

Speed in his improvement on Saxton's Maps of Great Britain.

In the "Biographia Britannica," edited by Andrew Kippis, it is said the History of England, by John Speed, is

"Digested in a much better manner than the chronicles of Fabiau, Grafton, Hollinshed and Stowe, and elegantly printed. "

* * * Mr. Speed was also author of 'A Cloud of Witnesses, viz: The Genealogies of Scripture, confirming the truth of Holy History and Humanity of Christ, prefixed to the new translation of the Bible in 1611, and printed afterwards in most of the subsequent ancient editions of the same, published likewise by itself in 1616.' King James I. granted him a patent for securing the property of this to himself and his heirs. After a useful and industrious life, and having lived fifty-seven years in marriage with one wife, by whom he had twelve sons and six daughters, he died at London, July 28, 1629, and was buried in the church of St. Giles, Cripplegate, where a monument is erected to him on the south side of the chancel. Dr. Fuller, in his quibbling manner, says that Father Speed truly answered his name in both the acceptations thereof, for celerity and success. * * * The maps are the best that had till then been made of the British Dominions. The corners of them are ornamented with coins, and the ichnography of the most considerable cities and towns in the respective counties. They were designed to go along with the history." * * *

Our author makes a due acknowledgment to his benefactors, particularly with regard to his maps, in these words:

"So plenteous is our story and so largely requires it to be writ, through all which my weake body with many years' labor hath alone travelled, as well in the reviewing of the geographical parts of the land as in the compiling of the succeeding history, though far unable to perfect either according to their own worths. But, lest the weight of the whole should rest upon so slender a prop as myself, I have laid my buildings upon far stronger arches, as by the many alleged authorities may appear. For, first, the chords for the most part traced by others and most of them divulged into view were the foundations of my begun paines, in supplying their wants with my many additions and dimensions of the shire-townes and cities — true platforms. The further descriptions of sundry provinces I have gleaned from the famous workes of the most worthy and learned Camden, whose often-sowed-seeds in that soil hath lastly brought forth a most plenteous harvest."

After mentioning that John Speed was indebted to Lord Bacon, Sir Robert Cotton, George Carew, Earl of Totness,