



WARRINGTON CHURCH

WARRINGTON VOLUNTEER 1799

OLD WARRINGTON BRIDGE

LIONEL'S LODGINGS

BEINSEY HALL

WARRINGTON ACADEMY

MESSRS. HARR'S PRESS

A  
WARRINGTON

BOOK-PLATE

WARRINGTON IN 1783

WARRINGTON BRIDGE  
1831

TO BE HUNG ON THE  
TO BE HUNG ON THE

## DESCRIPTION OF A WARRINGTON BOOK-PLATE.

The Medallion in the centre of the Plate represents the 'Old Blueback,' or Loyal Warrington Volunteer of 1798. A short account of this corps will be found in the present volume of the Historic Society's Papers.

The first Medallion on the left side of the Plate is a representation of the east end of *Warrington Church*, which, together with the town, was garrisoned by the Royalists in 1643, and battered and taken by the Parliamentarians in the month of May in that year. Below it is a drawing of the house in Church Street, Warrington, occupied for three days by *Cromwell*, on his pursuit of the Scots Army, under the Duke of Hamilton, in August, 1648. Several autograph letters of *Cromwell*, probably written within this edifice, are still extant, giving an account of his defeat of the Duke, on the 19th of August, at Red Bank, three miles north of Warrington. The third Medallion on the left, represents the *Warrington Academy*, erected in 1762, rendered famous in the history of our national literature, by its intimate association for many years with the names of Aikin, Enfield, Reinhold Forster, Priestley, Percival, Barbauld, Gilbert Wakefield, and others, many of whom held office as tutors within its walls, and resided within or near its precincts.

On the right side of the Book-Plate is a representation of 'Old *Warrington Bridge*,' built in 1495, by Thomas, Earl of Derby, and subsequently the site of several eventful occurrences. Here, in August, 1648, *Cromwell* overtook and captured the infantry of Duke Hamilton's army, and here, in the same month three years afterwards, Charles II. forced a passage through the troops of General Lambert, on his route from Scotland to the fatal field of Worcester. In 1745 the centre arches of the bridge were destroyed to impede the progress of the Pretender southwards, and although these were restored, it was finally taken down in the year 1816, a short time previous to which the original of the present diminished drawing was taken. The next Medallion contains a view of *Bewsey Hall*, one mile west of Warrington. It was anciently the seat of the knightly family of the Botelers, barons of Warrington, which became extinct in the reign of Elizabeth. Sir John Boteler is said to have been foully murdered here in 1462, together with a faithful domestic. (See *Dodsworth's MSS.*, vol. cxiii, fol. 14, in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.) In 1617 king James I. slept at Bewsey, and knighted its then possessor, Thomas Ireland, Esq. The modern portion of the building, readily distinguished in the drawing, was erected as a banqueting-room for a clandestine visit of the Pretender, in 1760, when Richard Atherton, Esq., a staunch Jacobite, was the tenant. The last Medallion presents a view of the premises occupied by the *Messrs. Eyres* as a printing office, from which issued some of the most beautiful specimens of typography of the day, including the first editions of the works of Aikin, Enfield, Barbauld, Pennant, Howard the philanthropist, and *Watson's History of the House of Warrenne*.

The view of *Warrington* in 1783, at the bottom of the Book-Plate, exhibits several points of local interest, and is copied from an original drawing in water colours in the possession of Dr. Kendrick.