

Atlantis of Lord Bacon, "discourses which, like the stars, gave little light because they were so high," followed by practical treatises such as Sir Thomas Smith's Commonwealth of England, Statham's Abridgment of the Year Books, Plowden's reports, Sir Edward Anderson's reports, the weighty folios of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, Coke's Commentaries upon Littleton, upon Magna Charta and other statutes, and his thirteen volumes of reports. These works, printed by the masters of the then new art of printing, by Wynkyn de Worden, a pupil of Caxton, by Tailleux, Tottell and Rastell, made men acquainted with their rights as subjects of a limited monarchy, and a great debate, which lasted for sixty years, ensued. We see the rise of the Puritans in Church and State, Richard Hooker at work upon his Ecclesiastical Polity, Hobbes upon his Leviathan, Harrington upon his Oceana, and the pedantic egotist, James I., declaring, in the Star Chamber, "As it is atheism and blasphemy to dispute what God can do, so it is presumption and a high contempt in a subject to dispute what a King can do, or to say that a King cannot do this or that." We see the rage that broke out in Parliament, and the introduction of the Petition of Right. We see the octogenarian Coke, and the eloquent John Pym rise in their places to support it. We see the quarrel carried into the next reign, the fatuousness of Charles I., the victories of Cromwell at Naseby, and Marston Moor, the opposition in the Courts by John Hampden to ship-money, and the head of Charles upon the block, the price paid for royal stubbornness and folly. We see the stern features of Cromwell as he seized the reins of power, in eleven years to drop them into the hands of a child too weak to hold them against the Restoration, and in the thick of the press we see the noble figure of Algernon Sydney ascend the scaffold because of his Discourses upon Government; the blind but enraptured eyes of John Milton as he dictated his Areopagitica or Essay upon the Liberty of Unlicensed Printing; the rugged features of the philosophic John Locke as he published his Civil Government, in which, for all time to come, he logically demonstrated the true basis of government to be the sovereignty of the people. We see the passage of the Habeas Corpus Act, that second chapter in the Bible of English Liberty, and pause to dwell upon