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DURING THE REIGN OF PETER THE
GREAT**

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VOL. XV.

THE RUSSIAN FLEET
UNDER
PETER THE GREAT

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HISTORY
OF
The Russian Fleet
DURING THE REIGN OF
PETER THE GREAT

BY
A CONTEMPORARY ENGLISHMAN
(1724)

EDITED BY
VICE-ADMIRAL CYPRIAN A. G. BRIDGE, K.C.B.



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INTRODUCTION

THE MS., of which the present edition—it is believed—is the first that has been printed in English, has already been published in Russian. It was translated by Count E. Poutiatine, whose property it is, and issued about two years ago. A review of the translation will be found in the 'Proceedings' (No. 19) of the Anglo-Russian Literary Society,¹ written by the President, Mr. E. A. Cazalet, to whose courtesy the Navy Records Society owes the possibility of making it accessible to English readers. The title given to his work by the author is slightly misleading. It is really a history of Peter the Great's Baltic fleet. It does not deal with the naval transactions of an earlier part of Peter's reign, in the Sea of Azof and the Black Sea, but makes only passing allusions to them. In its present form the MS. seems to be a copy, by a clerk or professional copyist, in a style of writing common in the first quarter of the eighteenth century, of the author's original MS. There are a few apparently contemporary corrections,¹ in a somewhat rugged hand, much more

¹ Most, if not all, of the corrections are just those likely to be found necessary in the work of a copyist. Generally they are