

**AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL AND FULL  
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE PERSECUTION  
OF HAMLET NICHOLSON IN HIS OPPOSITION  
TO RITUALISM AT THE ROCHDALE PARISH  
CHURCH; ALSO AN ACCOUNT OF HIS WORK  
IN THE CONSERVATIVE INTEREST FROM 1832  
TO 1892**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649499984

An Autobiographical and Full Historical Account of the Persecution of Hamlet Nicholson in His Opposition to Ritualism at the Rochdale Parish Church; Also an Account of His Work in the Conservative Interest from 1832 to 1892 by Hamlet Nicholson

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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# **HAMLET NICHOLSON**

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*Portrait of the Author on his 80th birthday  
with his Grandchildren.*

*AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL*  
AND FULL HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE  
*PERSECUTION*  
OF  
HAMLET NICHOLSON

*In his opposition to Ritualism at the  
Rochdale Parish Church.*

ALSO  
AN ACCOUNT OF HIS WORK IN THE  
CONSERVATIVE INTEREST FROM 1832 TO 1892.  
together with  
*OTHER PERSONAL NARRATIVES.*

ROCHDALE, 1892.

MANCHESTER:  
BARBER & FARNWORTH, PRINTERS 57 FOUNTAIN STREET

*Entered at Stationers' Hall.*

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*Trust fund*

DEDICATION.

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TO MY TWO GRAND-DAUGHTERS  
WHO ARE REPRESENTED ON THE FRONTISPIECE,  
WHOSE PRATTLING VOICES  
OFT HAVE TURNED MY THOUGHTS  
FROM PERSONAL CARES,  
WHOSE GUILLELESS SMILES AND CHILDISH INNOCENCE  
HAVE CHEERED ME  
IN MANY A THOUGHTFUL HOUR,  
THESE PAGES ARE AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.



Symbolic designs are the crafts of the Jesuits in our Protestant Churches to lead away the innocent from the pure worship of One God through One Mediator Only.

## *PREFACE.*

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For many years it has been my intention to compile an account of some of those incidents of my life that have here and there, on the way, had such public prominence that they might possibly interest those into whose hands such a history might fall ; but, beyond any mere personal reasons, several old friends have expressed the wish that I would not depart from this sphere of action leaving such a work undone. Besides these considerations, there are at the same time, motives of my own which have prompted me to take this course ; and it is due to myself, and only consistent with my own individuality to say, those motives are the natural associates of a desire to arrest the slanderer's tongue when I can no longer be there to repel it.

The secrets of the heart are only known to its possessor ; and however much we may desire to be rightly understood when dealing with our fellows, it is always possible that we may be viewed through the eyes of prejudice, and instead of our conduct being estimated according to a right use of the reason, and charity, we may get credit for the worst motives and become the victims of injustice.

I might have passed in silence to the grave and been forgotten, but I conceived it my duty to be heard.

The time of turmoil is gone ; some actors in past scenes have " shuffled off this mortal coil," and those that still remain may re-act their parts in memory, and in the light of wider experience discern their misconceptions and wrong judgments.

PREFACE.

My story is a true one, and told as the incidents bear their impress on my mind ; it is for my reader, therefore, to estimate my character and conduct according to the evidence presented : let him emulate or disregard it, as befits his judgments.

In the narrative itself something historical is sure to be found ; indeed 'tis but a history I write ; but, as will be seen, it is full of the vicissitudes of an eventful and long life, wherein will be read that which may encourage the weak to battle against the strong ; and though defeated, he may rise, under the help of Divine Providence, renewed with strength to fight and fight again, and to have the assurance of a good conscience, in the end he has not fought in vain.

Thus I launch my little book upon the sea of time, and take upon myself the everlasting consequence.

HAMLET NICHOLSON.

*Kilmer Deyne Terrace,  
Rehdale.*