

# **GOVERNMENT, CONDUCT, AND EXAMPLE**

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Government, Conduct, and Example by William Dawbarn

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**WILLIAM DAWBARN**

**GOVERNMENT,  
CONDUCT,  
AND EXAMPLE**



GOVERNMENT,  
CONDUCT, AND EXAMPLE:

BY

WILLIAM DAWBARN,

AUTHOR OF

"ESSAYS, TALES," ETC., ETC.

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THIRD EDITION.

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## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

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I have added to this third edition a lecture on Glasgow, delivered by me to the Young Men's Christian Association, of Wisbeach, which may be well considered as belonging to the third division of my subject—"Government, Conduct, and Example." Whilst the life of Sydney Smith illustrates the conduct of an individual, Glasgow gives an example of the conduct of a people,—a people who, for civilization and intelligence, and in almost all other respects, are among the first of modern races. It is true that in association with these good qualities there are certain peculiarities of character which will bear correction, and these will, no doubt, in progress of time, be so corrected by an ever enlarging culture.

As the Lecture on Glasgow was one of two, I have added in an appendix the second—The Resources of Wisbeach. Not viewing it to be of the same general interest as that on Glasgow, I have put it in the less prominent form of an appendix.

## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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THE first edition of these lectures having secured a ready sale, I have prepared a second edition. I have added about thirty pages of new matter, and have altered a few pages containing redundant illustrations and epithets suitable for oral delivery, but which seemed not so suitable where exactness, full expression, and good taste are more particularly required.

Since the pages referring to bribery and returning members to Parliament have been printed, the towns of Yarmouth, Lancaster, Totnes, and Reigate have been disfranchised. A Reform Bill has extended the suffrages of the people, and altered considerably the constituencies which are in future to return members to Parliament.

It may not be unnecessary to notice the principal alterations which this Bill has made in the Constitution.

Every man who is twenty-one years of age is a voter, if he has occupied a house for twelve months and paid poor rates. Lodgers occupying rooms, at the annual rate of ten pounds and upwards, after two years' occupation, are also voters. County



voters have their franchise lowered from fifty pounds to twelve pounds. The four largest towns in the kingdom have had three members given them, but each voter can only vote for two candidates. And all boroughs of less than ten thousand population in 1861 are to return only one member.

I trust that my friends who have perused the first edition, will consider the revision to which I have subjected this to be an improvement.

*Elmswood, Liverpool,*  
*October, 1867.*

## INTRODUCTION.

By the good offices of my late worthy partner and father-in-law, William Yelverton, Esq., I was permitted for some years to be a non-resident from my mercantile engagements in Liverpool, and to live in a small country town a life of somewhat greater leisure than I should otherwise have had. Leisure, as every one knows, is so much a negative state of existence, as often to make people fall into mischief. Mine, to be rendered as harmless as possible, ran into reading and writing, and endeavouring to fix in an agricultural district, manufactures, which might give new sources of employment to an indigent and half-occupied population. This attempt to manufacture succeeding, I ventured to accept, as they fell upon me, those public trusts which, from the Englishman's love of self-government, are to be found in connexion with Town Councils and Savings Banks, Boards of Guardians and Assessed Taxes, Boards of Health and Turnpike Trusts. I do not know very well how it came to pass, but it was also thought by some of the societies in my neighbourhood, formed for mutual improvement and Christian

usefulness, to whom I was known, that I was a proper person to be asked to lecture—and I lectured. Some of my friends and hearers who thought my lectures sufficiently good and useful, requested me to print them. So I have added to the number of the employments of my leisure, the small, unpretending volume, to which these few lines are the introduction.

The first of these three lectures,—Government, illustrated from Blackstone and his Commentaries,—was delivered before the Young Men's Christian Association, in Liverpool. The design was to give a brief sketch of the foundation of the citizenship and liberty which we are permitted to enjoy under the enlightened rule of Queen, Lords, and Commons.

The second,—Conduct, illustrated from Private, Business, and Public Life,—was given in the Town Hall of Cambridge, to the Young Men's Christian Association. Its object was to enter into some of those general requirements, which most men must strive to possess, who would hope to arrive at anything like success in life.

The third lecture,—Example, illustrated from Sydney Smith and his Writings,—was delivered to the members of the Society of Arts, Lynn. Its great design was from the writings and example of that worthy man, whose mind was a well-regulated, well-balanced, and justly-proportioned mind, to show that partizanship is not necessarily injurious to the better interests of the public, when party feeling is guided by pure, incorruptible, and intelligent energy.