

**PASS AND CLASS, AN OXFORD
GUIDE-BOOK THROUGH THE
COURSES OF LITERAE HUMANIORES,
MATHEMATICS, NATURAL SCIENCE,
AND LAW AND MODERN HISTORY**

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Pass and class, an Oxford guide-book through the courses of literae humaniores, Mathematics, natural science, and law and modern history by Montagu Burrows

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MONTAGU BURROWS

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AN OXFORD GUIDE-BOOK

THROUGH THE COURSES OF

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and Latin and Modern History.

BY

MONTAGU BURROWS, M.A.

"Fastosque circa forum in albo proposuit."—LIVY, IX. 46.

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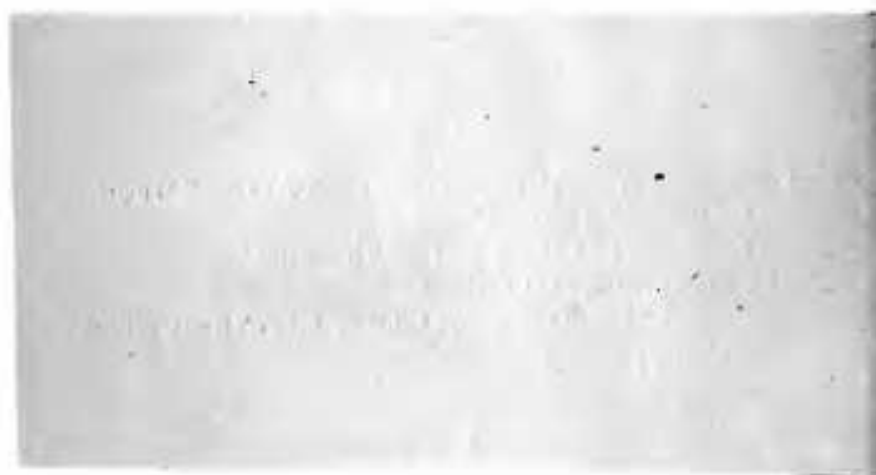
Oxford and London:

J. H. AND JAS. PARKER,

1860.

ERRATA.

- Page 9, note b. For "applying the same method," read "applying the Cambridge method."
- „ 12, col. 2. For "historians," read "historical."
- „ 145. For *Critick*, read *Critique*.
- „ 225. After "Smith's Milman's Gibbon," insert "which edition is strongly recommended."



P R E F A C E.

THE general object of the following pages will be, the writer hopes, sufficiently clear without explanation. He trusts that the first attempt which has yet been made to give a connected account of the whole course of Oxford education may be received with the indulgence which he feels it needs.

The want of such a work for the use of Oxford Undergraduates has been long avowed. To meet that want is the chief aim of this attempt; but a straightforward description of the education given at the University seemed also desirable for an ulterior purpose. It was thought it might be useful at schools to those preparing for Oxford;—to parents, who naturally wish to know what sort of teaching modern Oxford proposes to give their sons;—to those of the general public who care to consider the subject either abstractedly or otherwise, and whose ideas, not previously very clear perhaps as to the meaning of the words “University Education,” have been in a chronic state of mystification ever since the introduction of the “new system” in 1850.

The sketch here given, it may be as well to remind the reader, only professes to treat the Oxford course with reference to the Public Examinations. It takes no notice of the further prosecution of particular lines of study, such as

Philology, Philosophy, History, Mathematics, or Natural Science, which it will be in the power of many to carry forward after they have taken their degree; nor of the study of Oriental languages, for the cultivation of which the machinery of Professorships and prizes is in active operation at Oxford; nor even does it take any but the very slightest notice of that which was once the main Oxford study, Theology. The proper time recognised by the University for these pursuits is after the termination of the general course of preparatory studies,—when the B.A. Degree has been taken. If the attempt about to be made to encourage Theological study succeeds, it will probably become more common than it has yet been to find men using the rare advantages afforded by Oxford for the purpose of prosecuting not only that, but other studies also. The University will not be adequately fulfilling her high mission as a leader, guardian, and purifier of national education, till a much greater number than at present of Bachelors and Masters of Arts who have been trained under her general system, are to be found residing as students of special subjects within her precincts.

It may also be remarked that as the Public Examinations form the centre round which all the following suggestions are grouped,—a plan for which no apology is needed,—the private arrangements of particular Colleges for assisting the training of their own men have not fallen within the scope of the work. Those who are acquainted with Oxford are aware how much the merely intellectual aspect of the course is modified in certain cases by the *quasi* domestic discipline of well-managed Colleges.

It would be ungrateful not to make mention in this place of a pamphlet by the Rev. A. S. Farrar, called *Hints for Honours*, from which, when it came out in the early days of the new system, the writer, and he believes many others, derived benefit. In publishing the present volume, which will be seen to be of a different character from the above-mentioned work as well as on a more extended scale, the writer is glad to have the opportunity of expressing his warm thanks to those friends who have given him their assistance during its preparation. Whenever he was in doubt as to the merits of a particular book, he has invariably consulted some Professor or Tutor capable of speaking with authority. Without making the Professors responsible for a single word of the treatise, it may at least be said that there is very little of it which has not received the sanction of some one or other of their body.

Two of the Chapters stand on a different footing from the rest. For much the greater part of Chapter VIII. the writer is indebted to the Rev. G. S. Ward, Mathematical Lecturer at Magdalen Hall, and late Public Examiner in Mathematics; for most of Chapter IX. to Mr. George Griffiths, M.A., Lecturer in Natural Science at Jesus College and St. Edmund Hall. To them his most hearty thanks are due; as also to the Rev. J. R. T. Eaton, Fellow and Tutor of Merton and Public Examiner in the School of *Literæ Humaniores*, and to the writer's brothers, Oxford men of the already "old" school, for their kind supervision of other parts of the work. Without their encouragement, these pages, often thrown aside from various causes, would never have seen the

light or borne the writer's name. If those who have been trained up from their youth at the knees of *Alma Mater* can forgive the presumption of the undertaking, they will perhaps make allowance for any errors which may have been committed in details by one who, before his seven years' apprenticeship at the University, received his own training under a nurse much more resembling the "Sabine mother" of the poet.

Oxford,
May 1, 1860.