

**LIMITED
MONARCHY:
OR, RULING SELF**

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Limited monarchy: or, Ruling self by J. Fordyce

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J. FORDYCE

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BY THE

REV. J. FORDYCE.



LONDON;

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EDINBURGH; AND NEW YORK.

1865.

Prefatory Note.

THIS little book is written with the view of being especially useful to young men, though not intended for them exclusively. Parents may perhaps find suggestions worthy of their attention. It is the fruit of a deep and growing conviction that *strong wills, rightly trained, are best fitted for the battle of life.*

J. F.

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LIMITED MONARCHY.

I.

Introduction.

DESPOTISM and Democracy are man's extremes. Both in most instances originate in selfishness and terminate sooner or later in oppression. Despotism is the result of grasping selfishness in the mighty few, taking advantage of the ignorance and weakness of the many. Democracy is the combined selfishness of the million aiming at an impossible equality. The former when developed either issues in hopeless bondage, or a terrible recoil; and the latter when a great emergency

arises, having many ready and anxious to rule, but few willing to obey, suffers paralysis when prompt and vigorous action is needed, not alone from the want of central power, but of patriotic support. And thus it is that when the opportunity is lost and popular passions have been roused, the rulers' timidity gives way to temerity, and men who dreamed and boasted of liberty, equality, and fraternity, give the world an example of confusion surpassing that of Babel.

Such are the two extremes in the government of nations, the golden mean is limited monarchy. Potentates and people alike have their positions assigned them by constitutional law. The throne is encircled by regal rights and well-defined responsibilities. The people are subjects, not serfs, and find that loyalty and liberty can be happily conjoined. The sovereign's will is not absolute, for peer and commoner alike have real power, and can each check the

other by veto; and yet their influence is so nicely balanced, that neither can long, by unreasonable obstructions, oppose the other; and thus it is that the regal and representative are so associated that, if but wisely conducted, minor jarrings in a national emergency are at once extinguished, and a vigorous executive crushes rebellion or repels the invader.

“For the thunderbolt of concentrated strength can be hurled by the will of one,
While the dissipated forces of many are harmless as the summer lightning.”

Happily for us we have been depicting the liberal constitution and limited monarchy under which we live; for Britain, with all its faults, has no equal among nations for the balance and free play of its social elements; and though some of us may long for the day when our senators, thinking less of political parties, shall care more for the real welfare of the people, none of us should seek to limit further the

regal honours that are borne so gracefully by our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria.

Unlimited monarchy belongs to One—the Supreme Ruler of all. His is alike unlimited in duration and extent, it is at once universal and everlasting. To Him all are responsible, for though individual rebels and contumacious kingdoms may be tolerated for a time, only an early and complete submission can avert a righteous retribution.

Graduated authority and subjection, realms including realms, varying in degree from the mightiest empire to the humblest home, and all under law to the King of kings, is part of the Divine order for intelligent and responsible beings from the least to the greatest :—

“ A kingdom is an assemblage of families, and a family a small kingdom.
 And the government of whole or part differs in nothing but extent.
 The house where the Master ruleth is strong in united subjection ;
 But and if he yieldeth up the reins, it is weak in discordant anarchy.”