

**CONSERVATIVE
ESSAYS, LEGAL
AND POLITICAL**

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Conservative Essays, Legal and Political by Samuel Smith Nicholas

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SAMUEL SMITH NICHOLAS

**CONSERVATIVE
ESSAYS, LEGAL
AND POLITICAL**

CONSERVATIVE

ESSAYS

LEGAL AND POLITICAL.

BY

S. S. NICHOLAS,

OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

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DEDICATION.

TO THE
HON. JOHN STUART MILL,
OF ENGLAND,

AUTHOR OF TREATISES ON "LIBERTY" AND "REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT."

IN affording myself the gratification of making you the small compliment of this dedication, it is not merely as a tribute of respect to the profoundest, most enlightened political thinker of Europe, but as a mode of acknowledging the great gratification received from finding such singular coincidence of thought between us as to great essentials, though differing much as to minor matters.

This coincidence has also struck others who are acquainted with my political writings of the last twenty-five years, and serves to show that difference of country and education does not necessarily cause difference of opinion as to the fundamentals of good government. Sincere thinkers have long agreed that a *government of law* is the *desideratum*, and the true method of best securing such government was the great *problem* to be solved. We Americans confidently believed and arrogantly boasted that our institutions, as developed in their practical working, were a most successful solution of the problem. The more intelligent and considerate among us no longer make that boast. The dear-bought experience of the last four years has undeceived us. Nothing is more common than for intelligent Americans frankly to recant the cherished delusion of a lifetime, and avow their opinions that all the great essentials of liberty are better secured in England than in this country; that is, hers is a much nearer

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