

**THE HERO OF THE  
HUMBER, OR, THE  
HISTORY OF THE LATE  
MR. JOHN ELLERTHORPE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649505623

The Hero of the Humber, or, the History of the Late Mr. John Ellerthorpe by Henry Woodcock

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**HENRY WOODCOCK**

**THE HERO OF THE  
HUMBER, OR, THE  
HISTORY OF THE LATE  
MR. JOHN ELLERTHORPE**





*John Ellershope*

THE  
HERO OF THE HUMBER;  
OR, THE  
HISTORY OF THE LATE  
MR. JOHN ELLERTHORPE

(FOREMAN OF THE HUMBER DOCK GATES, HULL),

BEING A RECORD OF  
REMARKABLE INCIDENTS IN HIS CAREER AS A SAILOR; HIS CON-  
VERSION AND CHRISTIAN USEFULNESS; HIS UNEQUALLED SKILL  
AS A SWIMMER, AND HIS EXPLOITS ON THE WATER, WITH A  
MINUTE ACCOUNT OF HIS DEEDS OF DARING IN SAVING,  
WITH HIS OWN HANDS, ON SEPARATE AND DISTINCT  
OCCASIONS, UPWARDS OF FORTY PERSONS FROM DEATH  
BY DROWNING; TOGETHER WITH AN ACCOUNT OF  
HIS LAST AFFLICTION, DEATH, ETC.

BY THE

REV. HENRY WOODCOCK,

AUTHOR OF 'POPERY UNMASKED,' 'WONDERS OF GRACE,' ETC.

'My tale is simple and of humble birth,  
A tribute of respect to real worth.'

---

SECOND EDITION.

---

LONDON :

*S. W. Partridge, 9, Paternoster Row; Wesleyan Book Room,  
66, Paternoster Row; Primitive Methodist Book Room, 6, Sutton  
Street, Commercial Road, E.; and of all Booksellers.*

1880.

ALFORD :  
J. HORNER, PRINTER,  
MARKET-PLACE.

TO  
THE SEAMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN,  
TO WHOSE  
SKILL, COURAGE, AND ENDURANCE,  
ENGLAND OWES MUCH OF HER GREATNESS,  
THIS VOLUME—  
CONTAINING A RECORD OF THE CHARACTER AND DEEDS OF ONE,  
WHO, FOR UPWARDS OF THIRTY YEARS,  
BRAVED THE HARDSHIPS AND PERILS OF A SAILOR'S LIFE,  
AND  
WHOSE GALLANTRY AND HUMANITY  
WON FOR HIM THE TITLE  
OF  
'THE HERO OF THE HUMBER,'  
IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,  
WITH THE EARNEST PRAYER  
THAT THEY MAY EMBRACE THAT BENIGN RELIGION  
WHICH NOT ONLY RESCUED THE 'HERO' FROM THE EVILS IN WHICH  
HE HAD SO LONG INDULGED,  
AND ENRICHED HIM WITH THE GRACES OF THE  
CHRISTIAN CHARACTER,  
BUT ALSO GAVE  
A BRIGHTER GLOW AND GREATER ENERGY  
TO THAT  
COURAGE, GALLANTRY, AND HUMANITY  
BY WHICH HE HAD BEEN LONG DISTINGUISHED.

THE AUTHOR.





# PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

---

MR. GLADSTONE, in a recent lecture thus defines a hero: quoting Latham's definition of a hero,—'a man eminent for bravery,' he said he was not satisfied with that, because bravery might be mere animal bravery. Carlyle had described Napoleon I. as a great hero. 'Now he (Mr. Gladstone) was not prepared to admit that Napoleon was a hero. He was certainly one of the most extraordinary men ever born. There was more power concentrated in that brain than in any brain probably born for centuries. That he was a great man in the sense of being a man of transcendent power, there was no doubt; but his life was tainted with selfishness from beginning to end, and he was not ready to admit that a man whose life was fundamentally tainted with selfishness was a hero. A greater hero than Napoleon was the captain of a ship which was run down in the Channel three or four years ago, who, when the ship was quivering, and the water was gurgling round her, and the boats had been lowered to save such persons as could be saved, stood by the bulwark with a pistol in his hand and threatened to shoot dead the first man who endeavoured to get into the boat until every woman and child was provided for. His true idea of a hero was this:—A hero was a man who must have ends beyond himself, in casting himself as it were out of himself, and must pursue these ends by means which were honourable, the lawful means, otherwise he might degenerate into a wild enthusiast. He must do this without distortion or disturbance of his nature as a man, because there were cases of men who were heroes in great part, but who were so excessively given to certain ideas and objects of their own, that they lost all

the proportion of their nature. There were other heroes, who, by giving undue prominence to one idea, lost the just proportion of things, and became simply men of one idea. A man to be a hero must pursue ends beyond himself by legitimate means. He must pursue them as a man, not as a dreamer. Not to give to some one idea disproportionate weight which it did not deserve, and forget everything else which belonged to the perfection and excellence of human nature. If he did all this he was a hero, even if he had not very great powers; and if he had great powers, then he was a consummate hero.'

Now, if we cannot claim for the late Mr. Ellerthorpe 'great powers' of intellect, we are quite sure that all who read the following pages will agree that the title bestowed upon him by his grateful and admiring townsman,—'THE HERO OF THE HUMBER,' was well and richly deserved. He was a 'Hero,' though he lived in a humble cottage. He was a man of heroic sacrifices; his services were of the noblest kind; he sought the highest welfare of his fellow-creatures with an energy never surpassed; his generous and impulsive nature found its highest happiness in promoting the welfare of others. He is held as a benefactor in the fond recollection of thousands of his fellow countrymen, and he received rewards far more valuable and satisfying than those which his Queen and Government bestowed upon him: more lasting than the gorgeous pageantries and emblazoned escutcheon that reward the hero of a hundred battles.

The warrior's deeds may win  
An earthly fame, but deeds by mercy wrought,  
Are heaven's own register within:  
Not one shall be forgot.

The scene of most of his gallant exploits in rescuing human lives was 'The river Humber;' hence the title given him by a large gathering of his fellow townsmen.

The noble river Humber, upon which the town of Kingston-upon-Hull is seated, may be considered the Thames of the Midland and Northern Counties of England. It divides the East Riding