A Descriptive Catalogue of the Manuscripts Other Than Oriental in the Library of King's College, Cambridge

James Montague Rhodes
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KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

BY

MONTAGUE RHODES JAMES, LITT.D.,
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TO THE MEMBERS
OF
KING'S COLLEGE,
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.
PREFACE.

There is little to be said by way of preface to this Catalogue. Had the ancient Library of the College survived, the collection would have stood high among College Libraries. As it is, the manuscripts are markedly few in number.

Thomas James, writing his Ecloga Oxonio-Cantabrigiensis in 1600, found only seven volumes to catalogue; and these the College still possesses. The old Library must clearly have disappeared before his time. For this total evanishment of 174 volumes no process of gradual purloining or decay will satisfactorily account. I cannot but think it likely that Henry VIII., or some one possessed of power and unscrupulousness comparable to his, must have removed them en bloc. At present, however, no record of any such transaction is known to exist in the College. If any trace of our lost Library should come to the knowledge of a reader, I would ask him, on behalf of the College, to acquaint the Society with his discovery.

In the compilation of this volume I have had the advantage of using some partial descriptions, and complete collations of the first eighteen MSS., made by the late Mr Bradshaw. The brilliance and thoroughness of his work is nowhere more conspicuous than in his solution of the disarrangement of the text of S. Augustine’s tract de quantitate animae in no. 3.

The College possesses, besides the Western MSS. here catalogued, a large collection of Oriental MSS., made at Patna by Mr Pote. This gentleman divided his collection equally between the Colleges of King’s and Eton. I hope that both portions may be adequately catalogued at no distant date.

MONTAGUE RHODES JAMES.

1 See Appendix, p. 69.
2 They are nos. 1, 3, 11, 12, 20, 23, 27.