

**THE GROWTH OF THE
ENGLISH CONSTITUTION
FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES**

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The Growth of the English Constitution from the Earliest Times by Edward A. Freeman

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EDWARD A. FREEMAN

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Beatrice A. Lees. 1894.

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BY

EDWARD A. FREEMAN, M.A., HON. D.C.L., AND LL.D.

LATE FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE, OXFORD
KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE GREEK ORDER OF THE REDEEMER

'Concedis justas leges et consuetudines esse tenendas, et promittis eas
per te esse protegendas et ad honorem Dei roborandas, *quas vulgus elegerit*
secundum vires tuas?'—ANCIENT CORONATION OATH.

'Rex habet superiorem, Deum. Item Legem, per quam factus est Rex.
Item curiam suam.'—BRACTON.

'Igitur communitas regni consulatur,
Et quid universitas sentiat sciatur'

POLITICAL FORM, XIII. Cent.

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Reprinted 1884, 1887, 1890, 1894.*

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

THE book has been carefully revised for this Third Edition, and several new illustrations and references have been added. Since the Second Edition appeared, the great Constitutional History of Professor Stubbs has formed an epoch in the treatment of the subject. I am glad to find that its appearance has not obliged me to alter very much. I might have brought in endless references to such an unrivalled store-house of knowledge; but I thought it better to leave my own book essentially as it stood, and to change, alter, or refer only in a few specially important cases. My book will be doing its proper duty if it leads readers to the writings of a scholar of whom we may truly say that

"Non viget quidquid simile aut secundum."

SOMERLEAZE, WELLS,

April 3rd, 1876.

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THE proverb "*qui s'excuse s'accuse*" is so regularly turned against any author who gives any account of the origin of his work that it may be well to prevent its quotation by quoting it oneself. I have to ask that these three Chapters and their accompanying Notes may not be judged by the standard of a book. If I were to write a book on the English Constitution, it would be different in form and, in many points, different in style. What the reader has here is a somewhat extended form of two Lectures given at Leeds and Bradford last January. I had thought that they might be worth printing in the shape of two magazine-papers; others thought that they might do good in their present shape. I therefore expanded the latter part of the second Lecture, which had to