

rent to every one. I am often myself surprised at the historical information that it has compressed into notes, sometimes of a few lines, replete with knowledge. Some of the first scholars of the day, speaking bibliographically, have been engaged in its compilation.* It would be of practical utility in the formation and improvement of public libraries at home, as well as in the colonies and abroad, especially in the United States, and it would give general aid to the progress of literature. The committee, therefore, trust that Her Majesty's Government will fully recognise the value of printing it, and authorise the Stationery Office to take the moderate risk of the publication of this work, already compiled and nearly ready for printing. The committee consider such risk would not be great, and that if the publication were properly made known, as it might be by the society, an important portion of the cost would be defrayed by the sale of the catalogue.

"10. There are numerous minor questions of executive details and publication which the committee will reserve for another report."

ENGLISH HISTORICAL MEDALS.



THE numismatic treasures preserved in the British Museum will bear comparison with those of any other in the world. Starting with the handsome nucleus formed by the cabinets of its founder, Sir Hans Sloane, and Sir Robert Cotton, it has been enriched from time to time by many valuable purchases and gifts, especially by the bequests of the Rev. C. M. Cracherode, Mr. R. P. Knight, Miss Banks, and others, the Marsden donation, George IV.'s presentation of his father's library and its contents to the country, and by the annual Parliamentary