

**THE OXFORD ANNALS OF
ENGLISH HISTORY: THE
MAKING OF THE BRITISH
EMPIRE (A.D. 1714-1832)**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649542826

The Oxford Annals of English History: The Making of the British Empire (A.D. 1714-1832) by
Arthur Hassall & C. W. C. Oman

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ARTHUR HASSALL & C. W. C. OMAN

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The Oxford Manuals of English History
Edited by C. W. C. OMAN, M.A., F.S.A.

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THE MAKING OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

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(A.D. 1714—1832)

BY

ARTHUR HASSALL, M.A.

STUDENT AND TUTOR OF CHRIST'S CHURCH



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GENERAL PREFACE.

There are so many School Histories of England already in existence, that it may perhaps seem presumptuous on the part of the authors of this series to add six volumes more to the number. But they have their defence: the "Oxford Manuals of English History" are intended to serve a particular purpose. There are several good general histories already in use, and there are a considerable number of scattered 'epochs' or 'periods'. But there seems still to be room for a set of books which shall combine the virtues of both these classes. Schools often wish to take up only a certain portion of the history of England, and find one of the large general histories too bulky for their use. On the other hand, if they employ one of the isolated 'epochs' to which allusion has been made, they find in most cases that there is no succeeding work on the same scale and lines from which the scholar can continue his study and pass on to the next period, without a break in the continuity of his knowledge.

The object of the present series is to provide a set of historical manuals of a convenient size, and at a very moderate price. Each part is complete in itself, but as the volumes will be carefully fitted on to each other, so that the whole form together a single continuous history of England, it will be possible to use any two or more of them in successive terms or years at the option of the instructor. They are kept care-

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fully to the same scale, and the editor has done his best to put before the various authors the necessity of a uniform method of treatment.

The volumes presuppose a desire in the scholar to know something of the social and constitutional history of England, as well as of those purely political events which were of old the sole staple of the average school history. The scale of the series does not permit the authors to enter into minute points of detail. There is no space in a volume of 130 pages for a discussion of the locality of Brunanburgh or of the authorship of *Junius*. But due allowance being made for historical perspective, it is hoped that every event or movement of real importance will meet the reader's eye.

All the volumes are written by resident members of the University of Oxford, actively engaged in teaching in the Final School of Modern History, and the authors trust that their experience in working together, and their knowledge of the methods of instruction in it, may be made useful to a larger public by means of this series of manuals.

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THE MAKING OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

CHAPTER I.

THE FIRST YEARS OF THE HOUSE OF HANOVER,
1714-1721.

The accession of George, Elector of Hanover and great-grandson of James I., to the throne of England, in virtue of the Act of Settlement, took place without any disturbance. The new king, who arrived in England on September 18, 1714, was a German, equally ignorant of the English tongue, and of the character of the constitution over which he had to preside. A quiet, cautious, unostentatious man, George had none of those qualities which were likely to rouse enthusiasm among his subjects. But he was hard-working and business-like, he made no attempt to tamper with the constitution, and he trusted his ministers implicitly. His accession marks not only the establishment of the political ascendancy of the Whigs, and the development of party government, but also the commencement of that close connection between England and Hanover which so often affected our domestic and foreign politics down to the accession of George III.

There is little doubt that George I. was admirably suited for the position of King of England. At the moment of his accession the political and religious enthusiasms of the seventeenth century were yielding to commercial and materialistic tendencies. The English were rapidly becoming the chief trading nation of Europe; they were planting colonies in the New World and de-

The Accession of George I.