

have assisted, however slightly and imperfectly, in placing the history of the Masonic craft on a rational basis.

By considering the statutes as a whole, I have thought it less difficult to extract their true meaning and significance than by a mere cursory inspection of isolated enactments, scattered throughout the statute book, which—often wholly unintelligible—are *always* misleading, without the aid of a context.

Having brought down the evidences of Masonry in South Britain to the sixteenth century, the next subject in chronological order will be its early history in North Britain, which I shall proceed to discuss in the ensuing chapter.