A MANUAL OF BRITISH HISTORIANS TO
A. D. 1600: CONTAINING A
CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT OF
THE EARLY CHRONICLERS AND
MONKISH WRITERS THEIR PRINTED
WORKS AND UNPUBLISHED MSS.

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WILLIAM DUNN MACRAY

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PREFACE.



N drawing up a Manual of the early English Historians, the Compiler believes he has endeavoured

to fupply a want in bibliographical literature which has been often felt. It is true that catalogues fimilar in idea, though not in execution, have been before published, but the generality of them, such as Joscelin's very brief account published by Hearne with Robert of Avesbury, Hearne's own list in his "Ductor Historicus," and Vossius' book "De Historicis Latinis," besides furnishing but

 Bishop Nicolson's Historical Libraries do not come within this class, as they consist more of critical accounts of the merits and demerits of the respective historians than of what is here attempted to be given.

short notices, are now of course extremely defective and unfatisfactory; as in the length of time which has elapfed fince their publication, much additional information has been difcovered, and our stock of printed historians greatly enlarged. And although in 1829 Mr. Stace published a catalogue of historical writers, yet it was merely a catalogue, giving nothing but the titles and dates of the works, and those often very inaccurately. This being the case, a brief biographical account of all historians of any note, with lists of the editions of their works, fuch as is here offered, the Compiler trufts may not prove unacceptable. And while he is far from thinking that no errors or imperfections will be discovered in it, yet he hopes it will be found to be, on the whole, accurate and complete; at any rate he can fay that he has spared no pains to render it so. It will be seen that the references to MSS, are only given where the books have not been printed, and fuch of these as have no

references to MSS. are not known to be extant. All monastic and local chronicles have been omitted, with the exception of two, as the compilation has been confined to national histories; the two in regard to which the exception has been made, are Ingulph, and the Chronicle of London, because much of the general history of the kingdom is contained in them. Froissart, Titus Forojuliensis, Polydore Vergil, &c. have been omitted as being foreigners, together with works like John Twyne's "De rebus Albionicis commentarii," because, although of an historical nature, they cannot be called histories.

Should this attempt meet with approval, a continuation, bringing the work down to a later period, may perhaps follow at fome future time.

In conclusion, the Compiler has to acknowledge his obligations to the Rev. H. O. Coxe, M. A. Sub-librarian of the Bodleian, for his kind affistance in many cases; to J. O. Halli-