

**THE WORKS OF LORD  
MORLEY IN FIFTEEN  
VOLUMES, VOLUME IV**

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The works of Lord Morley in Fifteen Volumes, Volume IV by John Viscount Morley

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**JOHN VISCOUNT MORLEY**

**THE WORKS OF LORD  
MORLEY IN FIFTEEN  
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*Edition de Luxe*

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THE WORKS  
OF  
LORD MORLEY  
IN  
FIFTEEN VOLUMES

VOLUME IV



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# POLITICS & HISTORY

BY  
JOHN VISCOUNT MORLEY  
O.M.

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## POLITICS AND HISTORY<sup>1</sup>

### I

UNIVERSITIES have been boldly ranked by competent historians with trial by jury and parliaments, among leading institutions of the Middle Ages. At any rate in England the power of universities and the public schools that feed them, has been immeasurable in the working of other institutions. They have been main agents in moulding both our secular and ecclesiastical politics. They have worked too often for darkness as well as light. Too often and too long have they been the mirror of stolid prejudice and childish convention; the appendages of old social form and institution, rather than great luminaries dispensing knowledge, and kindling that ardent love of new truth for which youth is the irrevocable season. Power of this high dimension is not likely to be missing in our new universities, though its forms are undergoing rapid revolution. Well was it said, "*C'est toujours le beau monde qui gouverne le monde.*" That is still a great deal more true than people think, even in countries like our own where aristocratic polity has in large degree gone down. But the privileges of the fine world of social class must yield henceforth to the forces that shape temper, judgment, and range of public interest, in educational centres such as yours.

The infusion of their thought and temper is what

<sup>1</sup> A version, amplified and recast, of an address delivered by the writer as Chancellor of the University of Manchester in the summer of 1912.