DEPT. OF SCIENCE AND ART OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION. THE BETHNAL GREEN BRANCH OF THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, SOUTH KENSINGTON. CATALOGUE OF A COLLECTION OF POTTERY AND PORCELAIN ILLUSTRATING POPULAR BRITISH HISTORY LENT BY HENRY WILLETT

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No. 1



No. 3



No. 30

ROYALTY.



No. 32



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ON EDUCATION.

THE BETHNAL GREEN BRANCH

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, SOUTH KENSINGTON.

CATALOGUE

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ILLUSTRATING

POPULAR BRITISH HISTORY.

LENT BY -

HENRY WILLETT, Esq., of BRIGHTON.

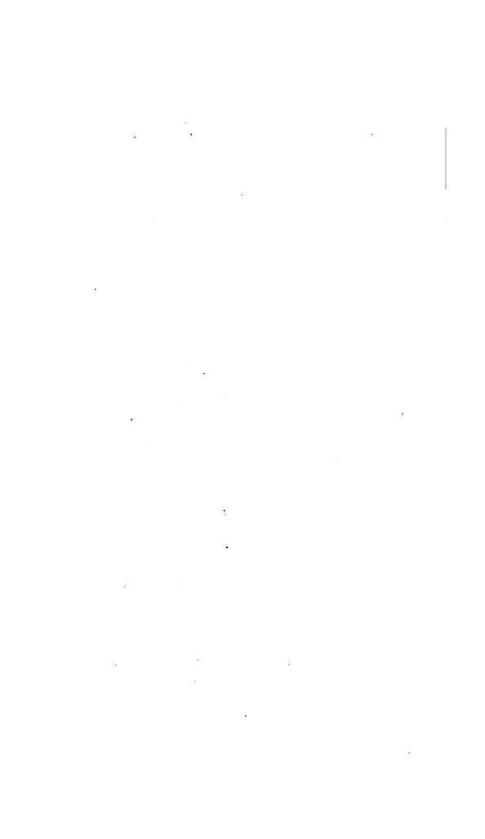
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INTRODUCTION.

This collection has been formed with a view to develop the idea that the history of the country may to a large extent be traced on its homely pottery, and it is not to be regarded as an exhibition of ceramic art.

On the mantelpieces of many cottage homes may be found representations which the inmates admire and revere, as their ancestors have done before them. They form, in fact, a kind of unconscious survival of the Lares and Penates^{*} of the Ancients.

The classification, whilst confessedly arbitrary, has been made not so much in reference to the maker, the time and place of manufacture, but rather with regard to the greater human interest which each object presents.

HENRY WILLETT.

June, 1899.

^{*} The Lares and Penates were household gods of the Romans. The former were grouped into various classes, such as:—lares domestici, departed spirits of the household, only good men being thus honoured; lares publici, benefactors to the nation; lares marini, victors in naval battles; and others. There were also public and private penates, protectors and promoters of happiness and concord. Every meal was a kind of sacrifice to them, often ending in a libation.

