

**KINGSTONIANA: BEING
HISTORICAL GLEANINGS
AND PERSONAL
RECOLLECTIONS**

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Kingstoniana: Being Historical Gleanings and Personal Recollections by Alderman John Symons

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ALDERMAN JOHN SYMONS

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Kingstoniana.



Yours in sincerity
John Symons.

Joseph M. Cormick

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KINGSTONIANA:

BEING

Historical Gleanings and Personal Recollections

BY

Alderman John Symons, M.R.I.A.

"I considered the days of old, and the years of
ancient times."—77th Psalm.



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1889.

[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

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TO THE
MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS,

FORMING THE
CORPORATION OF KINGSTON-UPON-HULL,

THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED

BY THEIR OBLIGED,

JOHN SYMONS.

Survey use ...

Preface.

DEAR READER,—If you protest against prolix prefaces, so do I, and I will not, therefore, weary you with one. Here I have given you, in this volume, some of the researches and pursuits which have solaced many of my hours, and have given point and purpose to the greater part of my life. It is not all that I could have wished it to be, nor all that you will perhaps expect, but (such as it is) with some claims to regard, and yet with many imperfections, I lay it before you, and ask you to value it for its few merits, and to pardon it for its many shortcomings. If it does nothing worse, it may stimulate someone else to an attempt to do something better in the same field of labour and research. I have carried you over some of my favourite haunts, introduced you to some of my old friends, recalled some of my youthful reminiscences, ventilated some of my own views, and permanently preserved, in bookform, records of persons, descriptions of antiquities, and interesting points in the history of our town, which would have otherwise been buried, and perhaps lost in the multifarious pages of our newspaper press. This is my apology for once more appearing as an author. In a work of this kind, typographical errors will necessarily creep in, notwithstanding the most vigilant supervision, and I must, therefore, ask the forbearance of my readers and critics.

I will also take this opportunity of tendering my acknowledgments to Mr. William Hunt (of the *Eastern Morning News*), for the courage and kindness he has shown in undertaking the risk of publication; to Mr. Abraham Johnson, for the admirable way in which he has executed the illustrations; and to Mr. George Lancaster for the valuable assistance he has given me in the editorial portion of the labour. The work is now done, and as I am fast approaching the limit of human life, I cannot

PREFACE.

help regarding it, as my last literary labour. Although there is a sense of pleasure in contemplating a completed task, there is at the same time a kind of sadness connected with it, and although I would not for one moment attempt to compare myself with Gibbon as an historian, I cannot better express my present feelings, than in the language which he used, when he had finished that stupendous labour of his life, the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." He said :—" A sober melancholy was spread over my mind by the idea that I had taken an everlasting leave of an agreeable companion, and that whatever might be the future fate of my history, the life of the historian must be short and precarious."

J. S.

Hull, January, 1889.

