# ELECTION BY LOT AT ATHENS

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Election by lot at Athens by James Wycliffe Headlam

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#### PREFACE.

THE subject treated of in this Essay cannot be entirely passed over in any book dealing with Greek Political Antiquities or History. Whether it be owing to the obscurity of the matter, or to some other cause, the explanations given in the standard works are neither sufficient nor convincing. I have therefore attempted by devoting a more special study to the subject than can be done in larger books, to see how far the information we have is sufficient to enable us to understand exactly what election by lot was, how it was used, and what were its political effects.

I am not aware of the existence of any article specially devoted to the subject. So far as attention has been paid to it, it has been confined to one, and, as it seems to me, the least important part of the matter. The date and occasion of the introduction of the lot for elections to the archonship is one of those questions which is at least referred to in all books dealing with Athenian history. It appears as though the exaggerated importance attached to what is to a great extent an antiquarian point, has distracted the attention of most writers from what is at least of equal interest, the political