

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROMAN CONSTITUTION

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649519316

The Development of the Roman Constitution by Ambrose Tighe

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

AMBROSE TIGHE

**THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE ROMAN
CONSTITUTION**

History Primers.

✓ THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE
ROMAN CONSTITUTION

BY

AMBROSE TIGHE

FORMERLY TUTOR AND DOUGLAS FELLOW AT YALE COLLEGE

NEW YORK :: CINCINNATI :: CHICAGO:
AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY.

COPYRIGHT, 1886.
By D. APPLETON AND COMPANY.

Printed by
D. Appleton & Company
New York, U. S. A.

P R E F A C E.

DURING my tutorship at Yale College, I offered several courses, all of which had more or less to do with Roman history. Roman history divides itself quite naturally into three periods, the first of which extends to the conclusion of the second Punic war. In this early time the evidence is largely philological. Any intelligent criticism of it is, therefore, impossible without some knowledge of how language lives and grows. The root, the stem, the termination, and the derivation, which are so incomprehensible to the Philistine, have here the greatest importance. For this reason, in one of my courses, an attempt was made to fix the position of the Latin language by some discussion of the nature of language, the relation of languages, and the principles of euphony, and by applying these general ideas to Latin word-formation, etymology, and syntax. After reasonable opportunities in this direction, I took it that one would be ready to learn something about the development of the Roman state, and of its political, legal, and religious institutions. This is a very large subject,

and, in the few weeks which I had at my command, a simple line of thought only could be followed. With a view to economizing time and effort, I prepared for the use of my classes a series of tracts on leading points in the history of the period covered. The idea was not original, but had been employed before with much success by Mr. E. D. Robbins, a former incumbent of the position which I held. As resorted to by myself, this method of instruction was by no means an exclusive one. Wherever it seemed more profitable for the student to cover the ground in another way it was followed. Where there was no complexity or great continuity of thought, and the chief importance attached to the illustrations, the lecture was found the most economical medium of instruction. On other points there was accessible much material in standard books of reference in the possession of the student. And in general, in what I printed, I aimed simply to give an outline of the matter treated, relying on the familiar class-room devices to give color and accuracy to the picture. The following pages are these tracts in a somewhat revised form.

I have thought it worth while to give thus, at length, the history of this book's composition, because its possibilities and its limitations are in this way suggested. I used to, perhaps, delude myself with the thought that some of the men who took

my courses got a better and more scientific notion of why Rome was great from the use of my tracts than they would have from a dictionary of Roman antiquities. This was partly because the omission of details made it easy to follow the thread of development, and to see the general in the particular; and because, in the second place, it was possible to constantly call their attention to the nature of the evidence in support of the positions successively taken. The ideal text-book in Roman history will be one which, in one part, will give a conservative statement of what some prominent scholar takes to be true, and in its notes will collate all intelligent views which are in conflict with this, and perhaps weigh their claims to consideration. In what I have written, I have followed Mommsen very closely wherever he throws any light at all on the subjects discussed. I have done this in some cases in spite of my own conviction that he is in error. In one or two instances where this has been so, I have hinted at the better opinion. Thus, for example, in the second chapter, on the structure of ancient society, I have no faith at all in the historical accuracy of the notion that the *gens* was a union of kinsmen. I am myself a disciple of the anthropological school, so far as any such school exists. But in view of the fact that Mommsen seems to sympathize with the other theory, and of

the general uncertainty on the question, I considered it too radical a course to give the chief prominence to its creed, although I feel it to be the more reasonable one, and have contented myself with referring to its existence. In the same way I have excepted to Mommsen's idea as to the primitive constitution of the *comitia centuriata*. Where, on the other hand, I have found myself in doubt among conflicting views, I have adopted Mommsen's outright. Thus I think that the unprejudiced student, after reading Mommsen's argument for the existence of the *concilium tributum plebis*,* will be inclined to enter a verdict of "not proven." But I have accepted it simply on the basis of authority.

I should approach nearer to my ideal, if, in addition to thus attempting to follow one authority, I had added at least the bibliography which I gave to my classes as a guide to the best which had been said and thought on the general subject. This, however, would swell the size of the volume beyond the primer limit, as well as be the least bit presumptuous, in as far as it would attempt to call the attention of the teaching profession to a list of authorities, the evidence of whose use they will readily recognize when they examine what I have written. I have felt quite free in drawing on every ac-

* "Forschungen."

cessible source of information, and my book is nothing more than a compilation. Some parts are obvious translations of Mommsen and Lange, and even some have been made up from contemporary literature of the kind which appears in the magazines. I have received the greatest help in what I have said of the Roman religion from an admirable article by Professor W. F. Allen on "The Religion of the Ancient Romans," in Volume CXIII of the "North American Review." The line of thought in reference to the early commercial greatness of Rome was suggested by an essay of Goldwin Smith's, from which I have borrowed without stint, and, not to carry this enumeration too far, every one who reads my first chapter will see how I am indebted there to the introduction to J. R. Seeley's edition of Livy's first book.

If the volume were ambitious enough to support a dedication, I should inscribe it to the five hundred young men who in one course or another studied Roman history with me at Yale College. I found in them in full measure the qualities which make men pleasant companions and human intercourse a delight. They were courteous, generous, appreciative, intelligent, and enthusiastic. It was a great privilege to meet them as I did, and my recollections of them are of the happiest nature.

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, *June, 1886.*