

# **THE STATE AND THE CITIZEN**

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The state and the citizen by The Earl of Selborne

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**THE EARL OF SELBORNE**

**THE STATE  
AND THE CITIZEN**



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THE STATE  
AND THE CITIZEN



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AND THE CITIZEN

BY

THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G.



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# THE STATE AND THE CITIZEN

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

A CONSTITUTION is that part of the law and custom of a country which regulates the making and administration of its laws. All individuals in a civilised country stand in contact with a power that concerns itself, ever more fully, with a part of their doings, now conferring boons, now imposing restrictions, always charged with their defence against the force of the foreigner, and armed always, against its own subjects, with irresistible might. Such is the Government.

It is not less powerful in democratic England than in Russia under the old autoeracy. It is even more powerful, for its organisation is more complete. Not only in the vulgar form of collision with a policeman, but in an infinite number of instances in all the business of life—in the home, the shop, the factory, and in the pocket—the influence of the laws is felt continuously by every