RISE OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN ENGLAND

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Rise of constitutional government in England by Cyril Ransome

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CYRIL RANSOME

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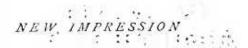
IN ENGLAND

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PREFACE.

That constitutional history is very dry, is an axiom admitted by almost all who have never read it; that it is far more interesting than what is commonly received as history, is almost equally admitted by those who have.

Constitutional histories are usually left unread, partly because they are long, partly because they generally contain a great deal of matter which the ordinary reader does not want to know, and partly because their arrangement is such that it is difficult to pick out exactly the information that is sought.

In this book, the author has endeavoured to confine his attention solely to the growth of the present relations between the sovereign, the ministry, the two Houses of Parliament and the people, and to put before the reader in a plain narrative form the history of their development.

The facts, it is to be hoped, are those which may be found in the large constitutional histories of Canon Stubbs, Mr. Hallam, Sir Erskine May and Mr. Bagehot, whose works must always be the authorities to which any student of constitutional history will eventually turn; but the present book aims at putting those facts in such a way that they may be read not only by those who have time and opportunity for study, but by the busy man to whom time is an object, and by the student who desires, before embarking, to take a view of the shores of the ocean on which he is in some danger of losing himself.

LEEDS, March, 1883.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

THE DAWN OF THE ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

ASSI

Continuity of English institutions—The sovereign—The Parliament—The law courts—The English in Germany—Tacitus' description—The tribal assembly—The principes and duces—The comitatus—The lord or loaf-giver—The thegn or gesith—Connection with feudalism—The migration to Britain—Division of the land—Shires, hundreds, townships—The rise of kingship—Ealdormen (principes) become kings—Amalgamation of the tribes into kingdoms—Growth of the heptarchy—Increased power of the kings—The witenagemot—The shire-moot—The hundred-moot—The town-moot—Constitution of the witenagemot—Powers of the witenagemot—Prerogatives and revenues of the king

ij

CHAPTER II.

ENGLISH KINGSHIP BEFORE THE CONQUEST, AND RISE OF FEUDALISM.

Meaning of heptarchy—Supremacy of Kent—Supremacy of Northumbria—Supremacy of Mercia—Union of England under Egbert—Battle of Ellandun—Invasions of the Danes—Reconquest of the Danelagh—Edward the Elder overlord of Great Britain—Rise of the great earldons—Earldoms ultimately prejudicial to monarchy—King's power strengthened:

1. By reconquest of the Danes; 2. By submission of Welsh and Scots—Symptoms of its strength—Edgar's position—Cause of decline of the king's power—Rise of feudansm—

PAGE

Continental feudalism—King, dukes, counts, seigneurs and serfs—Growth of feudalism in England; its origin, the comitatus—The personal tie—The holding of land—The lords' court—Military service—Canute's earldoms—Independence of the earls—Resemblance to continental history...

10

CHAPTER III.

REFORMS OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

Weakness of Edward the Confessor-Partiality for foreigners-The Norman character—Training of William the Conqueror
—Pretexts for invasion—Battle of Senlac and election of William—Importance of the election—Prerogatives of former kings secured—Homage exacted from the king of Scots— Homage refused to the pope-Attitude of William towards his followers-King, feudal superior of all landowners-Abolition of the great earldoms-Establishment of three counties palatine-Careful distribution of forfeited estates-Castles retained in the king's hands-Local courts retained -Fyrd regularly employed-Fealty exacted from every landowner-English and continental nobility compared-Comparative insignificance of English nobles-Absence of private wars—Equality of taxation—Nobility of office, not of birth— Oath exacted from every landowner---William's attitude towards the Church-Restrictions on the papal power-Restrictions on the making of canons-Restrictions on the right of excommunicating—Domesday book—Dissatisfaction of the Normans-Opening of the struggle between the feudal nobility and the crown—Lasting influence of the Conqueror's regulations ...

13

CHAPTER IV.

ENGLISH CONSTITUTION UNDER THE NORMAN KINGS.

Policy of William the Conqueror maintained—Election of William Rufus—Barons defeated by the aid of the English—Character of William Rufus—Election of Henry I.—Charter of Henry I.—Imprisonment of Ranulf Flambard—Marriage with Maud—Quarel about election of bishops—Compromise effected—Defeat of Robert of Belesme—Defeat of Robert of Normandy—The Constitution under Henry I.—Powers of the king:

1. Elected sovereign; 2. Supreme feudal landowner—No constitutional control—The chief ministers—Honorary—Official—The justiciar—The chancellor—The treasurer—The