

**TAUNTON; OR, THE TOWN  
WE LIVE IN; AN HISTORICAL  
AND LOCAL SKETCH, WITH  
CONVERSATIONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649132416

Taunton; or, The town we live in; an historical and local sketch, with conversations by Mrs. Frederic MacMullen

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**MRS. FREDERIC MACMULLEN**

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# TAUNTON,

OR

## THE TOWN WE LIVE IN;

AN HISTORICAL AND LOCAL SKETCH,  
WITH CONVERSATIONS,

Mary Anne BY  
(MRS. FREDERIC) MACMULLEN,

WIDOW OF THE LATE LIEUT. F. S. MACMULLEN, OF THE  
1ST. REGT. BENGAL FUSILIERS.

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"Italian scenes in English ground arise,  
"Which, crowned with freedom, rival Paradise."  
*Dr. T. Amory's Poem, descriptive of Taunton.*

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FOR THE USE OF YOUNG PERSONS.

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TAUNTON: FREDERICK MAY, HIGH STREET.  
LONDON: LONGMANS & CO.

1858.

PRINTED AT THE "WESTERN FLYING POST" OFFICES, TROVIL.

TO  
MY YOUNG READERS,  
BOTH IN TOWN AND COUNTRY,  
AND TO  
"THE HIGH AND LOW, RICH AND POOR,"  
THIS VOLUME  
IS  
AFFECTIONATELY AND RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED  
BY  
THEIR FRIEND AND WELL-WISHER,  
MARY ANNE MACMULLEN.

## P R E F A C E .

IN submitting these pages to the public, it is not to be surmised that I have written either for the learned or for the scientific, but simply for the amusement and the instruction of my young friends, many of whom I have known from infancy.

The able support afforded me by all classes in this town, as well as the assistance of many friends, whom I have formerly known, have given me the courage to go through a difficult undertaking; for, believe me, it is no easy task to write the History of a Town, especially when undergoing the criticism of young minds, which are quite alive to little errors, and slips of the pen; but let my young readers be charitable, and remember Shakspeare's words:—

“A friendly eye could never see such faults.”

“Rome was not built in a day,” nor can the History of a Town be compiled in a day; a strict



search has been necessary for the sake of correctness in the detail; hence has arisen the delay in not issuing this volume sooner to the public.

The former part of this work has been compiled chiefly from Toulmin's and Savage's Histories of Taunton. My readers will, I hope, be pleased to recollect, whilst they peruse these pages, that, although histories of the above-named kind may serve as guides, they cannot be copied word for word, as constant changes and improvements are taking place in buildings and manufactories.

With regard to the defence of Taunton by Blake, during the sieges in King Charles II's reign, and the affecting history and untimely fate of the unhappy Monmouth, the former facts are gathered from that excellent work by Hepworth Dixon, Esq., namely, his Life of Admiral Blake, and for the latter I am indebted to Lord Macaulay's History of England.

Many of my friends in Taunton, "the town we live in," have liberally lent me books, and given me every information that I needed, on most subjects

connected with this History, and to all I feel most truly grateful.

I have not thought it necessary to attach to this volume the list of my willing and munificent subscribers, because I deemed that it would be a matter of little interest to the public; in short, more a subject of curiosity than interest; but I can assure my friends and supporters, that their names are indelibly engraven on the heart of the grateful writer of these pages, and *there* their names will remain as long as life exists.

With much respect and many thanks to all,

I beg to remain,

Dear Friends and kind Patrons,

Yours Faithfully,

MARY ANNE MACMULLEN.

