

**THE TRUE THEORY OF REPRESENTATION
IN A STATE; OR, THE LEADING
INTERESTS OF THE NATION, NOT THE
MERE PREDOMINANCE OF NUMBERS,
PROVED TO BE ITS PROPER BASIS**

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GEORGE HARRIS

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BY
GEORGE HARRIS,
OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.



LONDON:
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P R E F A C E

A SMALL pamphlet, bearing the title of the present work, was a few years ago put forward by the author, and contained the germ of the essay now offered to the public. The principles which it enunciated are more fully explained, and are more extensively carried out in the following pages than were allowed by the limits of the former publication. Much matter that is altogether new has, moreover, been here introduced, and some topics are discussed which were not embraced by the pamphlet in question. On the other hand, a portion of the matter contained in the previous work has been omitted in the present treatise.

The author has, however, much pleasure in availing himself of this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the kindness and liberality with which the production alluded to was received; and it is most satisfactory to him to be able to announce the decided advancement of the principles which he endeavoured to enunciate, the truth of which has now been assented to by so many independent authorities of extensive influence and high intelligence. The correctness and value of the theory which he has propounded have been admitted by some of the leading organs of the press, by whom the principles of the work in question were candidly and dispassionately discussed. Several newspapers and periodicals of opposite politics and opinions noticed the publication in the most liberal manner, and in very favourable terms, and by certain of them the adoption of its proposals has been directly and powerfully urged.

With influential personages of different

parties the author has also been brought into communication, and has received from them the most satisfactory assurances of their approval of his sentiments. And a very able and eloquent statesman, Sir James Graham, in his speech to his constituents at Carlisle, soon after the pamphlet alluded to had appeared, not only echoed the sentiments of the writer, but in nearly the same words.

Petitions to both Houses of Parliament, to which were attached the signatures of several of the most distinguished scientific, literary, and professional men of the present day, praying for the adoption, in any scheme of Parliamentary Reform, of principles in accordance with and based upon those here maintained, were some time ago presented, and called forth very interesting debates. Moreover, certain of the leading statesmen of each party have avowed their conviction of the necessity of some plan similar to that
