

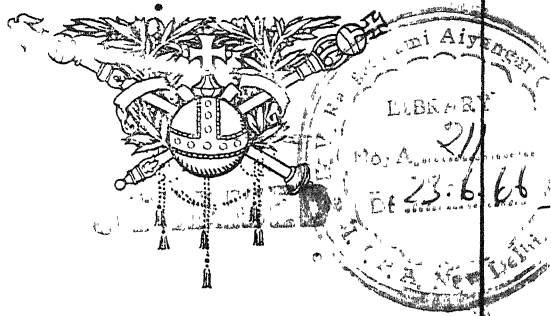


Herbert H. Bassett



BRITISH  
COMMERCE

*by*  
H. H. BASSETT



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## PREFACE

IN this survey of modern British commerce I have endeavoured to break away from the methods pursued in previous books of the kind. The commercial history of our country has been recorded in close detail by abler pens than mine. Archdeacon Cunningham's three volumes on the *Growth of English Industry and Commerce*, and Mr L. L. Price's *Short History of English Commerce and Industry*—the former especially distinguished for its comprehensiveness, and the latter for its conciseness—are two standard works to which the student may well be referred for all that pertains to the commercial history of our country prior to modern times. In conformity with the plan outlined by the projectors of 'The Nation's Library,' I have surveyed our commerce solely from a modern and, I hope, a practical standpoint. If I have not entered largely into the details of all the many industries of the country nor submitted so many data as the statistician would

desire, it is because most industries have their own expert biographers, and our Government storehouses are already burdened with an overwhelming mass of statistical detail. The two great requisites of modern commerce—practical commercial and industrial education, and national industrial organisation—are the main points upon which this book is centred. If it helps to stimulate a public movement towards attaining these advantages, I shall feel that I have not merely put on paper an academic survey of modern commerce, but have contributed something to the constructive commercial policy of the country.

HERBERT H. BASSETT.

LONDON, *May*, 1913.

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