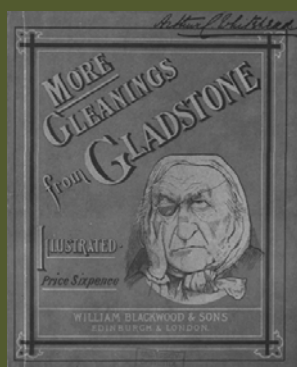


# 19th Century British Pamphlets

## Guide for postgraduate researchers



More gleanings from Gladstone  
George Stronach | 1881 |

# 19th Century British Pamphlets

## Guide for postgraduate researchers

### ■ Introduction

Political pamphlets are an essential primary source for anyone studying 19th century British and Imperial history, politics and economics. In the days before radio, television and instant news much political debate was carried on in print. This tradition had started during the Reformation when leading lights such as Erasmus, Calvin and Luther started to issue tracts publicising their thoughts. The importance of pamphlets in the upheavals of the 1600s is well-known and by the early 18th century had reached its apogee with writers such as Jonathan Swift, Richard Steele and Joseph Addison publishing pamphlets on behalf of the Tories and Whigs. The tradition did not die out in the 19th century although politicians also started to make use on newspapers, journals and periodicals to spread their views. Nonetheless any study of the major political debates of the 19th century has to take account of the material found in the pamphlets of the day.

This JISC-funded project now makes it far easier to access much of this material. The contents of over 26,000 pamphlets from seven major university research libraries have been digitised and made available over the web making it an invaluable source of information for undergraduate study.

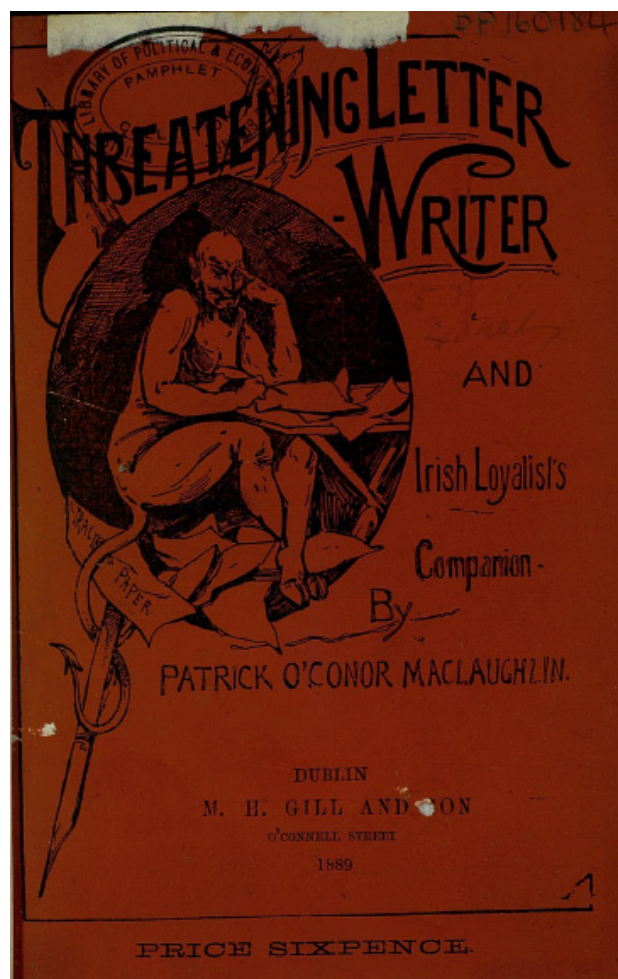
### ■ Using this guide

This Guide is intended to show you how the digitised collection of pamphlets can assist you with all aspects of your undergraduate degree from essays and extended projects to dissertations. It includes:

- Background information of the nature of political debate with reference to the growth of a print culture
- Overview of the content and use of the pamphlet collections
- An in-depth guide to accessing the collections

- Information on how the pamphlets can be used in conjunction with other digitised collections of material.

It needs to be stated from the outset that this Guide is just that – a guide. It is intended to show how the pamphlets can be used. You are encouraged to delve into the collections to find material appropriate to your research interest.



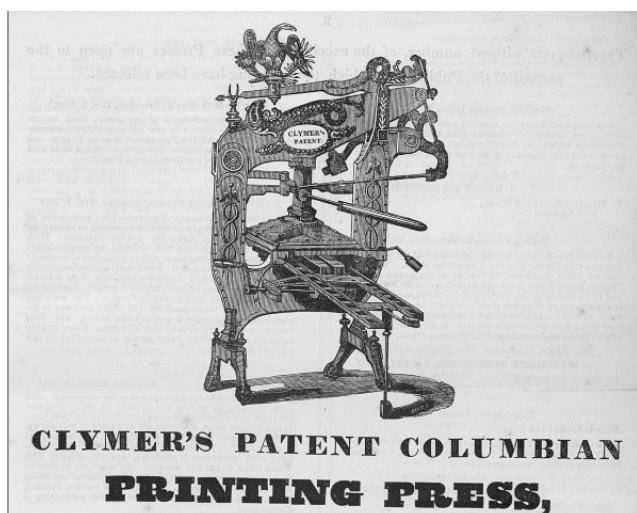
Cover of – The threatening letter-writer and Irish loyalist's companion | 1889 | Copac 11434281



## ■ Political pamphlets and the growth of a print culture

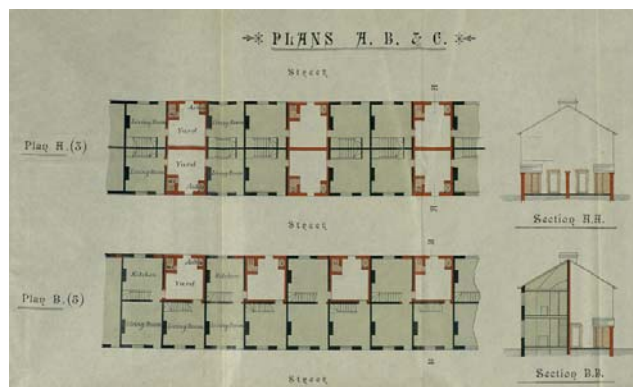
The process of printing underwent something of a revolution in the 19th century. At the start of the century, a printer's workshop would have looked very similar in appearance to those in operation three centuries earlier. Books, tracts and pamphlets would all have been printed using hand-operated wooden printing presses. By the end of the century, the traditional workshop had been replaced by factories housing machine-driven presses capable of printing thousands of pages per hour. Much of this innovation was driven by the increased appetite for newspapers. A decrease in the cost of producing newspapers coincided with an increase in demand for news, development of faster and easier communication links and a rise in literacy. The result was a rapid increase both in the number of titles being published and in the number of people having access to the news.

The increased demand for news reflected the rise of interest in politics generally. The years following the end of the French and Napoleonic Wars witnessed an increased participation in the realm of politics by both the middle and working classes. This was mirrored by an expansion of the market for political pamphlets. Authors penned tracts on practically every subject imaginable: the need for political reform; imperial expansion, public health; the problem of poverty and the poor; foreign relations; economics. The



Detail from Page 3 of – Testimonials respecting the superiority, utility, and durability of the patent Columbian Printing Press, invented and manufactured by George Clymer | 1821 | Copac 10000663200

list of subjects covered is almost inexhaustible. Indeed, even a cursory search of the material covered by this project shows just how diverse the subject matter is.



Detail of Plans from – Back to back housing | Manchester Health Department | 1893 | Copac 11398890

## ■ Why should I use the pamphlets?

Drawn from the collections of seven university research libraries, the pamphlets are an invaluable source of information about the issues, debates and controversies that informed the 19th century political arena. More detailed information about the contents of the collections can be found towards the end of this guide but it is clear that reference to the pamphlets is essential to most studies touching upon 19<sup>th</sup> century politics.

The most obvious use of the pamphlets is as evidence of what people had to say on particular subjects. Researchers can also use the pamphlets to track the actual debate that was taking place. Many of the pamphlets available were written in response to another pamphlet putting forward an alternative viewpoint. Being able to trace this process is both interesting and informative. Many authors also changed their position over time and the ability to compare and contrast viewpoints over time is facilitated by having the pamphlets available in a digitised format.

The pamphlets can also be mined for other kinds of evidence. For example, many authors incorporated statistical evidence; others used maps and illustrations to support their arguments and these too can be an invaluable source of information that is not easily accessible elsewhere.

## ■ About the project

This project is funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), a body funded by the UK Higher Education and Further Education funding bodies to provide world-class leadership in the innovative use of ICT to support education and research. As part of its portfolio, JISC runs a programme to digitise important collections of material and make them available as e-resources.

This project has created more than 1 million digitised and OCR-ed images from the paper copy of over 26,000 pamphlets. The digitised images are available within JSTOR, and users are therefore able to take advantage of JSTOR's search and retrieval interface. The pamphlets have also been fully indexed by Google's spider, enabling them to be found via a standard Google web search.

## ■ About the collections

The pamphlets used in this project were drawn from the collections of a number of university research libraries from across the UK. Brief descriptions of these are given below:

- **Hume Tracts (UCL)**

The subject-matter of this collection is extremely broad, reflecting the major political, economic and social developments and reforms taking place in Britain in the early part of the nineteenth century, and including some of the causes championed by Joseph Hume during his parliamentary career. Themes that feature particularly prominently in the collection are: parliamentary reform and extension of voting rights; Catholic emancipation and Church reform (with a lot of debate about Church tithes and the power of the Anglican church); the abolition of slavery in British colonies; the condition of the working classes and urban poor; imprisonment for bankruptcy and debt; trade unions; the Poor and the Corn laws; child labour and the Factory Acts; the expansion of education and the role of the church and of religion in education; temperance societies; the development of friendly societies and savings banks; banking, finance and the Currency Question; the treatment of the mentally ill

in psychiatric hospitals; the problem of obtaining corpses for dissection in anatomy classes and the need for legislation in the wake of the Burke and Hare scandal; censorship and freedom of the press, including criticism of the British government in India by James Silk Buckingham, editor of the *Oriental Herald*; and the East India Company.

- **Earl Grey Pamphlets (Durham University)**

The Earl Grey Pamphlets cover a wide span of political, economic and social issues of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Parliamentary reform, and matters of colonial and imperial policy are particularly strongly represented, and there are numerous pamphlets with colonial imprints. Ireland is another major theme, as are church affairs. The 3rd Earl's interests in free trade, land, tithes, and the housing of the poor are all well represented. The 4th Earl was a man of multifarious interests, who played a leading role in movements for co-operation and co-partnership, temperance (public house trusts), church reform, university extension, garden cities, and imperial federation. All of these enthusiasms are reflected in the collection. The Greys were also closely interested in the family estate at Howick, Northumberland, and involved in local affairs, and material relating to Northumberland forms a further component of the collection.

- **Knowley Pamphlets (University of Liverpool)**

The nineteenth-century volumes (531-669) of the Knowsley Pamphlet collection were accumulated by the 14th and possibly the 15th Earls of Derby, and the contents reflect their parliamentary careers. Edward George, 14th Earl of Derby (1799-1869) was successively Irish Secretary (1830-33), colonial secretary (1833-34 and 1841-44) and three times Prime Minister (1852, 1858-59 and 1866-68). His career was summarised by Disraeli as "He abolished slavery, he educated Ireland, he reformed parliament". His son, Edward Henry, 15th Earl of Derby (1826-1893) was colonial secretary and later Indian secretary in his father's administration of

1858-59. The nineteenth-century volumes of the Knowsley Pamphlets contain large sections (100 or more items) on religion and church affairs, finance and taxation, India, Ireland, education and law reform; other strongly represented areas include foreign affairs and policy, particularly in the US and Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the West Indies and China; prisons, defence, sanitary and social issues and parliamentary reform; there are smaller sections on individual acts of parliament such as the Jews' Bill, crises such as the Revolution of Paris, 1830, the working classes, free trade and temperance.

- **Cowen Tracts (Newcastle University)**

The collection belonged to Newcastle-born Joseph Cowen (1829-1900), MP and social reformer. Cowen aided various European revolutionary movements by supporting them financially and by using the export side of his family's business to smuggle subversive papers to the Continent. Domestically, he became involved in a number of reform movements, such as those relating to temperance, sanitation and education, and in Chartism. He established and purchased his own journals and newspapers to disseminate his ideas. The Cowen Tracts date, in the main, from Cowen's active years of the late 1840s to early 1880s, though there is some earlier and later material (including ca. 100 18th century items). The topics covered largely reflect his main interests of social, educational and economic issues.

- **Bristol Selected Pamphlets (University of Bristol)**

The Library's National Liberal Club pamphlet collection is especially strong on nineteenth century commerce, economics, finance, politics, religion, and sociology. It includes publications not only by and about the Liberal Party, but also the Conservative and Labour Parties. To give more details, we have material on early railways, Indian affairs, Irish nationalism and Home Rule, W.E. Gladstone, Charles Bradlaugh, slavery, Colonial matters, contagious diseases, vaccination, sanitation, marriage law reform, church disestablishment,

education, positivism, and numerous other topics. Many items are reprints of sermons, speeches, letters, and proceedings of meetings. Altogether this collection is a unique record of the liberal tradition of English society and thought.

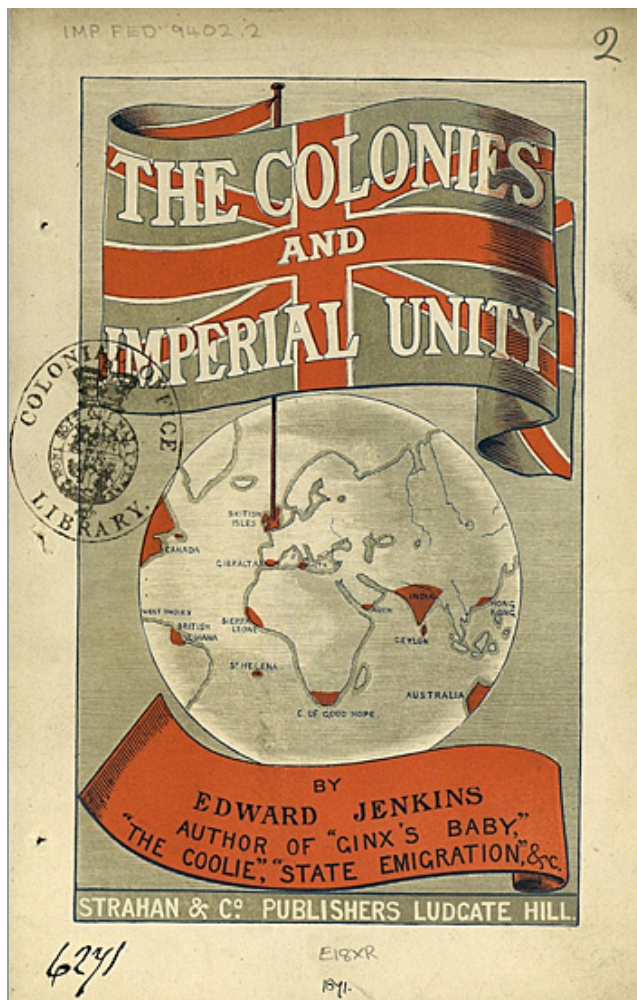
- **LSE Selected Pamphlets (London School of Economics and Political Science)**

These selected pamphlets cover political party materials, including election manifestos and political cartoons. There are also collections from pressure groups such as the Fabian Society, Imperial Federation Defence Committee, Poor Law Reform Association, Workhouse Visiting Society, Liberal and Property Defence League, and from cooperative movements such as the Cooperative Women's Guild.

- **Foreign Office and Colonial Office Collections and other selections (University of Manchester)**

The Pamphlet Collection of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is one of the most historically significant parts of the former Foreign and Commonwealth Office Library. It consists of 301 volumes of pamphlets collected by the Foreign Office and 359 volumes from the old Colonial Office. The Foreign Office material consists largely of pamphlets acquired by British ambassadors overseas, and sent back to London as being of value for the formulation of policy. Thus the collection is rich in material from South America (where the British government was the formal arbitrator in boundary disputes), the Near East (both the last century of the Turkish Empire and the growth of Zionism), and the various great European "Questions", from the Congress of Vienna through to German material published during the First World War and smuggled out through Switzerland. The Colonial Office pamphlets are chiefly local imprints - including, for example, unique early Australiana. A substantial proportion of the pamphlets - particularly those of the Foreign Office - are believed to be otherwise unrepresented in libraries in the United Kingdom.





Cover of – The Colonies and imperial unity: or, The "Barrel without the hoops" : inaugural address delivered at the Conference on Colonial Questions, held at Westminster Palace Hotel, in London, July 19, 20, and 21, 1871 | Edward Jenkins | 1871 | Copac 061494352

### ■ What other digitised collections are available?

JISC has funded a number of other large-scale digitisation projects which provide online access to related useful sources. Brief descriptions of the most relevant projects are included below but full details can be obtained from the JISC website - <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/>

- **British Library newspapers 1620-1900**  
Over 2 million pages of local, regional and national newspapers have been digitised and indexed providing researchers with easy access to an invaluable source of information about 19th century life. Cross-referencing also means that researchers will be able to

compare coverage of different events/subjects in a range of newspapers. This service is available to all UK Further and Higher Education institutions via <http://newspapers.bl.uk/>

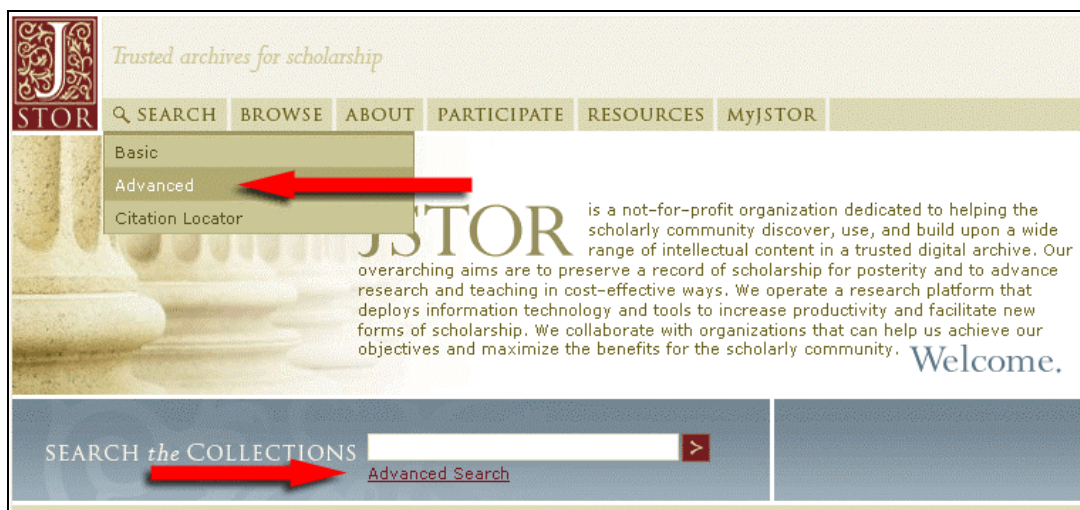
- **Historic boundaries of Britain**  
This project has resulted in the creation of a comprehensive digital library of historic and administrative boundaries for Britain by scanning historical maps and creating vector boundaries for selected geographies. The results are accessible via the Vision of Britain website - <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/> - which is a mine of information for historians, sociologists and political scientists.
- **Online Census reports**  
The Census returns are a well known source of information for 19th century historians but the accompanying reports have traditionally been under-used. Over 600 volumes of reports have now been used and provide very detailed information about the demography, economy and sociology of the British Isles between 1801 and 1937. All the reports are available via <http://www.histpop.org/>
- **Pre-Raphaelite resources**  
Pre-Raphaelitism was Britain's most significant and influential 19th-century art movement. Founded in 1848, it centred on a group of three young artists: William Holman Hunt, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and John Everett Millais. This new resource has digitised Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery's entire Pre-Raphaelite collection, including painting on canvas, works on paper, sculpture, designs for stained glass, textiles, tiles, printed books, unpublished artists' and associates' letters, notebooks relating to major patrons of the BM&AG collection, and associated photographic material and made it available via <http://www.preraphaelites.org/>

## ■ How do I access the pamphlets?

*Note that this guide was produced in May 2009 and reflects search features available at that time. If these have changed, consult the Help section of JSTOR for up-to-date guidance.*

### Searching for pamphlets

Accessing the pamphlets is straightforward. From the JSTOR home page (<http://www.jstor.org/>) choose the Advanced Search option from the drop down menu in the Search tab, or link below the Search box. This will allow you to restrict your search to pamphlets and find relevant material much more easily.



If you have never used JSTOR before it is recommended that you watch the online tutorials and read the Search help guidelines. Please be aware however, that these cover the whole of the site and are not confined to searching just the pamphlets. It is also worth remembering that you can make use of wild card and fuzzy searches. For example, Chartis\* will find Chartist, Chartists, Chartism etc.

The advanced search facility allows you to search for between 1 and 4 words and/or phrases. For each word or phrase you can search five different fields: full text; author; item title, abstract and caption. Unless you are searching for a specific author or pamphlet title it is recommended that you start with a full-text search. If this returns too many results you can then refine your search using the other fields. You can also narrow your search by using the Date Range field.

A screenshot of the JSTOR Advanced Search page. At the top, there are links for 'View Tutorial' and 'Search Help' (highlighted with a red arrow). Below these are four search input fields. The first three fields have a dropdown menu for search fields: 'full-text' (selected), 'author', 'item title', 'abstract', and 'caption'. A red arrow points to the 'full-text' option. To the right of each input field is a dropdown for logical operators: 'AND', 'OR', and 'NOT'. Below the input fields is a checkbox labeled 'Search for links to items outside of JSTOR' with a red question mark icon. A 'Search' button is located below the checkbox. Under the 'Search' button is the 'Limit to:' section. It includes a 'Type:' label and five radio buttons: 'Article', 'Review', 'Editorial', 'Pamphlet' (selected with a red arrow), and 'All'. Below the radio buttons is a 'Date Range:' field with 'From:' and 'To:' input boxes and a note '(specify dates as yyyy, yyyy/mm, or yyyy/mm/dd)'. A red arrow points to the 'From:' input box. Below the date range is a 'Language:' dropdown menu set to 'All Languages'. At the bottom is a 'Title:' label.

### An example

It may be appropriate to carry out a review of all the pamphlets related to your area of research. The search fields can be deployed to make this as wide or as narrow as you wish.

For example, if you are interested in an aspect of public health you can carry searches using the full-text field with a variety of search terms. However this will inevitably result in a huge number of returns which could prove unmanageable. It may be better therefore, to restrict your search by combining terms.

In the example below, a search is being made for pamphlets which include references to sanitation in Durham between the years 1820 and 1880.

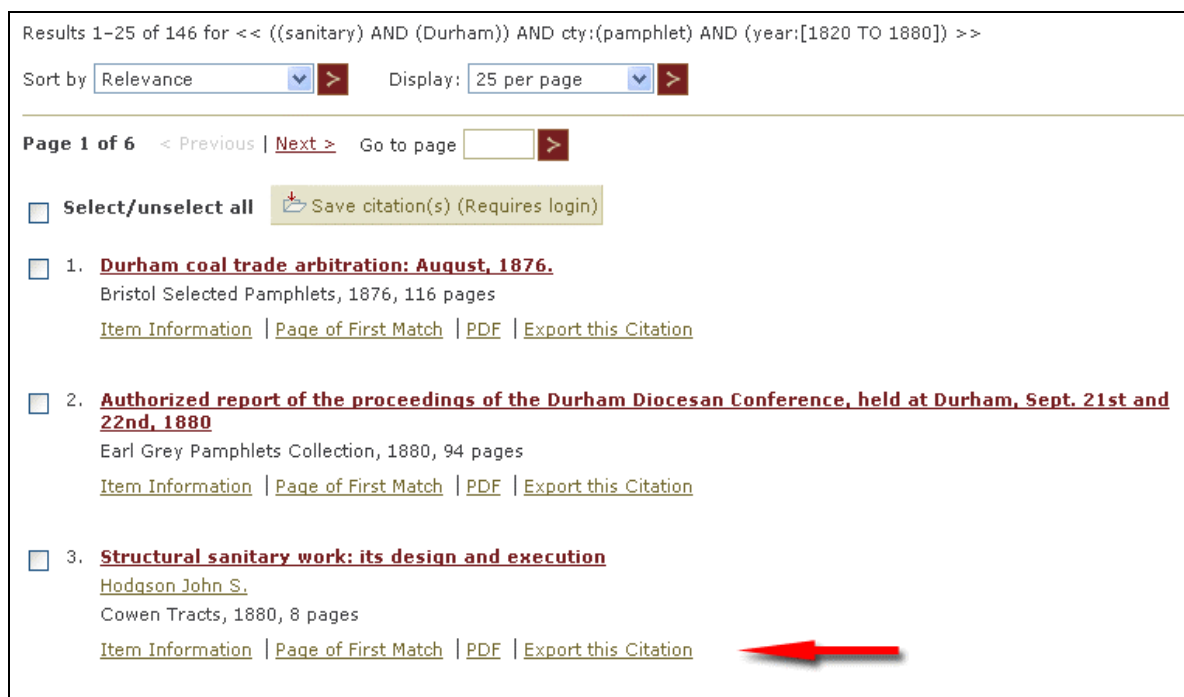
The screenshot shows the JSTOR Advanced Search interface. At the top, it says "Advanced Search" with links for "View Tutorial" and "Search Help". There are four search input fields. The first two contain the text "sanitary" and "Durham" respectively. Red arrows point to these two fields. Each field has a "full-text" dropdown menu and an "AND" dropdown menu. Below the search fields, there is a checkbox labeled "Search for links to items outside of JSTOR" with a question mark icon. Below that is a "Search" button, with a red arrow pointing to it. Under the "Search" button, there is a "Limit to:" section. It includes a "Type:" label followed by four radio buttons: "Article", "Review", "Editorial", and "Pamphlet". The "Pamphlet" radio button is checked, and a red arrow points to it. Below the "Type:" section, there is a "Date Range:" section with "From:" and "To:" labels. The "From:" field contains "1820" and the "To:" field contains "1880". A red arrow points to the "1880" field. To the right of the "To:" field, there is a note: "(specify dates as yyyy, yyyy/mm, or yyyy/mm/dd)". Below the "Date Range:" section, there is a "Language:" label followed by a dropdown menu set to "All Languages".

Clicking on the search button will bring up a list of results. In order to make sure all relevant pamphlets are found it will be necessary to carry out further searches using a range of different search terms. The general rule about thinking as laterally as possible when searching for primary sources should be followed.



## Viewing the pamphlets

The results are returned as a list which gives details of the title, author, collection, date of publication and pamphlet size. Depending on the number of results, these can be displayed on one or more pages. It is unlikely that you will want to look at all the pamphlets so it is advisable to scroll through the list of results and decide what looks to be the most relevant.




Results 1-25 of 146 for << ((sanitary) AND (Durham)) AND cty:(pamphlet) AND (year:[1820 TO 1880]) >>

Sort by: [Relevance](#) > Display: [25 per page](#) >

Page 1 of 6 < Previous | [Next](#) > Go to page:  >

☐ **Select/unselect all** [Save citation\(s\) \(Requires login\)](#)

- ☐ 1. **[Durham coal trade arbitration: August, 1876.](#)**  
Bristol Selected Pamphlets, 1876, 116 pages  
[Item Information](#) | [Page of First Match](#) | [PDF](#) | [Export this Citation](#)
- ☐ 2. **[Authorized report of the proceedings of the Durham Diocesan Conference, held at Durham, Sept. 21st and 22nd, 1880](#)**  
Earl Grey Pamphlets Collection, 1880, 94 pages  
[Item Information](#) | [Page of First Match](#) | [PDF](#) | [Export this Citation](#)
- ☐ 3. **[Structural sanitary work: its design and execution](#)**  
Hodgson John S.  
Cowen Tracts, 1880, 8 pages  
[Item Information](#) | [Page of First Match](#) | [PDF](#) | [Export this Citation](#) 

Underneath each pamphlet entry are four options:

- **Item information** provides bibliographic information for the pamphlet and details of a stable url which will provide a direct link to that specific pamphlet for future reference.
- **Page of first Match** takes you to the first page in the pamphlet on which your search terms (highlighted) can be found. There is then an option to move to the next page where there is a match of search words.
- **PDF** allows you to download a pdf version of the pamphlet. Please note that the pdf contains the whole pamphlet not just specific pages. This means that some file sizes can be large and will take some time to download. Before downloading a pdf of the pamphlet a pop-up box will ask you if you agree to JSTOR Terms and condition. If you accept the terms, the pdf version will appear in a new window.
- **Export the citation.** JSTOR also gives you the option to export the pamphlet citation. This can be used in conjunction with specific referencing packages such as EndNote, Procite, Refworks, Reference Manager or you can have the citation e-mailed to you. If you wish to take advantage of any of these options, click on the appropriate link and follow the instructions.

If you wish to browse through a pamphlet, click on the pamphlet title. This opens the pamphlet on the same page.

The rate of mortality in Manchester and other manufacturing towns, compared with that of cathedral a... [more](#)  
 Whitehead, James, 1864  
 Knowsley Pamphlet Collection  
 Contributed by: [University of Liverpool](#)

[Save citation \(Requires login\)](#)  
[Export this Citation](#)  
[Item Information](#)  
[PDF](#)

Your search term(s) occur 159 time(s) in this item. [View list of pages with search term\(s\)](#) [Back to Search Results](#)  
 < Previous Result Next Result >

Page image 36 of 90 pages | [Select a page](#)

**JSTOR**  
[Items by Whitehead, James](#)

**Google Scholar**  
[Related Items](#)  
[Items Citing this Item](#)  
[Items by Whitehead, James](#)

STATIONS.	AUTHORITIES.	Height above Sea Level. feet.	DEPTH OF RAIN.			
			1860 inches.	1861 inches.	1862 inches.	Average for 3 years. inches.
<b>DURHAM—</b>						
Darlington .....	Mr. J. Richardson ...	140	31·91	32·83	21·25	28·66
Winston (Stubb House) .....	T. Dodgson, Esq. ....	460	30·28	24·54	25·84	26·89
Washington .....	J. Watson, Esq. ....	120	27·61	...	...	...
Durham Observatory ...	A. Marth, Esq. ....	338	30·33	24·28	21·82	25·48
Bishopwearmouth .....	Dr. Ogden .....	140	24·71	19·30	20·97	21·66
Sunderland .....	Rev. G. Hiff .....	130	29·39	...	21·59	...
" (Hendon Hill) .....	J. W. Mounsey, Esq. ...	150	...	...	24·97	...
Shotley Hall .....	Mr. G. Routledge ...	309	35·35	28·80	24·04	29·39
<b>NORTHUMBERLAND—</b>						
Allenheads .....	T. J. Bewick, Esq. ...	1360	59·15	49·35	44·21	50·90

The easiest way to move between pages is to click anywhere on the margin to the right (and left in subsequent pages) of the pamphlet.

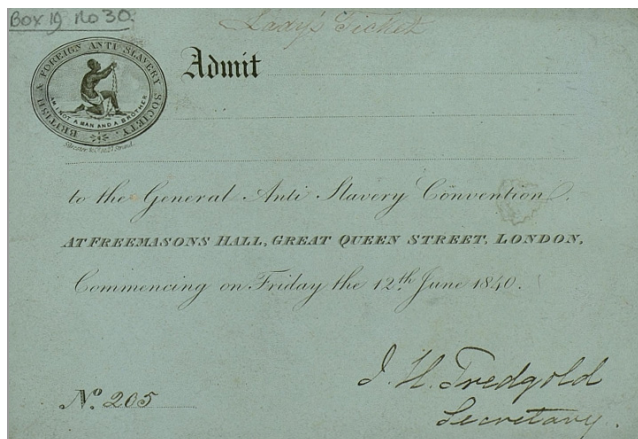
If you want to view only the pages where your search terms appear (which may be particularly useful in very long pamphlets), click on the link to **View list of pages with search terms**. A list of pages then appears from which you can choose the relevant page. The page itself appears at the bottom of all the links. If you know and want to go a specific page in a pamphlet, this is made possible by clicking on **Select a page**. This takes you to a list of thumbnails from which you can select the relevant page.

**Select a page** View: [Thumbnails](#) | [Links Only](#) View: [12 per page](#) | [All](#)

[image 1](#) [image 2](#) [image 3](#) [image 4](#)

This facility is also useful for providing an overview of the pamphlet and for checking whether it contains any supplementary information such as maps, illustrations, tables etc.

On each page of the pamphlet you are always given the options of saving and/or exporting the citation, accessing the item information or downloading a pdf of the pamphlet. You are also able to save a local copy of particular pages of the pamphlet by using right-click and Save as option on your mouse.



Ticket to the General Anti-Slavery Convention,  
12th June 1840 | Copac 061248046

JISC

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**\_Mimas** powering knowledge



**LSE**  
Library  
British Library of Political  
and Economic Science

**MANCHESTER**  
1824  
The University of Manchester  
The John Rylands University Library



This resource was prepared by the 19th Century Pamphlets Online project and is available from [www.britishpamphlets.org.uk](http://www.britishpamphlets.org.uk)

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