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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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VARIOUS

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No. 1



No. 3



No. 30



No. 32

ROYALTY.



No. 81

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OF A

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ILLUSTRATING

POPULAR BRITISH HISTORY.

LENT BY -

HENRY WILLETT, Esq., OF BRIGHTON.

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CONTENTS.

| | PAGE. |
|---|-------|
| I. ROYALTY AND LOYALTY - - - - - | 1 |
| II. MILITARY HEROES - - - - - | 10 |
| III. NAVAL HEROES - - - - - | 14 |
| IV. SOLDIERS AND SAILORS - - - - - | 20 |
| V. ENGLAND AND FRANCE - - - - - | 29 |
| VI. ENGLAND AND AMERICA - - - - - | 36 |
| VII. STATESMEN - - - - - | 40 |
| VIII. CLUBS AND SOCIETIES - - - - - | 45 |
| IX. PHILANTHROPY - - - - - | 48 |
| X. CRIME - - - - - | 49 |
| XI. PROFESSIONS AND TRADES - - - - - | 51 |
| XII. ARCHITECTURE - - - - - | 56 |
| XIII. SCRIPTURE HISTORY - - - - - | 59 |
| XIV. RELIGION - - - - - | 63 |
| XV. MUSIC - - - - - | 68 |
| XVI. DRAMA - - - - - | 70 |
| XVII. POETRY, SCIENCE, AND LITERATURE - - - - - | 72 |
| XVIII. SPORTING - - - - - | 77 |
| XIX. FIELD SPORTS - - - - - | 81 |
| XX. PASTIMES AND AMUSEMENTS - - - - - | 86 |
| XXI. AGRICULTURE - - - - - | 92 |
| XXII. CONVIVIALITY AND TEMPTOTALISM - - - - - | 100 |
| XXIII. DOMESTIC INCIDENTS - - - - - | 109 |
| INDEX - - - - - | 121 |

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

| | | PAGE. |
|-----|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | ROYALTY - - - - - | <i>Frontispiece.</i> |
| 2. | MILITARY HEROES - - - - - | <i>facing</i> 10 |
| 3. | NAVAL HEROES - - - - - | " 16 |
| 4. | ENGLAND AND FRANCE - - - - - | " 30 |
| 5. | ENGLAND AND AMERICA - - - - - | " 36 |
| 6. | NOTED MEN. - - - - - | " 40 |
| 7. | { COSTUMES RED BARN MURDER } | " 48 |
| 8. | TICHBORNE TRIAL - - - - - | " 50 |
| 9. | COSTUMES AND CHARACTERS - - - - - | " 52 |
| 10. | RELIGION - - - - - | " 58 |
| 11. | SPORTING - - - - - | " 78 |
| 12. | CONVIVIALITY - - - - - | " 100 |
| 13. | DOMESTIC INCIDENTS - - - - - | " 110 |

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.

