

**AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP;
AND THE
RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE
IN THE UNITED STATES**

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American citizenship; and the right of suffrage in the United States by Taliesin Evans

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[EDITORS' EDITION.]



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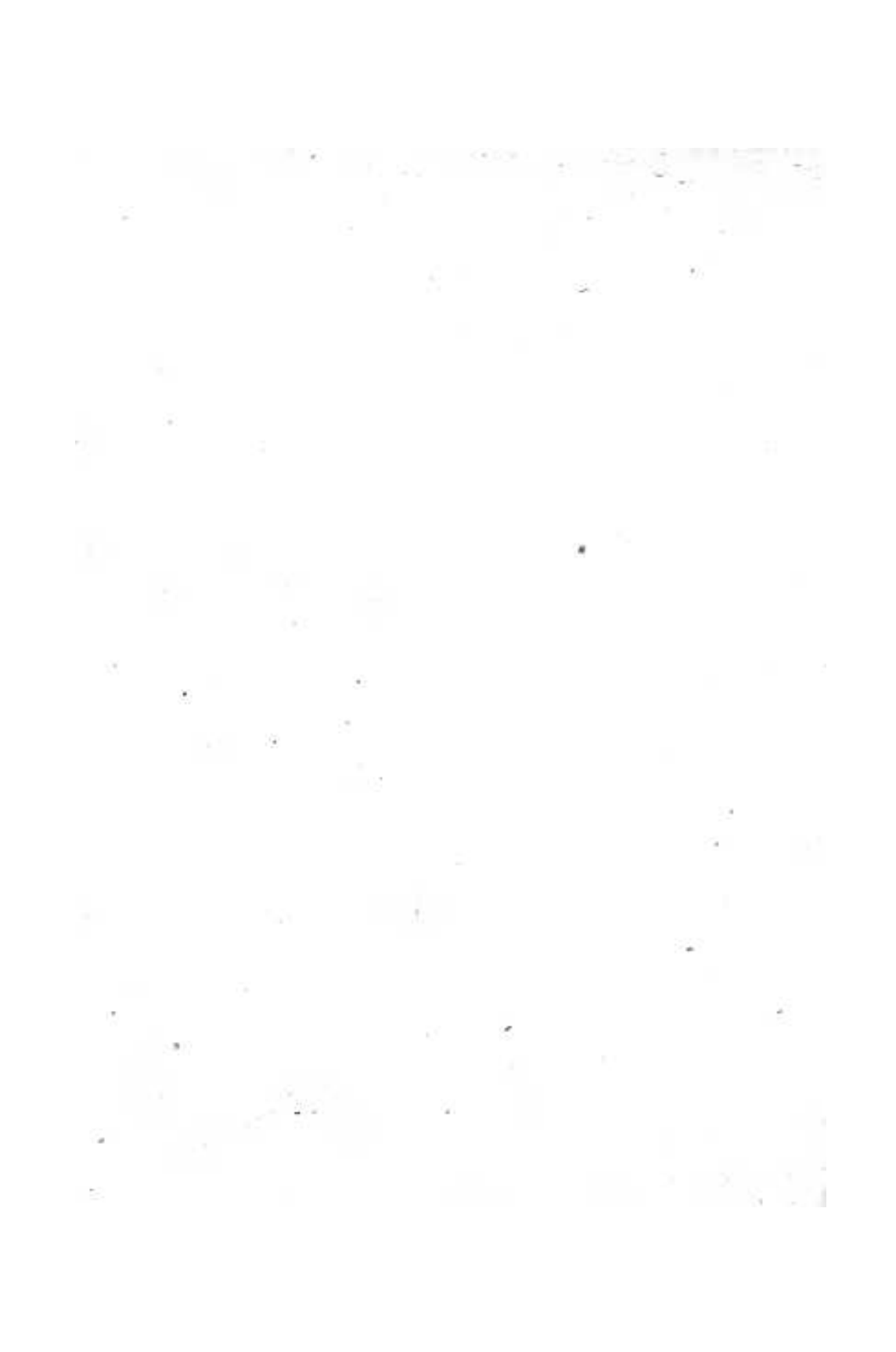
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PREFACE.

In the preparation of this book, no special claim is made to originality, for it is, to a large extent, a compilation of national and state laws affecting citizenship and the right of voting in the United States, and of such questions relating thereto as have, from time to time, been passed upon by the Courts. Public sentiment in the United States is drifting rapidly in the direction of "restricted foreign immigration." At the same time, the nature of the restrictions now placed upon it, is not as generally understood as it should be. But there is an impression, amounting almost to a conviction, that further restrictions are needed to defend the ballot box—the palladium of our liberties—as it is open, in many quarters, to direct assault by the unnaturalized foreigner, who has no sympathy with our institutions or interest in our national welfare. Perhaps a perusal of these pages will show the weak points in our political system. An effort has been made to treat the subject in a manner and in a form that will make it acceptable and instructive to the American student, and interesting and useful to those of foreign birth who are desirous of obtaining the privilege of American citizenship and the right of the elective franchise.

TALIESIN EVANS.

OAKLAND, CAL., March 1, 1892.





AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP.

The ordinary definition of citizenship is "the state of being vested with the rights and privileges of a citizen." Such a definition is, however, vague and uncertain at best. It involves the determination of what constitutes a citizen, and what are the rights and privileges which a citizen enjoys to the exclusion of the person who is not a citizen. A citizen, in the popular meaning of the word, is a member of the community to which he belongs. Citizens are the people who compose the community, and who, in their associated capacity, have established or submitted themselves to the dominion of a government for the promotion of their general welfare, and for the protection of their individual as well as their collective rights (1). Citizenship, therefore, implies membership in a nation. As a member of the body politic, a citizen, whether native or naturalized, is a person who owes allegiance to the government, who must submit to taxation for its support and give it service in case of necessity, and who is entitled, in return, to "liberty of person and conscience, to the right of acquiring and possessing property, of marriage and the social relations, of suit and defense, and to security in person, estate and reputation (2)." Citizenship, in this broad and general

(1) 92 U. S. Rep. 542.

(2) 1 Litt. (K.), 323.

sense, draws no line as to sex, age, race, color or condition, providing the person claiming it has been born within the territorial boundaries of the nation, and is under its jurisdiction, or has been naturalized in conformity with its laws, or has acquired it through the operation of a treaty, or by means of a special act of Congress, or by means of any other regular and lawful method, and has not, through the commission of any unlawful act, or any other cause, forfeited what he may have acquired by either of the processes described.

The political interpretation of citizenship in the United States implies the right to vote at all elections held for the filling of public offices or for the determination of measures affecting the public welfare, and a qualification to fill such offices as may be in the gift of the people or attainable by appointment.

American citizenship is divided, however, into two separate and distinct classifications—Federal and State—each of which may be entirely independent of the other.

I. FEDERAL CITIZENSHIP.

A person may be a citizen of the United States without enjoying State citizenship and the special rights and privileges which State citizenship confers.

Prior to the adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, no mode existed of