

**THE ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH
CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY,
FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES
TO THE PRESENT DAY**

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The elements of English constitutional history, from the earliest times to the present day by F. C. Montague

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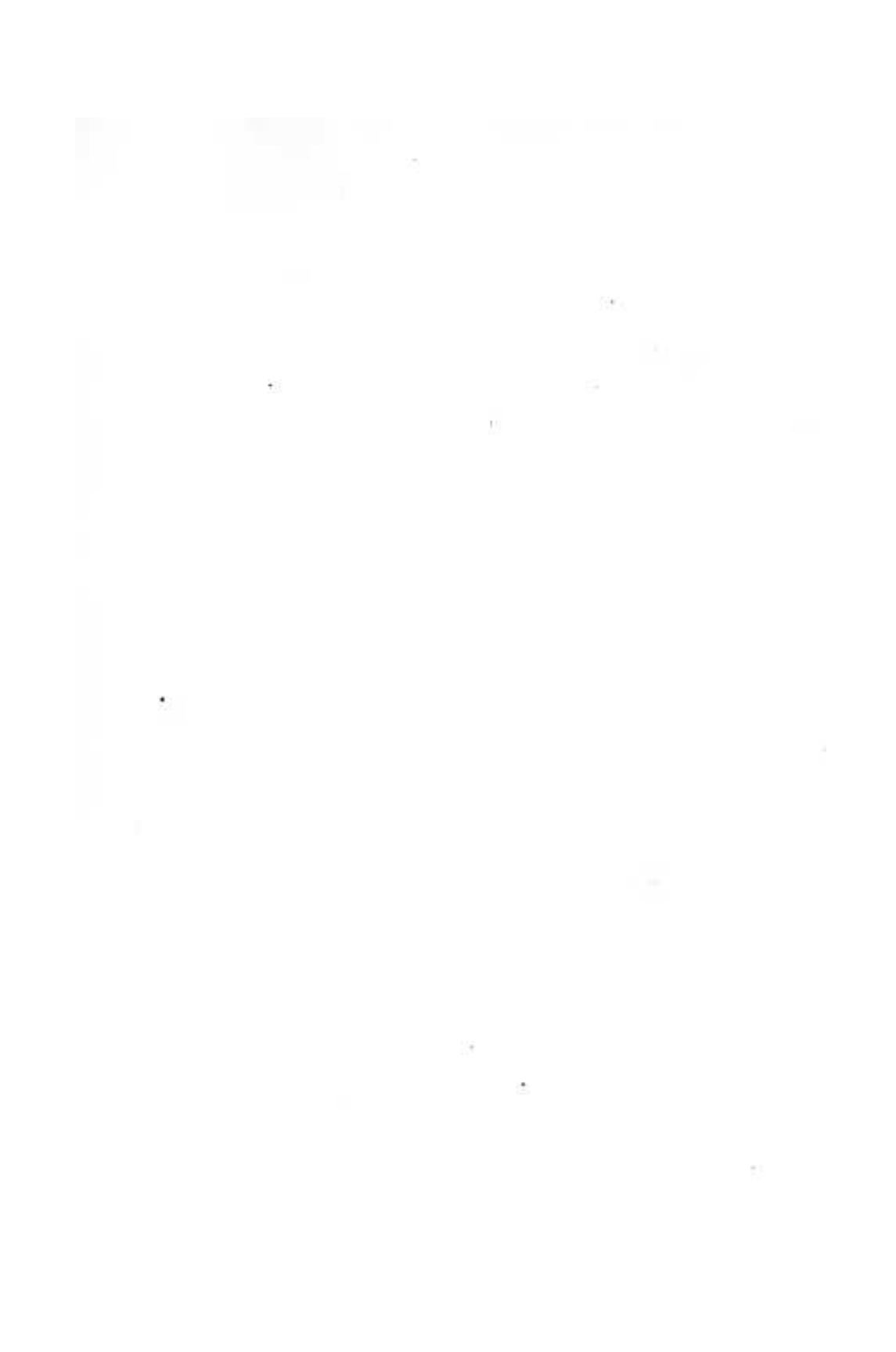
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F. C. MONTAGUE

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CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY



THE ELEMENTS OF
ENGLISH CONSTITUTIONAL
HISTORY

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE
PRESENT DAY

BY

F. C. MONTAGUE, M.A.

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON,
LATE FELLOW OF ORIEL COLLEGE, OXFORD

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P R E F A C E

THIS little book is designed to give such an account of the growth of English institutions as may be intelligible to those who are only beginning to read history. So far as the writer knows, there is no other book which aims precisely at this object. Our standard constitutional histories are too difficult for beginners, and our school histories are not strictly constitutional, but general in character. In writing a book of this kind, it is impossible to be original. Indeed the author has in one or two instances suppressed doubts or preferences of his own in favour of the views accepted by the greater number of good authorities. He desires to acknowledge peculiarly heavy obligations to the great works of the Bishop of Oxford and Professor Gardiner, and to Sir William Anson's most lucid and accurate treatise on the Law and Custom of the Constitution. He can but offer a general acknowledgment of his indebtedness to many eminent writers, living or deceased, such as the late Professor Freeman, Mr. Bagehot, and Mr. Morley.

In so slight a sketch of so vast a subject, much that is highly important must be omitted altogether, and much must be stated in terms so general as to come short of

absolute accuracy. Deficiencies of this kind can be made good only by the knowledge and ability of the teachers, if any, who use a primer of this kind.

In conclusion, the writer has to express his grateful sense of the kindness of Professor Tout of the Owens College, Manchester, who has read the proofs and enriched them with many valuable suggestions. The writer, however, is alone responsible for any errors which may have been embodied in his book.

ORIEL COLLEGE, OXFORD,
December 1893.

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