

**HUGHES'S HISTORICAL
READERS. (HISTORY OF
ENGLAND.) STANDARD V**

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Hughes's Historical Readers. (History of England.) Standard V by Sir G. W. Cox

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PREFACE.

AS in the "Stories from English History" prepared for the use of younger children, so in the present work, which is intended as an introduction to a more continuous study of the subject, the main purpose has been to make as prominent as possible the personal career of the chief actors in the several parts of the great drama, and thus to preserve, so far as may be practicable, the biographical form in which Dr. Arnold insisted that history should be presented to the young.

Both in the "Stories" and in the present work the matter is, I hope, so put as to awaken and call into action the reader's powers of thought and judgment. Unless these are exercised throughout, the task of reading history is of not the smallest use. I have, therefore, striven in every case to show why or how far a narrative may or may not be trusted or accepted. From such stories as those of the Massacre of St. Brice, or of the parentage of Thomas of Canterbury, the reader will learn how the various forms of the tale

have been produced, and how the value of each may be ascertained. From the stories of Harold's alleged promise to the Norman duke, and of the advice which he is said to have received from his brother Gyrth before the fight at Senlac, he will learn that even the accounts given by opponents are to be carefully considered and weighed. For both these stories we have only Norman authority. But the English writers, who diligently reply to or refute a vast mass of Norman misrepresentations or falsehoods, do not contradict their statements in these two cases. Hence we may assume that there is some foundation for them, although they may betray not a little exaggeration.

These chapters may also, it is hoped, exhibit the unity of English history, and the continuous political growth of the people from the days of the English Conquest to the time when in the days of Simon of Montfort the English constitution assumed substantially the form which it has retained to the present time—the form, namely, of self-government, in which the nation obeys the laws passed by its own freely-chosen representatives.

The contents prefixed to the volume will serve as a complete chronological table.

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