

**DARWEN AND THE  
COTTON FAMINE. THIRTY  
YEARS AGO, 1862-1864**

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Darwen and the Cotton Famine. Thirty Years Ago, 1862-1864 by S. A. Nichols

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**S. A. NICHOLS**

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COTTON FAMINE. THIRTY  
YEARS AGO, 1862-1864**



DARWEN  
AND  
THE COTTON FAMINE.  
THIRTY YEARS AGO,  
1862—1864.

BY THE  
HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE LOCAL  
RELIEF COMMITTEE.

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WITH A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE  
CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE THROUGHOUT THE  
COTTON DISTRICT.

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J. J. RILEY,  
"NEWS" OFFICE, DARWEN;  
and "FREE PRESS" OFFICE, RAWTENSTALL.

1893.



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**Dedicated**

TO THE MEMORY OF ONE WHO IN  
HER OWN QUIET, UNOBTRUSIVE  
MANNER TOOK PART IN THE WORK  
HEREIN RECORDED, AND FOR WHOM  
SOME HEARTS, IN DARWEN STILL  
BEAT WITH GRATITUDE, AND MORE  
WITH LOVE.

"Aw make no accawnt o' slotchin' up an' deawn o' this shap, like a foo'. It would sicken a dog, it would for sure. Aw go a fishin' a bit, neaw an' then : an' aw cotter abeawt wi' first one thing an' then another, but it comes to no sense. It's noan like gradely wark. It makes me maunder up an' deawn sometimes like a gonnor wi' a nail in it yed. Aw wish to God yon chaps in Amerikay would play th'up-stroke an' get done wi' their bother, so as foak could start o' wortchin again."

A WIGAN OVERLOOKER.

## P R E F A C E .

THE Author, or compiler, of this small volume, has for many years past purposed its production at some future period ; and feels now that unless the purpose is at once put into execution, it will not be performed at all.

He commends the little book to all who take any interest in its record ; to his friends, the comparatively few survivors of the once large Darwen Committee ; to those who yet remain of the subscribers to, and recipients of the bounty whose story it relates ; and chiefly to the new generation, the descendants, children and grandchildren of those who suffered bitter privations, and manifested the patience, fortitude, and endurance which won for them a Spartan reputation throughout the English speaking world ; and for which they will be esteemed by all honourable men as long as the memory of the Cotton Famine remains.

To the critical reader, who may justly find fault with the loose manner in which the facts are thrown together, he must plead his inexperience in the art and mystery of authorship.