

ENGLISH MERCHANTS



The Hon.^{ble} S^r DUDLEY NORTH K^t
Commissioner of the Treasury
to King Charles the Second.

Frontispiece.

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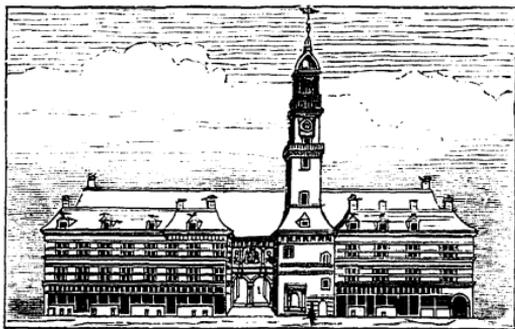
MEMOIRS IN ILLUSTRATION OF

THE PROGRESS OF BRITISH COMMERCE

BY

H. R. FOX BOURNE

AUTHOR OF 'THE LIFE OF JOHN LOCKE'; 'A MEMOIR OF SIR PHILIP SIDNEY'
'ENGLISH SEAMEN UNDER THE TUDORS'; 'THE STORY OF OUR COLONIES'
'THE ROMANCE OF TRADE'; ETC.



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P R E F A C E.

THIS book attempts to show how trade has taken its place among us, and done its work as a great promoter of England's welfare and the common good. To that end have been sketched the histories of some three dozen famous merchants, or families of merchants, chosen from many scores of men whose conduct illustrates the course of English commerce, and who are conspicuous for the energy and wisdom—very selfish energy and very worldly wisdom, now and then—with which they have beaten out new walks of trade, or widened the old ways. From the general history of commerce has also been drawn, incidentally throughout the work, and more regularly in three of its chapters, so much as seemed necessary to the purpose of the work.

The use here made of printed books and manuscript collections has been carefully indicated in foot-notes. Other and large debts are due to private friends, and strangers who have acted the part of friends, for information concerning kinsmen and associates about whom they had special opportunities of affording truthful and characteristic details. Some of these debts are recorded; others, in deference to the wishes of the informants, are not specified. Their extent will appear from the number of unvouched statements that occur.

About half of the pages here brought together have already appeared in a periodical publication. These portions, however, have been carefully revised, to a great extent re-written, and the work, as a whole, now takes the shape in which it was projected.

H. R. FOX BOURNE.

LONDON, *24th November 1866.*