remains Historical & Literary Connected with Palatine Countries of Lancaster and Chester.
Vol. LXXV: Lancashire Funeral Certificates by Tomas William King & F. R. Raines

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TOMAS WILLIAM KING & F. R. RAINES

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CONNECTED WITH THE PALATINE COUNTIES OF
LANCASTER AND CHESTER.

PUBLISHED BY
THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

VOL. LXXV.

Univ. of
CALIFORNIA

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.
M.DCCCLXIX.



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LANCASHIRE FUNERAL
CERTIFICATES.



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CERTIFICATES.

EDITED BY
THOMAS WILLIAM KING, Esq., F.S.A.,
YORK HERALD.

WITH ADDITIONS BY THE
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VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CHETHAM
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INTRODUCTION.

THE abstract of the Earl Marshal's order regarding Funeral Certificates, here printed, precludes the necessity of further observation on the subject; but perhaps it may be remarked that it is questionable whether the certificates were taken on the mere request of the executors or survivors of the deceased, or whether the Kings of arms of each province, respectively, were authorised, *volens volens*, to enforce the order of the Earl Marshal in every or any case in which the deceased was of gentilital rank. The probability seems to be that the practice followed the wish of the family survivors rather than that the officers of arms compelled them to conform to the Earl Marshal's orders. This opinion is strengthened from the comparatively few certificates on record throughout the kingdom. Very few indeed are preserved even of peers, these being exclusively under Garter's jurisdiction, and apparently seldom recorded in the college of arms. There is no doubt, however, that the Kings of arms had, and did exercise, jurisdiction over the armorial ensigns used at funerals, whether the formal attendance at funeral solemnities was observed, or certificates of the state of the family of the defunct were taken, as many instances occur of the exercise of such jurisdiction, and are noticed in the college books.

K.

It may be thought that some of the foot-notes, extending over several pages, are longer than the subject-matter required; but this amplification arises from a desire not to leave any thing unwritten which should really appear, nor to omit facts and miscellaneous information which would not be accessible to the general reader. If it should be thought that there is a tendency to prolixity, omission might have been culpable. Some important facts and the principal ascertained incidents of the life of each individual, have, for the first time, been brought together. Woe to him who tries to say all that can be said on any individual, even of some illustrious line, like that of Stanley, "so ancient" to adopt a remark of Gibbon in his Autobiography, "that it has no beginning, and so worthy that it ought to have no end." The annotations are restricted to the subject; and private opinions on the conduct and proceedings of the deceased have not, it is hoped, been unnecessarily or offensively obtruded on the reader. Some of the notes contain original information which may furnish future biographers with materials from which an accurate judgment may be formed of the characters, principles, and ordinary habits of life, of a few of our more distinguished Lancashire worthies, and it is trusted that this statement will be received as an exposition of the motives of the contributors of these notes.

R.

March, 1869.

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