

**THE ABBEY OF SAINT ALBAN:
SOME EXTRACTS FROM ITS
EARLY HISTORY AND A
DESCRIPTION OF ITS
CONVENTUAL CHURCH**

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The Abbey of Saint Alban: Some Extracts from Its Early History and a Description of Its
Conventual Church by H. J. B. Nicholson

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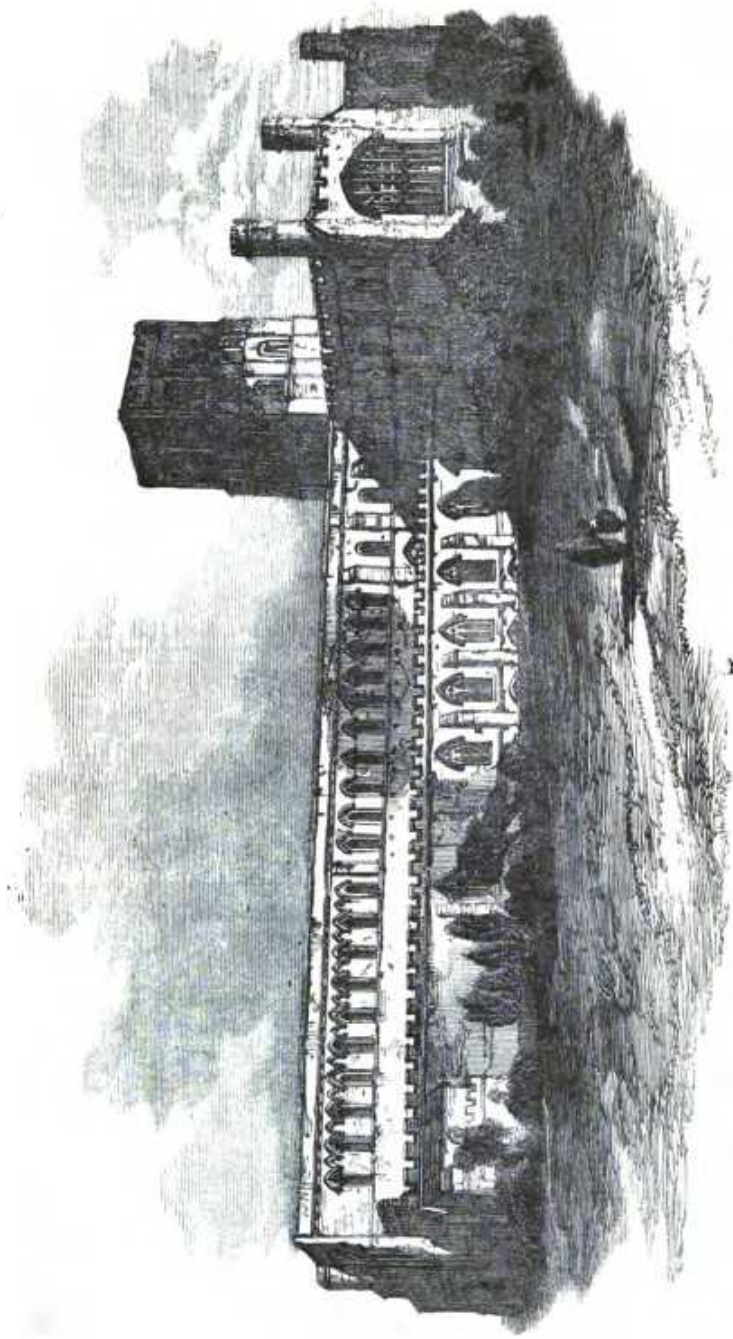
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H. J. B. NICHOLSON

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EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE ABBEY-CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN.

The
Abbey of Saint Alban.

SOME EXTRACTS FROM ITS EARLY HISTORY
AND A DESCRIPTION OF ITS
CONVENTUAL CHURCH.

BY THE LATE REV. H. J. B. NICHOLSON, D.D., F.S.A.

HONORARY CANON OF ROCHESTER.



INTENDED CHIEFLY FOR THE USE OF VISITORS.



THE ARMS OF THE ABBEY.

Third Edition.

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1870.

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THE following *Extracts from the History of the Abbey of St. Alban* and a very cursory *Description of its Church* have been compiled to serve as a Guide to the Visitor, at the time he is making his tour of the Building.

But, in order that the Book may be accounted worthy to survive such ephemeral use, the matter is put together in a connected series; an appended list of authorities authenticates what is adduced, and directs the enquirer to sources of information where he may prosecute further research.

Special reference is occasionally made to authors, when a doubtful or disputed point is advanced, or when fairness claims that the result of close investigation and cautious inference should not be thrown into the common stock unacknowledged. This latter remark applies especially to the *History of the Architecture of the Abbey Church*, by Messrs. Buckler, from which many extracts have been made when describing the Building; and not unfrequently for lines together in the very words of the original.

H. J. B. N.

Rectory, St. Albans,
1851.



PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

IN this Edition some corrections of errors in the former have been made ; and illustrations, together with much additional matter introduced.

The Compiler has to acknowledge the liberality of the Editor of the *Illustrated London News*, in furnishing him with the Plate of the Exterior View of the Abbey Church, which had served as one of the Illustrations of a series of Articles in that Paper, setting forth its claims to the dignity of a Cathedral ; and which has arisen out of an effort making by the County of Hertford for the formation of a new Diocese, having this Abbey Church for its See.

Rectory, St. Albans,
1856.

H. J. B. N.



PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

IN presenting this considerably enlarged Edition to the Public, little need be said, beyond remarking, that, with but trifling exceptions, the whole of the additional matter was left ready for the Press by the late Dr. Nicholson at the time of his lamented decease. To prepare these Notes on the History and Antiquities of the venerable Abbey Church had been to him a labour of love, and had occupied a great part of his leisure hours for many years. In their present form they evince more fully than ever his affection for the Church of which he was for upwards of thirty years the Rector, and they will by many be welcomed, not only for their intrinsic merit, but as memorials of a valued friend.

JOHN EVANS.

*Nash Mills,
Hemel Hempsted.
1869.*