

**THE POLITICAL TEXT BOOK;
COMPRISING A VIEW OF THE ORIGIN
AND OBJECTS OF
GOVERNMENT, AND AN EXAMINATION
OF THE PRINCIPAL SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS OF ENGLAND**

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The political text book; comprising a view of the origin and objects of government, and an examination of the principal social and political institutions of England by William Carpenter

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WILLIAM CARPENTER

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An Examination

OF THE

PRINCIPAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS
OF ENGLAND.

Compiled from the best Authorities.

BY WILLIAM CARPENTER.

"The vices and virtues of a state are the effects of its
legislation."—HELVETIUS.

LONDON :
WILLIAM STRANGE, 21, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1833.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE title page and table of contents will sufficiently explain the nature and objects of this little work. The great struggle between the dominant few and the oppressed many is now commenced in right earnest; and the period of its duration, as well as the success of its final issue, are wholly dependant upon the kind and extent of popular knowledge. To emancipate society from its multifarious evils, we must distinctly trace out the causes in which they take their rise. An enlightened conviction of these would cut short the controversy which has been carried on for ages between the two great classes into which society is divided, and secure to the producers the management of their own affairs, and the enjoyment of the fruits of their own industry. THE POLITICAL TEXT BOOK has been compiled with a view to this object, and it is presumed that he who will make himself familiar with the principles and facts embodied in its pages, will be fitted to contribute in no small degree towards the regeneration of society, and the happiness of mankind.

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THE
POLITICAL TEXT BOOK.

PART I.
OF SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT.

CHAPTER I.
THE ORIGIN AND OBJECTS OF SOCIETY.

THE principal aim of society is to protect individuals in the enjoyment of those absolute rights which were vested in them by the immutable laws of nature; but which could not be preserved in peace without that mutual assistance and intercourse which is gained by the institution of friendly and social communities. Hence it follows, that the first and primary end of human laws is to maintain and regulate these *absolute* rights of individuals. Such rights as are social and *relative*, result from, and are posterior to, the formation of states and societies: so that to maintain and regulate these is clearly a subsequent consideration. And therefore the principal view of human laws is, or ought always to be, to explain, protect, and enforce such rights as are absolute, which in themselves are few and simple; and then such rights as are relative, which, arising from a variety of connexions, will be far more numerous and complicated.—*Blackstone.*

Some writers have so confounded society with government, as to leave little or no distinction between them: whereas, they are not only different, but have different origins. Society is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness; the former promotes our happiness *positively*, by uniting our affections: the latter,