

**FROM KING TO KING: THE
TRAGEDY OF THE PURITAN
REVOLUTION, PP. 1-127**

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From King to King: The Tragedy of the Puritan Revolution, pp. 1-127 by G. Lowes Dickinson

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G. LOWES DICKINSON

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From King to King

THE TRAGEDY OF THE PURITAN REVOLUTION

BY G. LOWES DICKINSON

Author of

*Letters from a Chinese Official, The Greek View of Life,
A Modern Symposium, etc.*



"Methinks I see in my mind a noble and puissant
nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep,
and shaking her invincible locks. Methinks I see
her as an eagle mewing her mighty youth, and kind-
ling her undazzled eyes at the full midday beam,
purging and unscaling her long-abused sight at the
fountain itself of heavenly radiance." MILTON in 1644.

NEW YORK

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

The pages that follow contain an attempt to state, in a concrete form, certain universal aspects of a particular period of history. The tragedy lies in the conflict of reforming energy with actual men and institutions; and it has been the object of the author to delineate vividly the characters of leading actors in the struggle, their ideals, and the distortion of these as reflected in the current of events. This is the general purpose of the work; to attempt to expand it, in detail, in a preface, would be to imply that the book itself is superfluous; for the dramatic form was deliberately chosen, because that of an essay appeared insufficient.

It is hoped that the unity of the whole series of dialogues is secured by the natural development of the subject-matter; this result, it is true, if it has been attained, will only be perceived by readers who have a general acquaintance with the history of the period; but such readers must be numerous, and it is to them, primarily, that the work is intended to appeal.

Accuracy in detail is not essential to the excellence

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

of such a work; it has, however, been studied, though probably not with complete success. In forming his conception of the men and the period, the author has consulted the most recent authorities, whose names are too well and honourably known to students for it to be necessary for him to repeat them. It is his hope that he will not be found to have misrepresented the truth, by attempting to embody it in an artistic form.

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
March, 1891.

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Eliot and Hampden in the Tower

1632

[Eliot was imprisoned for his opposition to the Crown in the Parliament of 1628. His liberation was made conditional on an humble acknowledgment of his fault, which he steadily refused. He died in the Tower in the November of 1632.]