

**OBSERVATIONS ON THE STATE OF HISTORICAL  
LITERATURE, AND ON THE SOCIETY OF  
ANTIQUARIES, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS FOR  
ITS ADVANCEMENT IN ENGLAND; WITH  
REMARKS ON RECORD  
OFFICES, AND ON THE PROCEEDING OF THE  
RECORD COMMISSION, PP. 1-209**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649660124

Observations on the State of Historical Literature, and on the Society of Antiquaries, and Other Institutions for Its Advancement in England; with Remarks on Record Offices, and on the Proceeding of the Record Commission, pp. 1-209 by Nicholas Harris Nicolas

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**NICHOLAS HARRIS NICOLAS**

**OBSERVATIONS ON THE STATE OF HISTORICAL  
LITERATURE, AND ON THE SOCIETY OF  
ANTIQUARIES, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS FOR  
ITS ADVANCEMENT IN ENGLAND; WITH  
REMARKS ON RECORD  
OFFICES, AND ON THE PROCEEDING OF  
THE RECORD COMMISSION, PP. 1-209**



---

**OBSERVATIONS**  
ON THE  
**STATE OF HISTORICAL LITERATURE,**  
AND ON  
**THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, AND**  
**OTHER INSTITUTIONS FOR ITS ADVANCEMENT**  
**IN ENGLAND;**

WITH REMARKS ON RECORD OFFICES, AND ON THE  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE RECORD COMMISSION.

ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

"DECIPIMUR SPECIE RECTI."

BY NICHOLAS HARRIS NICOLAS, ESQ.

BARRISTER AT LAW.

LONDON:  
WILLIAM PICKERING, CHANCERY LANE.

M DCCC XXX.

IIA  
|  
.N63

" THAT THOSE WHO PROFESS TO ADVANCE LEARNING SOMETIMES  
OBSTRUCT IT CANNOT BE DENIED." DR. JOHNSON.

LONDON :  
PRINTED BY C. WHITTINGHAM, TOOKS COURT.

Dir. Emery  
Crayton  
9-17-43  
48289

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE  
THE VISCOUNT MELBOURNE,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE  
HOME DEPARTMENT.

MY LORD,

THE high office which you fill renders it proper that Observations on the present state of Historical and Antiquarian Literature in England, with Strictures on the disbursements of the Sums of Money voted by Parliament for its advancement, should be addressed to your Lordship.

As a Statesman, Science, Literature, and the Arts have the strongest claims to your protection ; and the studies necessary for

that character must have impressed you with the importance of the History of your Country.

As the member of the Administration whose province it is to direct and superintend every measure of a domestic nature which originates with the Government, it is no less your Lordship's duty, than your desire, that the objects for which Parliament will probably vote a large sum of money should be attained in the most complete and economical manner.

The Record Commission became dissolved by the death of his late Majesty; and before another be appointed, it is highly desirable that the proceedings of the former one should be brought to your notice.

But these are not my only induce-



ments for addressing your Lordship. I am anxious to prove to you that the History of England is erroneous and imperfect; that materials exist by which it may receive most important illustrations; that notwithstanding the expenditure of about £10,000 per annum, Government virtually represses Historical knowledge; that without a revision of the present regulations of Record Offices, no hope can be entertained of its advancement; and that the assistance of which Historians stand in need would not produce any additional burthen to the Country.

In commenting upon the proceedings of the late Record Commission, it was impossible to avoid alluding to the individuals who have been employed by it, because one of the principal errors committed by the Com-

mission was in paying much too highly for the literary labour performed under its directions, and for allowing so many of its publications to be imperfectly executed. It is, however, due to myself, to assure your Lordship, that, as I am personally unknown to most of those individuals, and as I feel much respect for the two or three of them with whom I am slightly acquainted, I can have no unworthy motive to gratify in commenting upon them, as Sub-commissioners of the Public Records.

In all sincerity I disclaim the wish to wound the feelings of any one, but as public functionaries, deriving very considerable emoluments from the Country, their conduct may fairly be canvassed. I am fully sensible that the observations which I have taken the liberty of addressing to your

Lordship, may be construed by those, whose interest it is to attribute their appearance to improper motives, into a charge of "personality," well knowing that this is the usual resource of all who have improperly benefited at the public expense. But neither this imputation, nor the fear of any other which may be thrown on me, deters me from performing so great a service to Historical Literature as by endeavouring to cause the money voted for its advancement to be judiciously expended ; and still more, by striving to produce a change in the existing regulations of Record Offices.

These objects, my Lord, will, I trust, be deemed worthy of your attention ; and if under your auspices, the Public Records be made available without expense, every future Historian of England will comme-