

**HANDBOOK FOR SOUTHPORT :
MEDICAL AND GENERAL, WITH
COPIOUS NOTICES OF THE
NATURAL HISTORY OF THE
DISTRICT**

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Handbook for Southport : Medical and General, with Copious Notices of the Natural History of the District by Edward Day McNicoll

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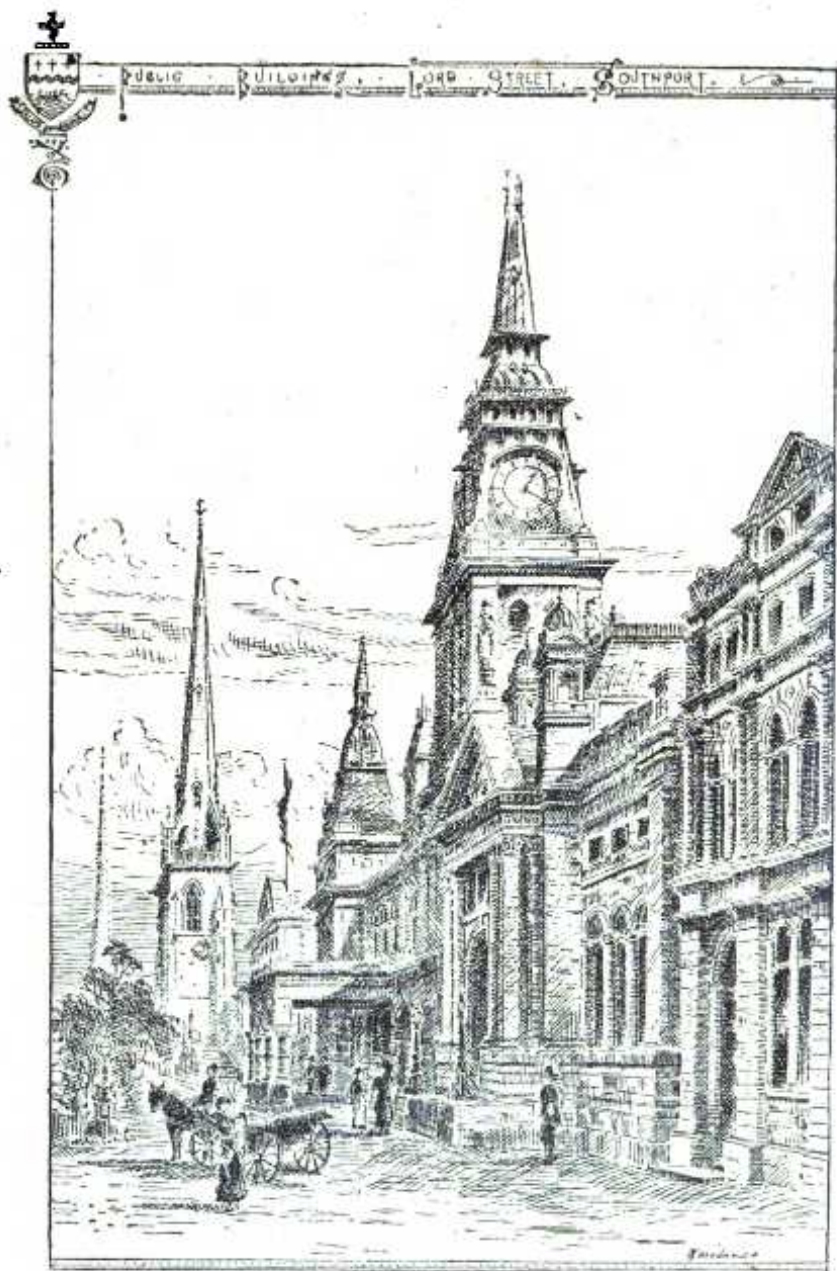
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EDWARD DAY MCNICOLL

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COPIOUS NOTICES OF THE NATURAL HISTORY
OF THE DISTRICT.

EDITED BY EDWARD DAY McNICOLL,

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CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL,

—
THIRD EDITION.
—



SOUTHPORT :

ROBERT JOHNSON AND CO. LIMITED, "VISITER" OFFICE, LORD STREET.

1883.

Gough Field's Lancashire
1883

P R E F A C E .

THE first edition of this little book was compiled by my father in 1859. The sale was rapid, and in 1861 another edition was called for and soon exhausted.

That no work dealing with the same subject has equalled my father's in scope and completeness has been freely admitted. To obtain a copy—although frequent attempts to do so have been made by the public—has for many years been impossible. My father's long illness, followed by his lamented death in 1868, doubtless helped to prevent a renewed issue.

The approaching visit of the British Association to Southport is an event of importance so great, and is so likely to attract general attention to the town and its history, as well as to promote local interest in all pertaining to it, that a more fitting opportunity could hardly be found for now publishing a new edition. Although the form of the work remains the same, it is hoped that in substance it may lay some claim to be considered much improved. The remarkable, almost unexampled, progress and development

of Southport, during the last twenty years, has called for a total re-casting and re-writing of much that the former editions contained—the portions, in particular, which are descriptive of the public buildings and institutions. Many of these have been founded or enlarged within the period named.

The preface to my father's original work contained a paragraph, the re-printing of which, *verbatim*, will indicate why even increased space is given to the Natural History.

“I need not apologise for the Natural History occupying so large a portion of the following pages. The motive has been to encourage useful and agreeable mental occupation on the part of visitors whose stay in Southport is more or less prolonged, and whose minds would, in the absence of some external object of thought, turn and prey upon themselves. This continual contemplation of their own condition—the result of the depression dependent upon disease, and absence from the ordinary engagements of life—needs to be carefully guarded against, and I have not thought it out of place in a work partly medical to suggest a substitute.”

With a view to promoting my father's excellent object in the best manner possible, I have sought the assistance, whilst preparing this new edition, of some of the gentlemen to whom

he was himself indebted for help. In this connection it gives me pleasure to name Mr. Charles H. Brown, to whom my thanks are due for undertaking the chapters upon the Shells, the Zoophytes, and the Foraminifera ; and Mr. Leo Grindon, who has dealt with the Botany, and supervised the Natural History in general.

Mr. Baxendell, the well-known meteorologist, has kindly supplied me with some Tables, which present, in the clearest manner, the results of the records daily made at the Observatory in Hesketh Park, extending over a period of eleven years. These Tables have not before been published in the present form, and are a distinct and valuable feature of the volume.

To Dr. Vernon, our valued Sanitary Medical Officer, my thanks are also due for placing at my disposal information which he had collected for independent purposes.

E. D. McN.

SOUTHPORT,

AUGUST, 1883.

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CHAPTER I.

— Through days and weeks
Of hope, that grew by stealth,
How many wan and faded cheeks
Have kindled into health ?

The old, by thee revived, have said
"Another year is ours !"
And way-worn wanderers, poorly fed,
Have smiled upon thy flowers.

—*Wordsworth.*

ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF SOUTHPORT.

SOUTHPORT is situated on that part of the coast of Lancashire which lies between the estuary of the Mersey and the mouth of the Ribble, at a distance of about eighteen miles from the entrance to the former. Throughout almost its whole extent, the sea-border here presents a continuous range of sandhills, upon the outer or western side of which there is a broad belt of level sand covered with water at high tide, but left bare during a considerable portion of every twenty-four hours. Inland from the sandhills the country is flat for a distance of several miles, but then rises with very agreeable undulation, the highest points commanding fine views, and memorable as having been in by-gone days the locality of beacons.