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Henry Vizetelly

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Glances Back Through Seventy Years

This autobiography recalls the eventful career of the nineteenth-century publisher and journalist, Henry Vizetelly (1820–94). Born in London, Vizetelly was apprenticed to a wood engraver as a young child. He entered the printing business and helped found two successful but short-lived newspapers, the *Pictorial Times* and the *Illustrated Times*. From 1865 Vizetelly worked in Paris and later Berlin as a foreign correspondent for the *Illustrated London News*, and also wrote and published several books. On his return to England, he became a publisher of foreign novels and gained notoriety for his translations of Emile Zola which challenged strict Victorian laws on obscenity and led to his prosecution and imprisonment. His book is a fascinating blend of public and personal history, providing an insight into the turbulent literary world of nineteenth-century Europe. Volume 1 covers his life up to the infamous Palmer Trial in 1856.

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Autobiographical and Other Reminiscences

VOLUME 1

HENRY VIZETELLY



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THROUGH SEVENTY YEARS.

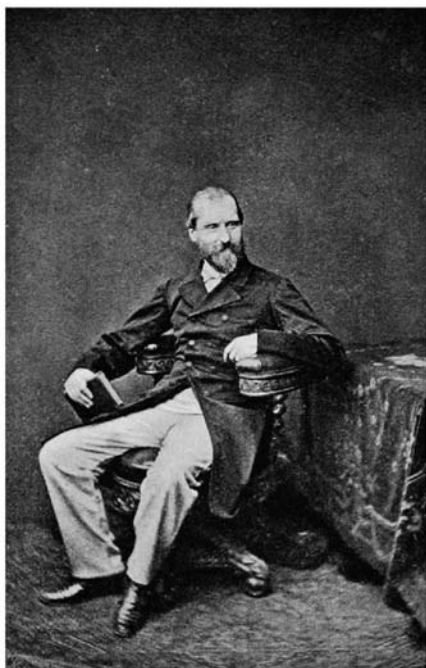
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Wogan & Co. Photographers, 10, Pall Mall.

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GLANCES BACK THROUGH SEVENTY YEARS:

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL AND OTHER REMINISCENCES.

BY HENRY VIZETELLY,

CHEVALIER OF THE ORDER OF FRANZ-JOSEF,
AUTHOR OF "THE STORY OF THE DIAMOND NECKLACE,"
"BERLIN UNDER THE NEW EMPIRE," "PARIS IN PERIL," ETC.

"And sometimes I remember days of old
When fellowship was not so far to seek,
And all the world and I seemed much less cold,
And at the rainbow's foot lay surely gold,
And hope felt strong and life itself not weak."

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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“ Looking back along life’s trodden way,
 Gleams and greenness linger on the track ;
Distance melts and mellows all to-day,
 Looking back.

“ Rose and purple and a silvery grey,
 Is that cloud the cloud we called so black ;
Evening harmonises all to-day,
 Looking back.”

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THE public will be the best judges whether the author of the following pages was well or ill-advised by partial friends to pen these rambling reminiscences of an active, if not an exciting career, covering well-nigh three reigns. The chapters that form a contribution to the history of Pictorial journalism, and the recollections of Mr. Thackeray and a few other notable men, French as well as English, may possibly have a certain value, mixed up though they be with notices of men and things which the world, in its peremptory way, has made up its mind to forget. Yet readers, on the whole, may find the writer's reminder of such matters not uninteresting, and the volumes generally neither prosy nor dull. This is the utmost the writer pretends to claim for them, and in this spirit he commends the book to his brethren of the press.

HEATHERLANDS, near FARNHAM,
September 1893.

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