

**THE RIGHT
TO BEAR ARMS**

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The right to bear arms by Arthur Charles Fox-Davies

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ARTHUR CHARLES FOX-DAVIES

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BY
'X'

'Surely even those who affect the greatest contempt for
Heraldry will admit that if Arms are to be borne at all, it
should be according to the laws of Arms.'—PLANCHÉ.

Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged

LONDON
ELLIOT STOCK, 62 PATERNOSTER ROW

1900

1239399

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P R E F A C E

NOWADAYS it is the fashion to proclaim oneself to be democratic. That is unfortunate, and, moreover, it is a piece of hypocrisy. For in very truth there are but few of those of gentle birth who are really either democratic or socialistic in their ideas, or rather in that innermost private set of ideas which they keep for their own especial comfort. Those who are not of gentle birth need not trouble themselves to use arms and crests.

Years ago a writer penned these lines : 'There is no subject more difficult to be dwelt on than that of honourable descent ; none on which the world are greater sceptics, none more offensive to them ; and yet there is no quality to which every one in his heart pays so great a respect.'

As time goes on this dogmatic statement remains absolutely correct ; it might almost be said that the two concluding phrases really gain in weight and accuracy, day by day, the more that