

**RESEARCHES INTO THE HISTORY  
OF THE ROMAN CONSTITUTION:  
WITH AN APPENDIX UPON THE  
ROMAN KNIGHTS**

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Researches into the History of the Roman Constitution: With an Appendix upon the Roman Knights by W. Ihne

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**W. IHNE**

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By **W. Ihne, Ph.D.**



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## PREFACE.

**T**HE substance of the following pages was published, 1847, in Germany, under the title "Forschungen auf dem Gebiete der Roemischen Verfassungsgeschichte." As this work has been fortunate enough to attract the attention of historical critics in Germany, I was very glad to hear from my friend, Mr. Francis Haywood of this town, that he had translated it into English: and I undertook with great pleasure the task of looking over the translation and making such alterations and additions as subsequent study had suggested.

It will be found, I trust, that the Work, though chiefly directed against some of the fundamental principles of Niebuhr, is not

written with a view of detracting in the least from the merits of that great historian. His theories have been subjected to a far more searching and less scrupulous criticism in Germany than in England. A great number of pains-taking, learned, and judicious writers, such as Wachsmuth, Goettling, Rubino, Peter, Puchta, Becker, Marquardt, the Dane Madvig, and others, although in general adopting the views of Niebuhr, have ventured in many particulars to differ from him; and they have succeeded in several instances in pointing out fallacies, and in establishing more correct opinions. We are perhaps on the eve of the reconstruction of the History of Rome from the mass of materials, in part old and approved, in part entirely recast, or newly discovered since Niebuhr, and I am sanguine enough to hope that perhaps in the following pages some ideas may be found, which a man endowed with learning, genius, political experience and leisure may usefully employ in erecting such a noble *monumentum aere perennius* on the domain of the History of Rome as Mr. Grote has done on that of Hellas.



I am conscious, however, of a defect in the present Work. It is this,—that an undue anxiety to compress the subject into a small compass, the idea μέγα βιβλίον μέγα κακόν, has induced me to forego the advantage of greater clearness. I fear that those readers whose studies have not made them quite familiar with the subjects treated of in the present volume will sometimes complain that I have too slightly hinted at facts and reasonings, instead of leisurely expounding the whole case, and thus enabling them to form their conclusions, without opening all the books referred to in the notes.

This mistake I shall endeavour to avoid in a more comprehensive work on the Constitutional History of Rome, with which I am at present engaged, and which I hope to bring out very soon, if my professional duties leave me sufficient leisure in the ensuing year.

To my friend Mr. Haywood I take this opportunity of expressing my most heartfelt thanks for the trouble he has undertaken as a translator.

My best acknowledgments are due also to Mr. T. F. Ellis, late Fellow of Trinity

College, Cambridge, for the kindness with which he undertook to look over the proof sheets, and for several very valuable suggestions.

W. I.

Liverpool, 12th January, 1853.



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