

**HISTORICAL SERIES NO.XV. A  
SHORT HISTORY OF TODMORDEN;  
WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE  
GEOLOGY AND NATURAL  
HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD**

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**JOSHUA HOLDEN**

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TODMORDEN FROM STAINNALLY STONES.  
Taken from a picture painted by John Holland about 1870.

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A SHORT

# History of Todmorden

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE  
Geology and Natural History  
of the Neighbourhood

BY  
JOSHUA HOLDEN, M.A.

*WITH 25 ILLUSTRATIONS.*

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## PREFACE.

This book has been written at the suggestion of Professor Findlay in order to interest Todmorden boys and girls and their parents in the history of their own neighbourhood. It often happens that school subjects are outside the range of home interests. Local history, however, may be interesting to young and old alike, and this book is intended for all those, whether in school or out, who call themselves Todmordians and wish to know how the Todmorden of to-day has grown out of the conditions of the past.

For pupils in day and evening schools this book has a fourfold aim. First, to direct attention to the most important periods in our local history, and to arouse an interest that may continue long after school days are over. Second, to furnish local illustrations of the great movements described in ordinary English histories. Third, to unite children and parents in a common intellectual interest, the absence of which is so often to be regretted in the home. Fourth, the earlier chapters are intended to serve as an introduction to out-door science. The identification of local

rocks, fossils, plants and birds will help to foster among boys and girls a habit of careful observation, create fresh and enduring sources of enjoyment and give some insight into the meaning of scientific method.

I am indebted to the Rev. John Naylor for the account of local plants and animals given in Appendix II.

I have to express my obligation to Professor Tout for a detailed and very helpful criticism of many chapters and for valuable advice as to the book as a whole; to Mr. Whitehead, Clerk to the Todmorden Education Committee, who permitted me to make the fullest use of his unique collection of papers and documents relating to Todmorden; to Mr. Sutcliffe, Borough Librarian, Mr. Jackman, Assistant Overseer, and Mr. Hollinrake, Clerk to the Guardians, for help in dealing with various local records; and to Ald. William Ormerod, J.P., and Mr. J. B. Brown, of Hebden Bridge, for the loan of books and papers. My thanks are due to Mr. John Lister, M.A., of Shibden Hall, for helpful criticism, and to Mr. Hugh P. Kendall, of Sowerby Bridge, for photographs of the Roman road over Blackstone Edge and of Heptonstall Old Church and for Civil War documents.

With regard to the illustrations in the book, I am