

**THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
THE LANDED MAN TO
CIVIL LIBERTY; NUMBER I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649378586

The contributions of the landed man to civil liberty; Number I by Elwin Lawrence Page

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ELWIN LAWRENCE PAGE

**THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
THE LANDED MAN TO
CIVIL LIBERTY; NUMBER I**

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
THE LANDED MAN TO
CIVIL LIBERTY

120775

Williams College
DAVID A. WELLS PRIZE ESSAYS

Number 1

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
THE LANDED MAN TO
CIVIL LIBERTY

BY

ELWIN LAWRENCE PAGE, B.A.



PRINTED FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
OF WILLIAMS COLLEGE

By The Riverside Press, Cambridge

1905

INTRODUCTION

THIS is the first essay of a series to be known as "David A. Wells Prize Essays." These essays are to be printed under the direction and editing of the David A. Wells Professor of Political Science, of Williams College, and one is to appear during each year following an award of the prize. The prize is \$500 "in gold coin of standard weight and fineness, or in the form of a medal of gold suitably inscribed, at the option of the recipient." Competition is confined to those who are members of the Senior Class when the subject for an essay is announced, and to graduates of not more than three years' standing.

The following provision of the will of the late David A. Wells, the founder of the competition, governs the committee in the selection of subjects and in the consideration of essays:

"No subject shall be selected for competitive writing or investigation and no essay shall be considered which in any way advocates or

defends the spoliation of property under form or process of law; or the restriction of commerce in times of peace by Legislation, except for moral or sanitary purposes; or the enactment of usury laws; or the impairment of contracts by the debasement of coin; or the issue and use by Government of irredeemable notes or promises to pay intended to be used as currency and as a substitute for money; or which defends the endowment of such 'paper,' 'notes' and 'promises to pay' with the legal tender quality."

HENRY LOOMIS NELSON,

David A. Wells Professor of Political Science.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE,

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS., April 1, 1905.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

As long as some of the earlier phases of English constitutional history remain so obscure as to be the subjects of diverse opinions, no study of a special influence in that history can be definitive. Yet it may prove of some interest, if not of profit, to get even an incomplete view of the parts played by different classes of men in the development of free institutions. This paper is an attempt to set forth some of the main contributions of the landed man to constitutional growth. The author makes no claim to originality; he has merely made a brief review of the salient features of constitutional history and collated facts stated and opinions expressed by others, but in such relation, he trusts, that the importance of this particular influence may be somewhat apparent. No attempt has been made to trace any other influence, much less to compare this with any other. The result is a lack of proportion of which the reader will scarcely need to be warned. If the author succeeds, how-

ever, in emphasizing the fact that to the landed man we owe a very large share of the liberty we now enjoy, the purpose of this study will be answered.

The author desires to make acknowledgement for valuable criticism and suggestions received from Professor Henry Loomis Nelson, of Williams College, and to Dr. W. B. Munro, late of the same college, but now of Harvard University. He is indebted to Arthur H. Chase, Esq., librarian of the New Hampshire State Library, for courtesies extended, also to Hon. Charles R. Corning, of Concord, New Hampshire, for access to his private library. The libraries of Harvard College and the Harvard Law School have also been freely drawn upon. The works consulted are amply cited in the foot-notes.