

**GREAT BRITAIN &
HANOVER; SOME
ASPECTS OF THE
PERSONAL UNION**

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Great Britain & Hanover; Some Aspects of the Personal Union by Adolphus William Ward

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ADOLPHUS WILLIAM WARD

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GREAT BRITAIN & HANOVER

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PREFACE



THE subject of the relations between Great Britain and Hanover has long seemed to me to deserve a more special study than has hitherto been devoted to it. But no enquiry into these relations can be considered in any sense complete, unless it should include a careful examination of the documentary evidence preserved at Hanover, both in the Archives of the Ministry, and in those of the London Chancery. It was therefore with some hesitation that I suggested this subject for the course which I had the honour of being invited to deliver at Oxford in the academical year 1898-99; since my engagements made it impossible for me to undertake the requisite inspection within the time at my disposal. On the whole, however, I thought that a useful purpose might be served by an attempt to bring certain aspects of the theme under the notice of hearers interested in this period of history, and that, possibly, younger or more competent hands might thus be induced at one point or another to take up the thread. For myself, I had no choice but to confine my comments mainly, though not altogether, to the reigns of George I and II, and this again made it necessary that the first of my lectures should largely occupy itself with the history of the House of Bruns-

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wick before the accession of the Elector George Lewis to the British throne. I trust that these introductory pages may not be considered superfluous, if they throw any light upon the policy of the earlier Hanoverian reigns, derived from a study of the historical traditions of the dynasty, and more especially of its political action from the Peace of Westphalia to the Peace of Utrecht.

I desire here to repeat my thanks to Dr. R. Doebner, Archivist of State, &c., for having, by the information which he was kind enough to transmit to me, enabled me to explain the actual working of the Hanoverian system of government, more especially as to the relations between the territorial sovereign and the higher ministerial authorities.

These lectures had been written, and in the fifth of the series I had already largely availed myself of the researches of M. Richard Waddington in his *Louis XV et le Renversement des Alliances* (1754-56), when he was so courteous as to allow me to peruse the proof-sheets of the chapter on Kloster Zeven in his forthcoming continuation of his important political narrative. I was thus enabled to rewrite so much of my sixth lecture as refers to the Capitulation and its reception in Eng'land, although I have not yet had the satisfaction of reading the remainder of the expected volume.

A. W. WARD.

KENSINGTON, *March 24, 1899.*

P.S. Since these lines were written, M. Waddington's *La Guerre de Sept Ans, Les Débuts* has appeared in print.

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