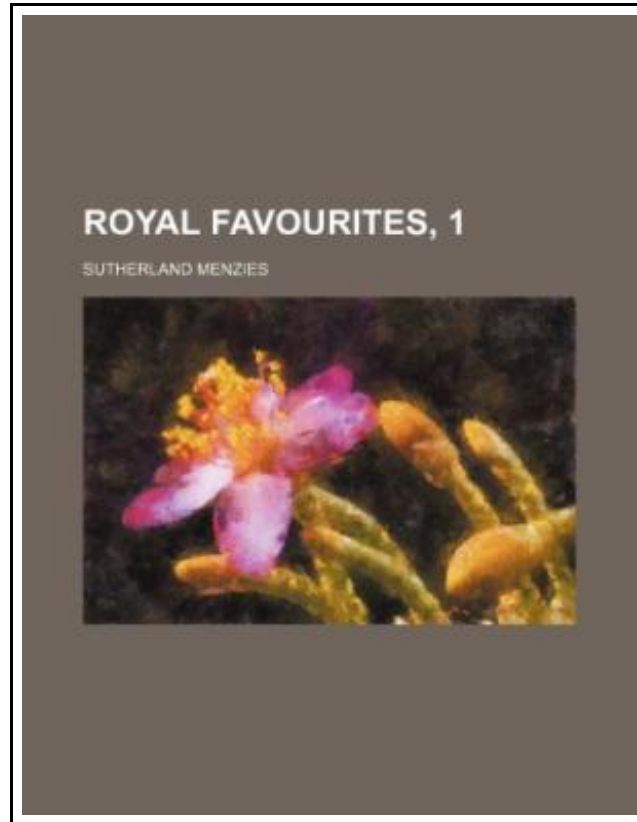


Royal Favourites, 1



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ROYAL FAVOURITES, 1



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Rarebooksclub.com, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1866 Excerpt: .whose intellect might have secured his conquest after the spell of her beauty had ceased to enthrall him: the young and the lovely were her victims only when their youth and loveliness were their sole attractions. She was ever ready to supply her royal lover with a new mistress, but never with a friend, a companion, or a counsellor; and thus, as she had rightly foreseen, the Gallic Sardanapalus soon became sated by the mere prettiness of his youthful houris, and returned to his allegiance to herself, wearied, and more her slave than ever. Such was the state of the French court in which the Duchess of Orleans was called to assume her station as a princess of the blood; and, mere girl as she was, she at once appreciated alike the difficulties and the advantages of her position. A king whose leading passions were dissipation and magnificence; a queen (Eleonora) who shrank from publicity of all kinds, and who had neither inclination to upbraid, nor energy to resist injustice; a dauphin, staid and serious beyond his years; a powerful and insolent favourite (Etampes); a licentious nobility; a morose and careless husband; such were the elements out of which the Italian princess had to construct her future; and Catherine de Medici did not fail to prove herself worthy of the name she bore. Italy was definitively lost to France by virtue of two solemn treaties, and it seemed as if all hope was reft from King...



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