

**TWELVE ENGLISH
STATESMEN. WILLIAM
THE CONQUEROR**

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Twelve English Statesmen. William the Conqueror by Edward A. Freeman

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EDWARD A. FREEMAN

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WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

BY

EDWARD A. FREEMAN

D.C.L., LL.D.

REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MODERN HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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PREFACE

THIS small volume, written as the first of a series, is meant to fill quite another place from the *Short History of the Norman Conquest*, by the same author. That was a narrative of events reaching over a considerable time. This is the portrait of a man in his personal character, a man whose life takes up only a part of the time treated of in the other work. We have now to look on William as one who, though stranger and conqueror, is yet worthily entitled to a place on the list of English statesmen. There is perhaps no man before or after him whose personal character and personal will have had so direct an effect on the course which the laws and constitution of England have taken since his time. Norman as a Conqueror, as a statesman he is English, and, on this side of him at least, he worthily begins the series.

16 ST. GILES', OXFORD,

8th February 1888.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in financial matters. This section also touches upon the legal implications of failing to maintain such records, which can lead to severe penalties and legal consequences.

2. The second part of the document focuses on the role of technology in modern record-keeping. It highlights how digital tools and software solutions have revolutionized the way data is stored, accessed, and managed. This section discusses the benefits of cloud storage, data encryption, and automated backup systems, as well as the challenges associated with data security and privacy in a digital environment.

3. The third part of the document addresses the importance of regular audits and reviews. It explains that periodic audits are necessary to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the records. This section also discusses the different types of audits, such as internal audits and external audits, and the role of auditors in identifying and correcting errors or discrepancies.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the importance of data backup and recovery. It emphasizes that having a reliable backup strategy is crucial to protect against data loss due to hardware failures, cyberattacks, or other unforeseen events. This section provides guidance on how to develop a comprehensive backup and recovery plan, including the selection of appropriate backup methods and the testing of recovery procedures.

5. The fifth and final part of the document discusses the importance of data retention and disposal. It explains that organizations must have clear policies regarding how long data should be kept and how it should be securely disposed of when it is no longer needed. This section also touches upon the legal requirements for data retention and disposal, which vary by jurisdiction and industry.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

THE history of England, like the land and its people, has been specially insular, and yet no land has undergone deeper influences from without. No land has owed more than England to the personal action of men not of native birth. Britain was truly called another world, in opposition to the world of the European mainland, the world of Rome. In every age the history of Britain is the history of an island, of an island great enough to form a world of itself. In speaking of Celts or Teutons in Britain, we are speaking, not simply of Celts and Teutons, but of Celts and Teutons parted from their kinsfolk on the mainland, and brought under the common influences of an island world. The land has seen several settlements from outside, but the settlers have always been brought under the spell of their insular position. Whenever settlement has not meant displacement, the new comers have been assimilated by the existing people of the land. When it has meant displacement, they have still become islanders, marked off from those whom they left behind by characteristics which were the direct result of settlement in an island world.

The history of Britain then, and specially the history of England, has been largely a history of elements

absorbed and assimilated from without. But each of those elements has done somewhat to modify the mass into which it was absorbed. The English land and nation are not as they might have been if they had never in later times absorbed the Fleming, the French Huguenot, the German Palatine. Still less are they as they might have been, if they had not in earlier times absorbed the greater elements of the Dane and the Norman. Both were assimilated; but both modified the character and destiny of the people into whose substance they were absorbed. The conquerors from Normandy were silently and peacefully lost in the greater mass of the English people; still we can never be as if the Norman had never come among us. We ever bear about us the signs of his presence. Our colonists have carried those signs with them into distant lands, to remind men that settlers in America and Australia came from a land which the Norman once entered as a conqueror. But that those signs of his presence hold the place which they do hold in our mixed political being, that, badges of conquest as they are, no one feels them to be badges of conquest—all this comes of the fact that, if the Norman came as a conqueror, he came as a conqueror of a special, perhaps almost of an unique kind. The Norman Conquest of England has, in its nature and in its results, no exact parallel in history. And that it has no exact parallel in history is largely owing to the character and position of the man who wrought it. That the history of England for the last eight hundred years has been what it has been has largely come of the personal character of a single man. That we are what we are to this day largely comes of the fact that there