

is that this result is brought about by what is called "government," and we shall be studying in this book what our government is and how it holds our nation together.

To us in our day it would seem quite natural for a number of persons to agree to work together and to help one another in many ways, such as giving aid in defence against enemies, forming treaties with friends, and building roads and bridges or making other improvements. But we learn from history that the present arrangements by which these and many other things are done, were arrived at only after centuries of effort. Moreover, some nations have not made as much progress in government as we, and we ourselves, we shall see, have not yet reached perfection.

If we read history and observe how governments have grown up, we shall be inclined to place them in two classes. One class will include those in which the head of the nation, generally called a king or an emperor, is always a member of a particular family, and in which the son, no matter what sort of man he may be, usually