PREFACE.

The present volume gives the text of the Patent Rolls for the first nine years of the reign of Henry III. There are altogether seventeen such rolls for the period, viz., one for the first year, and two apiece for the second and succeeding years up to the ninth. From the second year to the eighth inclusive, one roll is a duplicate of the other, or rather an almost contemporary copy, which systematically omits nearly all passages or words cancelled in the original. During a few weeks in the middle of the ninth year, the two rolls appear to have been written independently of each other, and, after the 29th of June, no more entries were made on the original roll, the roll which had been started as a duplicate becoming the only Patent Roll for the later part of the year. A similar change is observable on the Close Rolls and the Fine Rolls of the period.

The text of the present volume has been transcribed for the first year of the reign from the only roll available, and for the period from the second to the eighth year inclusive from the original rolls, as it has been found that the duplicate rolls not only copy most of the errors contained in the originals, but also introduce fresh errors. For the ninth year, the roll has been followed, which, beginning as a duplicate, is the only authority for all the patents of the year, any variations of importance during the earlier months being supplied in brackets from the roll.

In transcribing the Rolls for the press, all ordinary abbreviations in the Latin text have been extended in