AN ILLUSTRATED SOUVENIR OF VICTORIA HOUSE, THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION FOR GREAT BRITAIN AT THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION, CHICAGO, 1893

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CHARLES EYRE PASCOE

AN ILLUSTRATED SOUVENIR OF VICTORIA HOUSE, THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION FOR GREAT BRITAIN AT THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION, CHICAGO, 1893





THE QUEEN.

From the Photograph by Messes. W. & D. Downey, London.

An Illustrated Souvenir

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of

Victoria House,

The Head-Quarters of the Royal Commission for Great Britain at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893.

By
Charles Eyre Pascoe,
Editor of "London of To-Day."

I.ondon: Johnstone, Norman & Co., 67, New Bond Street, W.

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M**lyoduction**

AVI STONE, NORMAN & CO., the well-known London firm entrusted by

the British Royal Commission to the World's Columbian Exhibition at Chicago, with the work of decorating and furnishing the interior of Victoria House, have asked me to prepare for them an illustrated trifle, to serve in some sort as a remembrance of their connection with the building.

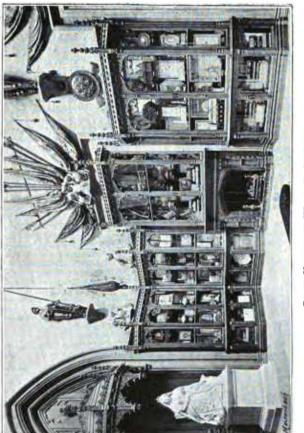
I comply with their request with a great deal of pleasure; and none the less willingly because I have been privileged to

VICTORIA HOUSE.

know the members of the firm personally for a number of years.

But I do so with much more readiness, because from time to time, in London, I have been made familiar with the admirable work they have done for H.M. the Queen at Buckingham Palace, and Windsor Castle;—as witness the several carved cabinets in the State Vestibule, reserved to the display of the Jubilee gifts to Her Majesty, and with other good work there completed by them,—also at Mariborough House, for H.R.H. the Prince of Wales; and, quite recently, in fitting-up the principal apartments at York House, St. James's Palace, for the Prince's son, the Duke of York.

Furthermore, the opportunity was given me of seeing, as it progressed, an altogether unique and sumptuous suite of decorative, and other furniture, for a Music-Room



STATE VESTIBULE, WINDSOR CASTLE.

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VICTORIA HOUSE.

of an American mansion, done by them under Mr. Alma-Tadema's (the well-known English Royal Academician) supervision; than which, I make bold to say, no more beautiful or excellent examples of skilled workmanship, incident to such trade as Messrs. Johnstone, Norman & Co. are engaged in, ever passed from the hands of any Firm, British or Foreign.

For these reasons, then, I gladly enter upon the compilation of this brochure, intended to be partly descriptive, and partly commemorative, and wholly (as I venture to hope) in the interests of a Firm of London manufacturers who have done so much to maintain and promote the old-time English renown for care, skill, and thoroughness on the part of the workman; and courtesy, attention, and straightforward dealing on the part of the master.