

**THE SENATE AND TREATIES, 1789-
1817; THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
TREATY-MAKING FUNCTIONS OF
THE UNITED STATES SENATE
DURING THEIR FORMATIVE PERIOD**

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TO
MY MOTHER AND FATHER

PREFACE

THIS book is a study in detail of the treaty-making powers of the United States Senate during the formative period of their history. This period is conceived to extend from 1789 to just a little beyond the first twenty-five years of government under the Constitution. No powers of the federal government underwent a more interesting development during this first quarter-century than did those which have to do with the making of treaties. There are good reasons for this. The treaty clause of the Constitution is so flexible that the exact relations of the Senate and the executive in treaty-making could be worked out only in actual practice. And there never has been a period in the history of this nation when foreign relations.—threats of war, avoidances of armed conflicts, diplomatic defeats and victories, treaties made and denounced—have played so vital a part in the affairs of the government and in the lives of the people. The young republic was fixing her status in the family of nations—finding her level among a jostling throng who regarded her with indifferent, hostile, or designing eyes. Consequently that part of her constitutional organization which concerned treaty-making, and foreign relations generally, was rapidly developed by constant application to the problems of actual government.