

HOLBEIN AND HIS TIME.

9104.



Clay, Sons & Co. Lith. Broad St. Hill

HANS AND AMBROSIOUS HOLBEIN.

Drawn by Hans Holbein the Younger and Exhibited in the Cabinet of Engravings of the Berlin Museum.

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HOLBEIN AND HIS TIME.

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BY

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TRANSLATED BY F. E. BUNNETT.



9104.

WITH SIXTY ILLUSTRATIONS.

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PREFACE.

THE history of the art of the Middle Ages and of modern times demands special investigation. An outline is drawn round modern science ; it is filled up by degrees as time progresses. An attempt to do this as regards art is the especial object of this work. Contemporaries and posterity have eagerly occupied themselves with Albert Dürer ; but the records transmitted to us of Hans Holbein, the second great painter of his country, are more scanty. Up to the most recent period, his history was veiled in complete obscurity. Ulrich Hegner's work on Holbein, which appeared in 1827, corresponds with the stage at which the history of art at that time stood. It is an excellent guide to the study of the material existing in Basle, yet we must not forget that the author is neither a critical historian nor an experienced judge in artistic matters. Since Hegner's work, the master has been utterly neglected by art-investigators. Almost the only notice of permanent value respecting him is that contained in the works of G. F. Waagen, who never made it his special task to pursue historical investigations regarding an artist, but clearly recognized and pointed out all that was peculiar and essential in his creations. Not till late years has this state of things been altered. In England, owing to W. H. Black's archival researches, the discovery was made of the year of Holbein's death, and this was followed by the investigations of Mr. A. W. Franks and Mr. G. Scharf. At the same time I myself began my studies preparatory to a larger work on Holbein, many of which I published in Journals, in a dissertation on the painter, and in a Holbein-Album