

**OBSERVATIONS ON THE ORIGINAL  
ARCHITECTURE OF SAINT MARY  
MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD AND  
ON THE INNOVATIONS ANCIENTLY  
OR RECENTLY ATTEMPTED**

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Observations on the Original Architecture of Saint Mary Magdalen College, Oxford and on the Innovations Anciently or Recently Attempted by John Chessell Buckler

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**JOHN CHESSELL BUCKLER**

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OBSERVATIONS  
ON THE  
ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURE  
OF  
Saint Mary Magdalen College,  
OXFORD;

AND ON THE  
INNOVATIONS

ANCIENTLY OR RECENTLY ATTEMPTED.

*By John Ingham Bechler.*



"Avydyously we drynke the wyne of otherlandes, we bye up the frutes and spyces, yea we consume in aparell their sylkes and their veluettes; but alas! our owne noble monuments and preyouse antiquytes, wch are the great bewtie of our lande, we as litle regarde as the paryages of our wayles."

"The laudes antiquytes are the moste syngulare bewtye in euery nacyon."  
WALTER.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY AND FOR JOHN NICHOLS AND SON, 25, PARLIAMENT STREET,  
AND SOLD BY JOSEPH PARKER, OXFORD.

1823.

*George...*

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TO THE  
REVEREND EDWARD ELLERTON, D.D.

FELLOW OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE,

THIS WORK IS,

WITH SENTIMENTS OF SINCERE RESPECT,

INSCRIBED BY

THE AUTHOR.

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## P R E F A C E.



THE Author's reasons for submitting this little Work to the Public are manifold; his leading objects, however, are these:—first, to describe the Architecture of Magdalen College;—and, secondly, to state distinctly the nature and extent of its various alterations and innovations, from the period of King Charles I. to the present time.

The facts and observations here presented, result from frequent and long residences in Oxford, and a deep veneration for the ancient Architecture of England, which the Author has diligently examined, in order to define, if possible, its essential characteristics, and to acquire a just knowledge of its governing principles.

From local and other circumstances, there-



fore, it will be imagined, that he could not remain ignorant of the movements which, during the last few months, have been made towards the final adjustment of certain plans, the attempted execution of which has, through mismanagement and inexperience, reduced to ruins a considerable and important part of the College buildings.

And it will be believed, that he could not retain silent possession of a mass of well-attested information on the subject, consistently with the duty he owes to antiquity; much less feel the least consciousness of being able to expose the errors which have already, and to anticipate those which are yet likely to ensue under the present mode of regulation, without exerting his best efforts, in the hope of stimulating the Guardians of Magdalen College to preserve inviolate its splendid Architecture.

He had, however, intended to content himself with offering an occasional Letter, during the progress of the alterations, to the Gentleman's Magazine; but perceiving that he had roused an adversary who deemed it more convenient to use against him that

powerful engine Ridicule, than legitimate argument; to oppose only artful insinuations or flippant levity, to incontrovertible facts and "bitter truths," he determined to change his course; and this volume is the result of that resolution.

The Author thinks it proper to add, that he will not condescend to notice any reply which this volume may call forth, that is not in direct answer to its statements. He has no inclination to vapour and vituperate, a disposition strongly manifested by "Magdalenensis;" though he will never be averse to maintaining the propriety of what he has advanced, if it be fairly questioned on the authority of antiquity.

**ERRATA.**

- P. 22, line 5 from bottom, for "in justness" read in the justness.  
P. 23, line 4 from bottom, for "subsequent" read subsequently.  
P. 30, l. 18, for "supported" read supposed.  
P. 48, l. 9, for "their" read these.  
P. 51, l. 16, for "and" read had.