

**GREAT BRITAIN IN
1833: IN TWO
VOLUMES. VOL. I**

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Great Britain in 1833: In Two Volumes. Vol. I by Baron D'Haussez

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BARON D'HAUSSEZ

**GREAT BRITAIN IN
1833: IN TWO
VOLUMES. VOL. I**

GREAT BRITAIN

IN 1833.

Charles Lamercher de Longpré,

BY BARON D'HÄUSSEZ,

EX-MINISTER OF MARINE UNDER KING CHARLES X.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I

PHILADELPHIA:

CAREY, LEA & BLANCHARD—CHESNUT ST.

1833.

PREFACE.

Brought to the shores of England by the force of circumstances to which my will was subservient, it became my anxious care to profit from the time I should have to reside in that country, by studying its manners, its customs, and its institutions. Thanks to the benevolent disposition which the English are wont to display towards foreigners, to that innate and exclusive curiosity which rivets itself to every object, living or inanimate, out of the common sphere, their eagerness to become acquainted with those who have played a conspicuous part in human affairs, I have to record to their praise, the testimonies of interest which I received at their hands, and which have converted my esteem into a feeling of attachment. My exile has thus assumed the appearance of a visit, and my proscription gave me a title to their confidence and marked attentions.

An alternate state of frequent intercourse with a numerous and distinguished society, apparently not unwilling to yield a free range to my remarks, and of absolute retirement, tended alike to give me the command of the most valuable materials, and of the leisure and solitude so indispensable for arranging and acquiring a thorough knowledge of them. To this varied occupation I devoted all my time. Availing myself of the advantageous position in which I was placed, in order to form a correct judgment of a people who have been in France the theme of exaggerated blame or censure, according to the dictates of pure caprice, I hope to have steered a course altogether free from both extremes. To those who, in

their ignorance of England, or in their appreciation of it through the perverted medium of a conventional enthusiasm, affect to speak of that country in a language of ecstasy and admiration which no argument can shake,—to such the opinions I have uttered will doubtless appear fanciful or too rigorous. Others, again, will condemn them as too favourable, who tenaciously adhering to prejudices which should long since have been banished, and encouraging these prejudices by their infatuated blindness and hostility, disdain to acknowledge that there can exist any thing noble, honourable, or of value, out of their own country, and beyond the sphere of those customs in the midst of which they have been reared. Such is the fate reserved to impartiality; and I submit to it without complaint. If my observations are tinged with criticism, I may venture to declare that they never can assume a character of personality or of calumny. It will be gratifying to me to bestow praise on what may appear deserving of it. If occasionally called upon to use the language of censure, I shall never give utterance to expressions which might call in question the attachment I so unfeignedly entertain for the English nation, in return for the noble and generous hospitality of which I have been the object during my residence in England.

ADVERTISEMENT.

To the English reader some account of the author of this work cannot fail to be interesting. It is but fitting that he should know who and what the individual is who so freely criticises his country. With this view, we have thought it necessary to give the following sketch of the life of the author.

Descended from an ancient family of the Parliament of Normandy, the Baron D'Haussez was still young at the epoch of the first revolution. Devoted, like his ancestors, to the royal cause, he entered the ranks of the army of Brittany. He formed part of the division of M. de Frotté, when that general surrendered and was assassinated in open contempt of the terms of the capitulation.

M. D'Haussez was arrested upon that occasion; and afterwards, upon being restored to liberty, was subjected to a strict *surveillance*. Nevertheless, he did not hesitate to take an active part in the conspiracy against the Consular Government, being one of those concerned, in 1804, in the abortive attempt of Pichegru and Cadoudal. Although arrested upon the discovery of the plot, M. D'Haussez escaped trial; but was subjected to a stricter and more rigorous *surveillance* than he had hitherto undergone.

From this period he took no part in public life, nor do we hear more of him till the period of the restoration.

He was returned to the Chamber of Deputies in 1815, and prominently opposed the majority of that chamber.

An official career now opened to M. D'Haussez. Being called to fill successively some important prefectures, he distinguished himself by his talents, and still more by an activity and political energy which were crowned with marked success. His labours, together with the various projects which he had in contemplation, are recorded in the works he has published concerning the Departments under his control. These departments are indebted to him for excellent roads, handsome and useful public buildings, bridges, &c. Nor was he inattentive to agriculture: in his *Etudes Administratives sur les Landes*, published in 1826, he proves what well-directed efforts may accomplish, even on the most sterile soils; indeed the country between the Garonne and the Adour attests the advantages derived from his able superintendence.

The reader who may wish for a further account of the agricultural improvements effected by M. D'Haussez, and of the efforts made by him in favour of the poor of the different departments over which he presided, is referred to the *Etudes sur les Landes*.

It may not be irrelevant to observe in this place that while M. D'Haussez was Prefect at Bordeaux, he was distinguished by kindness and hospitality towards our countrymen; and men of the most varied and opposite political sentiments allow him to have been an active and enlightened prefect.

In 1829, M. D'Haussez was appointed to the

Ministry of the Marine. Some idea may be formed of his activity while holding this important office, when it is stated that he was charged with the whole of the preparations for the expedition to Algiers. In a few months he assembled, in the Roads of Toulon, a fleet of more than a hundred ships of war, and six or seven hundred transports. It is generally known in France that to the unaided energy of the Minister of Marine the conquest of Algiers was mainly owing: the French navy did not very willingly enter on the task.

The events of July, on which it is not necessary to dwell at length, compelled M. D'Haussez to fly his native country. Thanks to his presence of mind, and to the courage of a friend, he escaped the fortress of Ham.

Upon his arrival in England, Baron D'Haussez sought to divert the tedium of exile by literary composition, which had been always familiar to him; and these pages, as well as certain Memoirs, relating to events in which he has borne a part, are the results of his labours.

These Sketches of England were composed after an experience of three years' residence. They are certainly written in a *free*—it is for the public to say whether in a *fair* spirit. The object of Baron D'Haussez appears to be to speak the truth honestly as regards the institutions, Customs, and Manners of England; to avoid servility on the one hand, and on the other to steer clear of intemperate abuse.

LONDON, June 1833.

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