

**MONARCHY AND  
DEMOCRACY, PHASES  
OF MODERN POLITICS**

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Monarchy and democracy, phases of modern politics by The duke of Somerset

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**THE DUKE OF SOMERSET**

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DEMOCRACY, PHASES  
OF MODERN POLITICS**



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# MONARCHY AND DEMOCRACY

## PHASES OF MODERN POLITICS

BY  
THE DUKE OF SOMERSET, K.G.

In vetere novum latet;  
In novo vetus patet.

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## PREFACE.

AN endeavour is made in the following short and fragmentary chapters to trace the growth of modern political opinions. For this purpose the doctrines propounded by distinguished French, English, and American writers are cited, the value of their doctrines tested by later experience, and their predictions compared with subsequent events.

Our present form of government is a fusion of Monarchy and Democracy; in which fusion during the last fifty years Democracy has been continually advancing. Whether this movement indicates the progressive improvement of the constitution, or its deterioration and decay, is a question on which politicians will differ.

"To secure the advantages of government with the least possible inconvenience to the governed," is not a bad criterion of Statesmanship, but it is not the system which prevails in the present day. There is an incessant interference with the governed; and the legislation of every recurring session imposes some new restriction on human freedom. This constitutes only one of the problems submitted for consideration in the following pages, but it involves a principle which should be closely watched.

*"Est il donc, entre nous, rien de plus despotique  
Que l'esprit d'un état qui passe en république."*



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## CHAPTER I.

### OF CONSTITUTIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

THE vague rumours which have been lately buzzed about in reference to some undue exercise of the royal prerogative, and to the introduction of personal government in the management of foreign affairs, naturally direct attention to the present position in this country of a constitutional sovereign.

Constitutional kingship, or, as it was commonly called, limited monarchy, is a contrivance of modern growth, although the rudiments of the system may be traced in the early history of many European states.

What should be the limits of a limited monarchy, is a question on which opposite opinions have been pronounced with some bitterness.