

**AN HISTORICAL
ACCOUNT OF
WINCHESTER, WITH
DESCRIPTIVE WALKS**

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An Historical Account of Winchester, with Descriptive Walks by Charles Ball

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CHARLES BALL

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BY CHARLES BALL.  
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1818.

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## ADDRESS.

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*OF the various Publications issued from the Press, under the title of "The History of Winchester," which the Author of the following pages has perused, he has had invariably to remark, that while the earlier accounts were little better than dry unconnected catalogues of historical fact, intermingled with a series of doubtful occurrences, or filled with tedious details of obsolete charters, equally uninformative and uninteresting, even the more scientific and elaborate Work of a later period was found liable to objection, from the general tone of controversy that seemed to pervade, and in some instances almost obscure, the professed object of the Writer.*

*The Author has also had frequent opportunities of observing, that the inhabitants of Winchester in particular, as well as strangers who visited it generally, were often compelled to remain ignorant, or with at best but a partial knowledge, of many of the important traits of its History, and the more*

*interesting and venerable Memorials of Antiquity yet preserved within it, for want of some commodious channel of authentic information; inasmuch as, besides the voluminousness of the only work extant, which with many persons operated as an insuperable bar to the perusal of it, there was another objection, that the generality of Readers found perhaps equally insurmountable, namely, the price. Thus he considered that there were many who could afford to purchase, did not read, because they wanted inclination for the perusal of two quarto volumes; while at the same time others, who might have the necessary inclination, could not prudently indulge themselves with the gratification of it.*

*In the summer of 1815, the Author, acting under this impression, was encouraged in his design of preparing some brief notice of the History and Antiquities of Winchester, by the approbation of a short article upon the subject, which he had then an opportunity of laying before JOHN BRITTON, Esq. Author of "The Cathedral Antiquities of England," who not only approved the idea, but suggested the immediate attention of the Author to some concise account, in the nature of a Guide, which might supply the vacancy in the Literary Annals of Winchester.*

*Encouraged by the approbation of this Gentleman, the design was pursued; and after a considerable time, during which the Author had had*

*recourse to a number of curious and important works illustrative of the subject, he felt that he should, by adhering to the usual narrow limits of a mere Guide, of necessity omit much valuable, and, as he thought, original information; he therefore at once decided upon the extension of his plan, which he subsequently arranged in the manner it is now offered to the Public.*

*Thus actuated, he submits to the Public a Work, compiled as well from the various sources of information afforded by the labours of Trussell, Gale, Warton, Wavel, and Milner, as from the more general and important researches of Verstegan, Stowe, Godwin, Heylin, Dugdale, Hume, and other writers of equal authority and eminence, which, together with an extensive and unwearyed personal survey and inquiry, he trusts will be found to pourtray the History and Antiquities of our City; without, on the one hand, being liable to the objection of prolixity and excessive price; or, on the other, of withholding any information useful to the Reader.*

*Perfection not being within the reach of mortality, the Author is confident that some allowance will be made for the errors of his Work; and although he naturally hopes those are not many, he cannot but regret that the want of a Literary Friend, to whom he might have submitted his MS, and by whom it might have been corrected and*



*improved, may have left a greater share of imperfections in his first essay than under more favourable circumstances would have appeared.*

*The Author feels, that in concluding this Address, it would be ungrateful not to offer his most sincere acknowledgements to those Gentlemen by whom he has been favoured with the inspection of many curious and valuable documents, necessary to the production of an authenticated Work of this nature, and to express his regret that he is not at liberty to particularize the individual kindness with which, on various occasions, his inquiries have been honoured.*

*To the Publisher also he considers his thanks are due for the handsome and liberal manner in which the Work has been presented to the notice of the Public, both so far as regards Typographical beauty, and the number and nature of the Embellishments, the latter of which have been executed, at a considerable expence, from original drawings, made by Mr. C. F. PORDEN, expressly for the Work.*

**CHARLES BALL.**

WINCHESTER,  
1st January, 1818.

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