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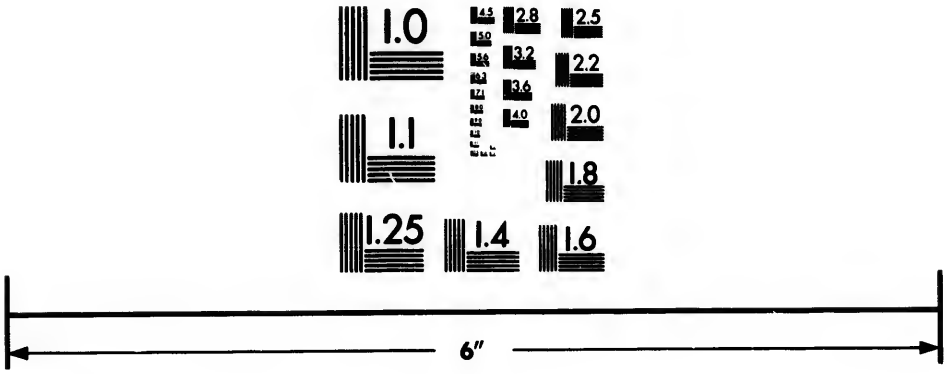

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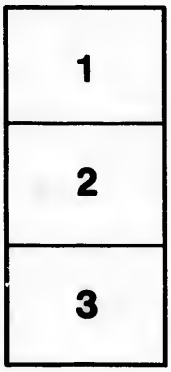

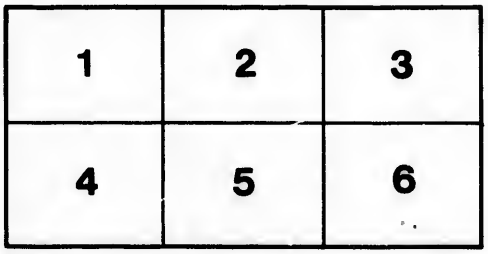

B

THE EVERY BOY'S BOOK,

OR

A DIGEST OF THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION.

COMPILED AND ARRANGED

FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE FAMILIES

BY

JOHN GEORGE BRIDGES.

"It is the duty of every expounder of our laws to lay this Constitution before the Student, in its true and genuine light; it is the duty of every good subject to understand, to revere, and to defend it."

HALE.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED,

BY THE PROPRIETOR AT THE OTTAWA ADVOCATE OFFICE, DISTRICT OF SYDENHAM, PROVINCE OF CANADA.

1842.

PREFACE.

The necessity of such a book as the one now presented, to direct the young mind to estimate "the time honored fabric" of our country, and to counteract the dangerous tendency of those publications advocating republican institutions, with which the Provinces are inundated, must be apparent.

This little work has been arranged by the compiler in the manner which appeared to him most likely to realize the object intended, namely: an early inculcation of loyal principles.

The compiler's endeavours were directed to collect as great a mass of useful information in the smallest possible compass, and to simplify it.

There is nothing new to be said about the good old British Constitution. Its credit is well established by time and able advocates. But it is to be regreted that it has been made by writers, more the theme of admira-

tion, than of exposition, and that their voluminous detail precludes the possibility of being generally read.

The compiler's object has been to make it, in fact "EVERY BOY'S BOOK." *If its adult readers are pleased, and young ones instructed, he will have attained the* NE PLUS ULTRA *of his ambition.*

It is not unlikely that in "The Every Boy's Book," which embraces a great variety of facts, some inaccuracies may be found. He has endeavoured to make it as correct as possible, and hopes that the errors may be unimportant, and that they will not be found, to detract from its utility as a School book.

Should any abler pen, seek to cast a slight upon the compiler's humble offering, he must remember that it is on account of his neglect, that he has essayed at all: and moreover he must be content to share whatever blame may attach to the undertaking.

In conclusion, the compiler recommends to his adult readers, STEVENS'S BOOK OF THE CONSTITUTION, *from which he has in the beginning of this little work, made copious extracts.*

THE

EVERY BOY'S BOOK.

"GREAT BRITAIN—a power to which Rome in the height of her glory is not to be compared, which has dotted the whole earth with her possessions and military posts,—whose morning drum follows the Sun, and keeping company with his beams, circles the globe daily with one continuous and unbroken strain of the martial airs of England."—*Daniel Webster.*

LESSON 1ST.

Adam, the first King, as well as the first man, was the father of his own subjects, and when the eldest son succeeded to his father's authority, he succeeded also to his title of father, and hence the style of father is given to this day to all Kings, which points remarkably to the original of Government, or Kingship, in the time of man's innocency in Eden, which God first instituted there, both in nature and by positive command. And therefore we owe to our Sovereign the same obedience, which Adam's children or subjects paid to him, for God's commands and institutions descend through all ages to the

end of time, and Government is of the same necessity and obligation now, as it was when it was first imposed by God, and it is equally "his ordinance" now, as it was then.

If Government and its succession was ordained by God himself,—then it is as natural that it should succeed in the same track as for the sun to proceed in his diurnal course.

There are but three kinds of Government. When the sovereign power is vested in one person it is called a Monarchy: if in all the nobles it is called an Aristocracy, or an Oligarchy if confined to a few of these: if an assembly of the people have the chief authority, it is called a Democracy or a Republic.*

Of all the different species of Governments, the Monarchical is the most ancient and natural, originating at first in parental authority, hence Kings are called the fathers of their people.

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* NOTE.—In strictness of language, a great difference exists between a Republic and a Democracy. Properly speaking, the term Republic, is more justly applicable to Great Britain than to any other nation on earth, for although it may be objected, that one of its pillars is Monarchy, yet, it is very evident, that the whole tendency and practice of the British system is Republican, that is impartially respective of the general good.

Democracy on the other hand, is that form of Government, which irrespective of the obligation of law and custom, places the present will of the populace above all restraint, and of course leaves the general weal entirely at the mercy of that, which is more fickle and capricious, than the winds of heaven.

The ancient Lacedamonian Republic was likewise provided with hereditary Monarchs, who reigned in a direct line for 700 years.

The Assyrian and Egyptian Monarchies are the most ancient that we read of, but, there are several Kings mentioned in the Scriptures, in the early history of the Patriarch Abraham. The Jews were governed by God himself 'till Sauls' time, from whence it has been called a Theocracy—taken from the Greek word signifying GOD. After his elevation to the Throne of Israel by Gods' appointment, the Government continued Monarchical till the destruction of the temple.

Some Monarchies are despotic, where the subjects are slaves at the arbitrary power and will of their Sovereign; such as the Turks and most Asiatic nations; others political or paternal, where the subjects like children under a father, are governed by equal and just laws, consented to, and sworn by all Christian Princes at their Coronation. Some Monarchies are hereditary, where the Crown descends either to male heirs only, as in France, or to the next of blood, as in Great Britain, Spain, Portugal, &c. Others, elective, where upon the death of the reigning Prince, without respect to their heirs or next of blood, or by expiration of their time of limitation of rule, another by solemn election is appointed to succeed them. This used to be the system in Poland before its partition, and formerly also in Denmark, Hungary and Bohemia, and is still practised in the United States of America, for although their Chief Governor is called a President, still he is their Sovereign, and is elective.

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 1st.

Q.—Why are Kings called the Fathers of their people ?

A.—It originated in the parental authority of Adam the first man, who ruled over his own descendants.

Q.—When was rule or Kingship first instituted ?

A.—In Eden,—in the time of man's innocency.

Q.—By whom was it ordained ?

A.—Of God,—both in nature and by positive command.

Q.—What is due to our Sovereign ?

A.—Obedience.

Q.—Whose commands enforce obedience to the end of time ?

A.—God's.

Q.—How many kinds of Government are there ?

A.—Three.

Q.—What is meant by a Monarchy ?

A.—When the Sovereign power is vested in one person.

Q.—What is understood by an Aristocracy ?

A.—When the power is vested in all the nobles.

Q.—How is an Oligarchy constituted ?

A.—When the power is confined to a few nobles.

Q.—What is a Democracy ?

A.—When the Chief authority is exercised by the people.

Q.—What applies to a Republic ?

A.—The same as a Democracy.

Q.—What are the most ancient Monarchies that we read of ?

A.—The Assyrian and Egyptian.

Q.—By whom were the Jews governed till Saul's time ?

A.—God.

Q.—What is the derivation of the word Theocracy and its meaning ?

A.—When God ruled the Jews it was called a Theocracy, and is derived from a Greek word signifying God.

Q.—Who ascended the Throne of Israel by divine appointment ?

A.—Saul.

Q.—What is meant by a despotic Monarchy ?

A.—When the subjects are ruled at the will of their Sovereign.

Q.—What is understood by political or paternal Monarchy ?

A.—When subjects are governed by equal and just laws, which are sworn to for strict observance by the Sovereign on receiving the Royal investiture.

Q.—What is meant by hereditary Monarchy ?

A.—Where the Crown descends to the lawful heir.

Q.—In what right of succession does the Crown descend in France ?

A.—To male heirs only.

Q.—What is the right of succession in England ?

A.—The Crown descends to the next of blood male or female, in Great Britain, Spain and Portugal.

Q.—What is an elective Monarchy ?

A.—Where the Kingly power is for life, and on the death of the Sovereign, his successor is elected by the people.

Q.—In what countries used this elective right to be exercised ?

A.—In Poland before its partition, and also in Denmark, Hungary and Bohemia.

Q.—How is the elective power exercised in the United States of America ?

A.—In an election of a President by delegates chosen by the people, whose Reign expires with the time of limitation of rule of four years.

"O Liberty! thou goddess, heavenly bright,
Profuse of bliss, and pregnant with delight;
Eternal pleasures in thy presence reign,
And smiling plenty leads thy wanton train.
Eas'd of her load, subjection grows more light,
And poverty looks cheerful in thy sight;
Thou mak'st the gloomy face of nature gay,
Giv'st beauty to the Sun, and pleasure to the day.
Thee, Goddess! thee! Britannia's Isle adores,
How has she oft exhausted all her stores;
How oft in fields of death, thy presence sought
Nor thinks the mighty prize too dearly bought."

ADDISON.

LESSON 2ND,

The Government of Great Britain is an hereditary paternal Monarchy, governed by one supreme Head, agreeable to the known laws and custom of the Kingdom. Our Monarchy is said to be a limited one: and therefore for the better understanding of this common expression, a term which is of daily occurrence, it may not be unnecessary to say a few words on the subject of limitation. There are limitations of concession and coertion; both are always the act of a superior to an inferior. Thus the Almighty was pleased to limit himself when he made Covenants with, and granted conditions to mankind. Fathers may also limit themselves to their Children, and Kings may limit themselves to their subjects, by granting them certain laws and privileges, and giving them his solemn oath to observe and keep them. Laws were made by Kings, therefore, Kings must have been in existence before the laws.

No law can be produced that made the first King in England. We have been governed by Kings as far back as history can carry us, and all the laws of England were made by Kings by advice and consent of Parliament.

The British Constitution is composed of two distinct establishments. The one Civil,* and the other Ecclesiastical. The Civil establishment, has a legal title to duty and submission from every subject in the Realm. Dissatisfaction towards this part of the Constitution when manifested by outward acts, is a crime punishable by the severest penalties of the law. In return for the protection afforded by the Civil Government, the obligation of allegiance is contracted, an obligation which nothing can remove, but the payment of the last great claim,—the debt of nature. It is not to be superceded by the formation of new engagements, or change of residence to a foreign Country. Every person without exception, is bound to submission, fidelity, and even active obedience, whenever his exertions may be required

* NOTE.—"Of all the civil Constitutions under Heaven, the British is demonstrably the best. It has been long tried, and has stood the rudest test. The lapse of ages tends only to invigorate and render it more effective. It is through its excellence, under GOD, that an inconsiderable Island has acquired the resources, energy and strength, of the mightiest Continental Empire. It is the object of GOD'S most peculiar care, because, it is most like HIS OWN administration. It is an honor to be born under it,—a blessing to live under it,—and a glory to defend and support it."

for the protection of his lawful Government, or the security of his native soil. A man may abjure his allegiance by an engagement to a foreign Government, but is never *absolved* from it by his Country, and under every circumstance he is at all times liable to all the pains and penalties awarded by the laws of England, for offences perpetrated or attempted against the Constitution of his country. In a word, allegiance to the Civil Government, is the positive and permanent duty of every person, whom birth has placed in a state of subjection to that Government.

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 2nd.

Q.—What is the Government of Great Britain ?

A.—An hereditary paternal Monarchy.

Q.—How is it governed ?

A.—By one supreme head, agreeable to the known laws and customs of the Kingdom.

Q.—Is the Monarchy of Great Britain limited or unlimited ?

A.—Limited.

Q.—What is meant by limitation of concession and coertion ?

A.—The Sovereign covenants with the people to grant them certain laws and privileges, and is bound by oath strictly to observe them. In exactions or concessions there is a limit, beyond which the Kingly power does not extend.

Q.—By whom were laws originated ?

A.—Kings, after God's ordinance.

Q.—By whom were the laws of England made ?

A.—By Kings with the advice and consent of Parliament.

Q.—How is the British Constitution composed ?

A.—Of two distinct establishments, the one civil and the other ecclesiastical.

Q.—What is meant by the civil establishment ?

A.—The State.

Q.—What is understood by the ecclesiastical establishment ?

A.—The Church.

Q.—What does the Civil establishment claim from the subject ?

A.—It has a legal title to duty and submission from every subject in the Empire.

Q.—How is dissatisfaction towards the civil branch of the Constitution punished ?

A.—Dissatisfaction by conspiracy or rebellion, is punishable with death and confiscation.

Q.—What constitutes allegiance ?

A.—Obedience to the laws of the Country and the constituted authorities, and is but an act of duty, in return for the protection of life and property afforded by the civil Government, which shields the meanest subject of the realm with the whole of its power.

Q.—Can allegiance be shaken off at will ?

A.—No, the claim of Great Britain upon natural born subjects, is never removed but by death.

Q.—Can a subject abjure his allegiance to Great Britain, by the oath of fealty to a foreign Government ?

A.—A man may abjure his allegiance by a foreign engagement. but Great Britain never absolves him from it.

Q.—What is meant by active obedience ?

A.—To be true to his Sovereign and Government, to act with submission, fidelity and personal co-operation, whenever his exertions may be required for the protection and security of his country,

Q.—And is this obligation permanent ?

A.—With life.

"I love thee dearly ! Motherland,
With all this soul of mine !
And bless the Lord that I am sprung
Of good old *British* line."

LESSON 3RD.

Beyond all controversy, the English Government, has been Monarchical from the remotest period of its existence. That the Royal office, has always been hereditary and not elective, has never been denied.

The beautiful feature of hereditary succession to the reigning Monarch, marked the infancy of our Government, bloomed in its manhood, and is indelibly engraven in the venerable institutions under which we live.

The hereditary right to the Crown, acknowledged by the laws of England, has obtained the general consent, and an established usage ; and consequently the Sovereign has the same title to the Crown, that a private gentleman has to his hereditary estate.

The regular and rightful inheritance of the British Throne has been often changed and usurped by fraud and violence, and has as often returned to the lawful inheritors.

Every British subject must rejoice that the succession to the Throne of England, is marked out with constitutional precision ; that a rule is laid down, which is uniform, universal and permanent, and that thereby the peace and freedom of the State are preserved.

The experience of all ages has convinced every considerate mind, that popular elections to the Kingly or Presidential dignity, are unavoidably attended with great inconvenience; and that undue influence, ambition, power and artifice, frequently prevail over virtue and integrity. The election of Kings of Poland in former days, deluged that unhappy Country with the blood of its slaughtered people.*

LIBERTY.

"There is no word that has admitted of more various significations, and has made more impressions on human minds than that of *liberty*, and in Democracies the *power of the people* has been confounded with their *liberty*.

Our liberties are preserved by the very necessary restrictions imposed by the laws of our country. True

* NOTE.—Republics have ever shewn themselves, composed of materials at variance with each other. Conflicting interests, produce general derangement, and in time encompass a general destruction of the brittle fabric. Look through all the elective States or associations that ever were upon the earth; throughout the Republics of Greece, Italy, Asia minor, and others the most renowned for virtue; and yet, what do we find them, save so many bands confederated for the destruction of the rest of mankind?—What desolations!—what bloodshed!—what carnage from the beginning!—what a delight in horrors!—what a propensity *in all to inflict misery upon others*!—the malignity of fiends can pierce no deeper. And the very power they attained, accomplished their own destruction. For, having conquered all around, they, for want of other employment, have generally fallen out amongst themselves, and slaughtered their confederates.

liberty consists, in the power of doing what we ought, and in not being constrained to do what we ought not. Liberty is a right of doing whatever the laws permit, but if a person could do what they forbid, he would no longer be possessed of liberty, because all his fellow subjects would have the same power.

The political liberty of the subject is a tranquillity of mind, arising from the opinion each one has of his own safety. In order to have this liberty, it is requisite that the Government should be so constituted as that one man need not be afraid of another."† Under no form of Government do we see this principle so fully borne out in practice, attended with the happiest effects, as in the limited Monarchy of Great Britain.

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† Montesquieu.

Questions and Answers.

Explanatory of Lesson 3rd.

Q.—What is the Government of Great Britain called ?

A.—Monarchical.

Q.—Was it so from the beginning of its history ?

A.—Yes, from the remotest period of its existence.

Q.—Has it ever experienced interruption ?

A.—The lawful right to the Throne has been often usurped, but has as often returned to the rightful inheritors.

Q.—What has secured the change from wrong to right in the times of usurped power ?

A.—The constitutional precision with which the rule is laid down for succession to the Throne, operating on the good sense of the people.

Q.—What has often been the result of popular elections to the Kingly or Presidential dignity ?

A.—It has generally been productive of trouble, by affording opportunities for ambition and injustice to prevail over virtue and integrity.

Q.—In what Country has this been exemplified particularly ?

A.—In Poland, where it has caused great slaughter of the people.

Q.—In what manner is liberty likely to be abused in Democracies ?

A.—By exercise of the power of the people, without necessary checks or counterpoise.

Q.—How are our liberties preserved ?

A.—By the necessary restrictions imposed by the laws, regulating the respective powers of the State.

Q.—What do you understand liberty to consist of ?

A.—In doing what the laws permit.

Q.—But if the people act against the laws, what would result ?

A.—It would be subversive of liberty, because the strong could oppress the weak.

Q.—Under what form of Government do we see true liberty most practised ?

A.—The limited Monarchy of Great Britain.

Q.—How is this shown ?

A.—In the confidence the people have in the protection of the law, and its power to punish.

THE SOVEREIGNS OF ENGLAND.

First, William the Norman, then William his Son,
Henry, Stephen and Henry, then Richard and John,
Next Henry the Third; Edwards, one, two and three;
And again after Richard, three Henrys we see.
Two Edwards, third Richard, if I rightly guess;
Two Henrys, sixth Edward, Queen Mary, Queen Bess;
Then James the Scotchman, then Charles whom they slew,
Yet received, after Cromwell, another Charles too,
Next James the Second ascended the throne;
Then good William and Mary together came on;
Queen Ann, Georges Four, Fourth William are past,
God sent us Victoria, not the least, though the last.

LESSON 4TH.

Egbert, who was the first King of England, and the last of the Saxon Heptarchy, was King of the West Saxons, by a long and uninterrupted descent from his ancestors of above 300 years, and united the Heptarchy in one Monarchy under himself in the year 828.

From Egbert the Crown descended regularly for two hundred years, through a succession of fifteen Princes to the death of Edmund Ironside,—at the death of Edmund Ironside, Canute, King of Denmark obtained the Kingdom by violence. Three of his heirs succeeded to the throne; and on the death of Hardicanute, the ancient Saxon line was restored in Edward the Confessor. On Edwards decease, Harold 2nd. usurped the government, for Edgar Atheling, the grandson of Ironside was the lawful heir. Harold being defeated at the battle of

Hastings, was dispossessed of the throne by William the Conqueror. Robert, the Conqueror's eldest son, being Duke of Normandy by his father's will, was kept out of possession of the Crown of England by the arts and violence of his brothers, William 2nd, and Henry 1st, who succeeded their father. The Empress Maud or Matilda was the heiress and daughter of Henry 1st, but Stephen, the Conqueror's godson usurped the Throne; Henry the 2nd succeeded Stephen, he was the son of Matilda, and lineally descended from Edmund Ironside, the last of the Saxon hereditary Kings.—Henry was succeeded by Richard 1st, who dying childless, the right of succession vested in his nephew Arthur, his next brother Geoffrey's son.—But John, the late King's surviving brother, seized the Crown, and afterwards murdered his nephew.

Henry 3rd who succeeded his father King John, had an indisputable title; for Arthur and his sister Eleanor both died without issue, and the Crown descended from Henry to Richard 2nd in a regular succession of five generations.

Henry 4th was the son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, fourth son of Edward 3rd: he rebelled against Richard 2nd—Henry's usurpation gave rise to the contest between the houses of York and Lancaster.

Henry was succeeded by his son and grandson, Hen-

ry 5th and 6th. In the reign of the latter Prince, the house of York asserted its dormant title, and after deluging England with native blood for seven years, at length established its legitimate rights in the person of Edward 4th.

On the death of Edward, the Crown descended to his eldest son: Edward 5th who with his brother the Duke of York, are generally believed to have been murdered in the Tower, by the order of their uncle Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who succeeded under the title of Richard the 3rd. He was slain at the battle of Bosworth.

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 4th.

Q.—Who was the first King of England ?

A.—Egbert, who was the last of the Saxon Heptarchy.

Q.—What befel the Heptarchy ?

A.—It was united in one Monarchy by Egbert in the year 828.

Q.—Who succeeded Egbert ?

A.—During a period of 200 years, fifteen Princes reigned, the last of whom was Edmund Ironside.

Q.—What happened at the death of Edmund Ironside ?

A.—Canute, King of Denmark, obtained the Throne by violence.

Q.—Who succeeded Canute ?

A.—Three of his heirs in succession, the last of whom was Hardicanute.

Q.—What happened at the death of Hardicanute ?

A.—The ancient Saxon line was restored in Edward the Confessor.

Q.—Who succeeded Edward the Confessor ?

A.—Harold 2nd usurped the government.

Q.—What happened to Harold 2nd ?

A.—He was defeated at the battle of Hastings by William the Conqueror, who ascended the Throne.

Q.—Who succeeded William the Conqueror ?

A.—His Sons, William 2nd. and Henry 1st.

Q.—Were they the lawful heirs ?

A.—No, Robert Duke of Normandy was the rightful heir being the eldest son, but his brothers kept him out of possession of the Throne by violence.

Q.—Who succeeded Henry 1st.

A—Stephen. The Conqueror's godson.

Q.—Was he the lawful heir ?

A.—No. The Empress Maud or Matilda, daughter of Henry 1st was the lawful heiress.

Q.—Who succeeded Stephen ?

A.—Henry 2nd, Son of Matilda, and lineal descendant of Edmund Ironside, the last of the Saxon hereditary Kings.

Q.—Who succeeded Henry 2nd ?

A.—Richard 1st.

Q.—Who reigned after him ?

A.—John, brother to Richard.

Q.—Was John the righ'ful heir ?

A.—No. Arthur Son of Geoffrey, the eldest brother of Richard, was the lawful heir.

Q.—What became of Arthur ?

A.—He was murdered by his Uncle John.

Q.—Who succeeded John ?

A.—Henry 3rd.

Q.—Was he righ'fully possessed ?

A.—Yes. Arthur and his sister Eleanor having died without issue.

Q.—On whom did the Crown devolve at the death of Henry the 3rd.

A.—On three Edwards in succession.

Q.—Who succeeded Edward 3rd.

A.—Richard 2nd.

Q.—After Richard 2nd who reigned ?

A.—Henry 4th.

Q.—Was he the righ'ful heir ?

A.—No, he was son of the Duke of Lancaster, fourth son of Edward 3rd, and rebelled against Richard 2nd.

Q.—What did his usurpation give rise to ?

A.—The contest between the houses of York and Lancaster.

Q.—By whom was Henry 4th succeeded ?

A.—By his son Henry 5th, and grandson Henry 6th.

Q.—What happened in the reign of Henry 6th ?

A.—The house of York asserted its claim to the Throne and for seven years deluged England with native blood.

Q.—Who succeeded Henry the 6th ?

A.—Edward 4th.

Q.—Was Edward the 4th rightfully possessed ?

A.—Yes, he was the legitimate heir.

Q.—What happened on the death of Edward 4th ?

A.—The Crown of right belonged to Edward the 5th, his son, but was usurped by his uncle the Duke of Gloucester, who succeeded as Richard 3rd.

Q.—What became of Edward 5th.

A.—He was murdered in the Tower with his brother, the Duke of York, by order of Richard.

Q.—What was the end of Richard 3rd ?

A.—He was slain at the battle of Bosworth.

" . . . . . This sceptered Isle,
This earth of Majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise ;
This fortress built by Nature for herself,
Against infection and the hand of war ;
This happy breed of men, this little world,
This precious stone set in the silver sea,
Which serves it in the office of a wall,
Or as a moat defensive of a house,
Against the envy of less happy lands ;
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this Britain,
This nurse, this teeming womb of royal Kings,
" Fear'd by their breed, and famous for their birth."

SHAKSPEARE.

LESSON 5TH.

The Earl of Richmond took possession of the Throne by the style of Henry 7th., being descended from a natural son of John of Gaunt, and was recognized as King by Act of Parliament in the first year of his reign. But the right of the Crown was undoubtedly in Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward 4th. This Princess, Henry married, in the year 1486, and thus happily ended the differences between the houses of York and Lancaster.

Henry 8th. The issue of this auspicious marriage became King by a clear and indisputable hereditary right ; and to him, his three Children succeeded in regular order.

Edward 6th., following his Father, died young, and was succeeded by his two Sisters, Mary and Elizabeth.

On the death of Queen Elizabeth the line of Henry,

8th. became extinct; and the Crown devolved on James 6th. of Scotland and 1st. of England, who was lineal descendant of Henry 7th. and Elizabeth of York, whose eldest daughter married James 4th. of Scotland, so that James their grandson united in his own person an undoubted title to the Crown both of England and Scotland, and was the lineal descendant both of Egbert and William the Conqueror. In James therefore centered all the claims of the houses of York and Lancaster; also, in him the Saxon line was restored, he being lineally descended from Margaret Atheling, the Sister of Edgar, the true heir to the throne by William the Norman.

James was succeeded by his only surviving Son the unfortunate Charles 1st. who was beheaded, and whose sacriligious murder, made way for Cromwell's usurpation, who assumed the title of Lord Protector.

After eleven years usurpation, a solemn parliamentary Convention of the Estates restored the Crown to the right heir, King Charles 2nd.

On the death of Charles, the Duke of York, brother of Charles, succeeded by the title of James 2nd. who abdicated the Throne, and was succeeded by his daughter Mary, with whom was associated her husband the Prince of Orange by the title of William 3rd & Mary 2nd.

Both houses of the Convention Parliament issued a declaration dated February 12th. 1688, that after the decease of William and Mary, in default of joint issue, the crown and dignity should descend to the heirs of the Princess Anne of Denmark, and for default of issue, then to the heirs of the said Prince of Orange.

Towards the end of the reign of William, the Duke of Gloucester, the son of the Princess Anne died, and William also being without issue, it was settled by Statute 12 and 13 William 3rd. on the Princess Sophia, Dowager Electress of Hanover, grand-daughter of James 1st.

On the death of the Prince of Orange, Queen Anne succeeded to the Throne, and died without issue, but surviving the Princess Sophia of Hanover, the Crown descended to her son and heir George 1st. To him succeeded George 2nd., on whose demise George 3rd. succeeded in right of his father Frederic, Prince of Wales; after a long and glorious reign he was succeeded by his son George 4th., who dying without issue, was succeeded by his second brother the Duke of Clarence, by the title of William the 4th., and upon whose demise our present interesting and amiable Queen Victoria Alexandrina succeeded, whom God preserve for a long, happy, and prosperous reign.

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 5th.

Q.—Who succeeded Richard 3rd ?

A.—The Earl of Richmond by the title of Henry 7th.

Q.—What gave the Earl of Richmond a title to the Throne ?

A.—He was a natural son of John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaster, and was recognized as King by act of Parliament.

Q.—But who possessed the lineal right ?

A.—Elizabeth daughter of Edward 4th.

Q.—Who did Elizabeth marry ?

A.—Henry 7th and this cemented a Union of the Houses of York and Lancaster.

Q.—Who succeeded Henry 7th ?

A.—His son Henry 8th.

Q.—Who reigned after Henry 8th ?

A.—Edward 6th son of Henry 8th.

Q.—Did he reign long ?

A.—No, he died young, and was succeeded by his two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth.

Q.—On the death of Elizabeth who reigned ?

A.—James 6th of Scotland, and 1st of England.

Q.—What created his right ?

A.—The line of Henry 8th became extinct with Elizabeth. James was lineal descendant of Henry 7th and Elizabeth of York, whose eldest daughter married James 4th of Scotland, whose Grandson he was.

Q.—Was there a union of claims in James 1st ?

A.—Yes ! of Egbert and William the Conqueror, and the

houses of York and Lancaster.

Q.—Who succeeded James 1st ?

A.—His son Charles 1st.

Q.—What happened to Charles 1st ?

A.—He was beheaded and is called Charles the Martyr.

Q.—What followed the martyrdom of Charles 1st ?

A.—Cromwell's usurpation, which lasted eleven years.

Q.—Who succeeded to the Throne after Cromwell's usurpation ?

A.—A solemn parliamentary convention restored the Throne to the lawful heir, Charles 2nd.

Q.—Who succeeded Charles 2nd ?

A.—James 2nd brother of Charles.

Q.—What is remarkable in the reign of James 2nd ?

A.—He resigned the Throne in favor of his daughter Mary.

Q.—Who did Mary espouse ?

A.—The Prince of Orange, who shared the Throne under the title of William 3rd and Mary 2nd.

Q.—What was the declaration of the Convention Parliament in this Reign ?

A.—That after the decease of William and Mary in default of joint issue, the Crown should descend to the heirs of the Princess Anne of Denmark.

Q.—Was there any further stipulation ?

A.—In default of issue of Anne, then, to the heirs of the Prince of Orange.

Q.—Who next ascended the Throne ?

A.—Princess Anne, in default of joint issue of William and Mary.

Q.—Who succeeded Anne ?

A.—George 1st son of the Princess Sophia of Gloucester, on whom the right of the Crown devolved by Statute in default of issue of Anne.

Q.—Name the succession to the Throne after George 1st ?

A.—George 2nd—George 3rd in right of his father the Prince of Wales.

Q.—Who succeeded George 3rd ?

A.—George 4th, his son, who dying without issue was succeeded by his 2nd brother the Duke of Clarence.

Q.—Under what title ?

A.—William 4th, who was succeeded by the reigning Queen Victoria Alexandrina.

"Ah! Britain— when we, who, exulting behold
Thy splendor and wealth, in the dust shall be cold,
May sages, and heroes, and patriots unborn,
Thy altars defend, and thy annals adorn;
May thy power be supreme on the land and the wave,
The feeble to succour, the fallen to save,
And the sons and the daughters, now cradled in thee,
Find no nation on earth like the home of the free."

(MRS. MOODIE.)

LESSON 6TH.

The Constitution of Great Britain is divided into three estates.

The Regal, or first estate,—the Aristocratical, or second estate,—the Democratical, or third estate.

By the first or Regal estate is meant the Sovereign power, vested either in King or Queen,—for it matters not to which the Crown descends according to the British law of succession, but, the person entitled to it, whether male or female,* is immediately invested with all the ensigns, rights and prerogatives of Sovereign power, on the death of a predecessor.

A King of England is more properly a King *of*, than

* NOTE. "It is contrary to reason and nature, that women should reign in families, as was customary among the Egyptians, but, not that they should govern an Empire. In the first case, the state of their natural weakness does not permit them to have pre-eminence; in the second, their very weakness generally gives them more lenity and moderation; qualifications, fitter for a good administration than roughness and severity." *Montesquieu.*

a *King over* the people, united to them, one of them, and contained in them; at the same time that he is acknowledged the head of their body, he is their principal Minister, being the deputee of their executive power.

He is called to govern the people, according to the laws by which they themselves had consented to be governed, to cause justice and mercy to be dispensed throughout the realm, and to his utmost to execute, protect, and maintain, the laws of the Gospel of God, and the rights and liberties of the people without distinction.

And this he is sworn to observe. And, thus, as *all* others *owe allegiance to the Sovereign*, the Sovereign also *owes allegiance to the Constitution.*

The existence of a Sovereign as one of the three estates is indispensible. It presents a salutary check against the exercise of unconstitutional power by either of the other two estates, destructive to the general good. The Constitution, in fact, cannot subsist without a Sovereign.

Though the claim of the Monarch to the Throne of Great Britain, is a limited one, yet, the *world can afford no rival in power or glory, to the Constitutional Sovereign of England.*

In the case of any natural incapacity in the Sovereign to govern, such as infancy, lunacy or other cause,

the two estates of Parliament appoint a Regent, who governs in the Sovereign's name, exercising his authority. This was the case in the latter part of the reign of George 3rd. who, labouring under mental aberration, the Sovereign power was entrusted to and exercised by his son, the Prince Regent, afterwards George 4th.

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 6th.

Q.—Into how many estates is the British Constitution divided ?

A.—Three.

Q.—Name them ?

A.—The Regal, the Aristocratical and the Democratical.

Q.—What constitutes the first estate ?

A.—The Sovereign power.

Q.—What is meant by the Aristocratical estate ?

A.—The Nobles, constituting the House of Lords, and forming the second estate.

Q.—Describe the Democratical or third estate ?

A.—The People, as represented by the members of the House of Commons.

Q.—How is the Sovereign constrained to govern ?

A.—According to the known laws of the Kingdom.

Q.—Are there other laws that he is obliged to respect ?

A.—Yes ! the laws of the Gospel of God.

Q.—What obligation is he under ?

A.—He is sworn at his Coronation to maintain the laws of God, and the rights of the people without distinction.

Q.—What is due by the subject in return for this obligation ?

A.—To be faithful to the Sovereign and Constitution.

Q.—What beneficial restriction does the Sovereign power form ?

A.—A check upon the other two estates in attempting anything to the prejudice of the general good.

Q.—What provision is made in the event of natural incapacity

in the Sovereign to govern ?

A.—The two estates of Parliament appoint a Regent.

Q.—What are the powers of a Regent ?

A.—He governs in the name of the Sovereign and exercises the same prerogatives.

"Let every soul be subject to the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be, are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same. For he is the Minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore, ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For, for this cause pay ye tribute also; for they are God's ministers attending continually on this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues; tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor."

Romans xiii.

LESSON 7TH.

The King "is the Minister of God for good" to his people, and consequently he is as much bound to exercise his high authority agreeably to the divine will for the benefit of his people, as they are to obey him, "in all Godly fear, knowing whose authority he hath,' namely God's.

But whilst the King is a minister for good, he is also "a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil;" therefore if we compare the benefits which an obedient people derive from their Governors, with the evils which a few turbulent men may suffer from the

worst Governors, we shall find that the general good far outweighs the particular evils beyond all comparison. For if the Government is deranged, then every man's hand is let loose upon his neighbor, the strong oppress the weak, and a more general tyranny will follow, than from the greatest severity which any Sovereign can exercise. No evils which a Monarch can inflict, are so grievous, as may be produced by changing our Governors at the caprice of a mob.

The stronger the prerogatives of the Crown, the greater is the peoples security; and it is absolutely necessary that the Crown should be free from all coercion, for whosoever can coerce the Sovereign can oppress the subject, and the chief end of government is to preserve the people from each others oppression. The worst of all tyrannies is occasioned by the weakness of the Crown, and is only prevented by the strength and vigour of the prerogative. There are no limits to the tyranny of factions, but there is a legal constitutional defence against the tyranny of a Sovereign, which can only be executed by the Ministers, who are answerable with their heads and fortunes for their mal-administration.

The ancient and fundamental maxim, "that the King can do no wrong," does not mean that he is not liable to the same infirmities and passions as other men; but

that the Constitution has prescribed no mode by which he can be personally amenable for any wrong he may actually commit. The inviolability of the Sovereign is essentially necessary for the preservation of the liberty of his subjects. The King, like the Sun, shines not so much to exhibit his own splendour, as to animate all around him. He is the centre of attraction, around which the different bodies in the political system revolve, and by whose influence they are preserved in their proper places and order.

Perpetuity is an attribute of the Sovereign. "The King never dies." On the natural death of the Sovereign the Crown descends to his heir without any interval whatever, who is invested with all the rights and prerogatives of his predecessor.

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 7th.

Q.—Why is the King described as the Minister of God?

A.—Because he is bound to rule agreeably to the commands of God, as laid down in Holy Writ for the guidance of man.

Q.—How is this command expressed?

A.—The people are enjoined to obey the Sovereign "in all Godly fear, knowing whose authority he hath."

Q.—What tends to secure the liberty of the subject?

A.—Strengthening the prerogatives of the Sovereign.

Q.—What is the chief end of Government?

A.—To preserve the people from each others oppression.

Q.—Why is it necessary that the Crown should be free from all coercion?

A.—The same power which could coerce the Sovereign, could also oppress the subject.

Q.—What is meant by "the King can do no wrong?"

A.—There being no mode prescribed by the Constitution by which he can be personally accountable.

Q.—What security have we for the acts of the Sovereign?

A.—His Ministers—who are his advisers, and are therefore held answerable with their lives and properties for any mal-administration.

Q.—What is understood by the ancient maxim that "the King never dies?"

A.—That on the death of a Sovereign, the Crown descends without any interval whatever to the next heir.

"Gaze proudly on—my British boy,
And let thy kindling mind
Drink in the spirit of high thought,
From ever chainless wind.

Martyrs have shower'd their free hearts blood,
That England's prayer might rise
For peoples freedom—Monarch's rights,
Unfetter'd to the skies.

Lift up thy heart—my fearless boy,
And pray like them to stand,
Should God so summon thee to guard,
The altars of the land."

LESSON 8TH.

The Sovereign of England is not invested with the mere ensigns or external show of Regency, for they are powers much more real than if they were absolute.

There are three capital prerogatives with which the Sovereign is entrusted, which, at first sight appear of dangerous tendency, and must infallibly end in arbitrary dominion, if they were not counterpoised and counteracted.

His principal prerogative is to make war or peace, as also treaties, leagues and alliances with foreign Potentates.

His second prerogative is to nominate and appoint all Ministers and servants of State, all Judges and admi-

nistrators of justice, and all Officers Civil and Military throughout the Realm.

His third capital prerogative, is, that he has the whole Executive power of the Government of the nation by his said Ministers and Officers both Civil and Military.

I might also have added a fourth prerogative, a power of granting pardons to criminals. Had this power however, been unrestrained, all obligation to justice might be absolved at the King's pleasure. He is restricted in protecting his Ministers, when they have effected or even attempted anything militating against the Constitution.

But on indictments in his own name for offences against his proper person and Government, he is at liberty to extend the arm of mercy.

All pardonable offences are distinguished as, *sins against the King.* All unpardonable offences are distinguished as *sins against the Constitution.* In the first case, the injury is presumed to extend no further, than to one or a few individuals—in the second, it is charged as a sin against the public, against the collective body of the whole people. Of the latter kind are, "attempts to change the nature or form of any one of the three Estates or tending to vest the Government, or the administration thereof in any one or any two of the said Es-

tates independent of the other, or tending to raise armies, or to continue them in time of peace without the consent of Parliament, or tending to give any foreign State an advantage over Great Britain, by sea or by land.

The King has also annexed to his dignity many further very important privileges and prerogatives. He is first considered as the original proprietor of all the lands in the British Dominions, and he founds this claim as well on the Conquest by William the Norman, as by the Kings or leaders of our Gothic ancestors. Hence, it comes to pass, that all lands to which no subject can prove a title, are supposed to be in their original owner, and are therefore by the Constitution vested in the Crown.

On the same principle also, the King is entitled to the lands of all persons convicted of crimes subversive of the Constitution. His person is constitutionally sacred, and exempted from all acts of violence or constraint.

As one of the three Estates, also, he is constituted a Corporation, and his written testimony amounts to a matter of record.

He also exercises the independent province of supplying members to the second Estate, by a new creation, a very large accession to his original powers. Bishops are appointed and nominated by the Sovereign.

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 8th.

Q.—Does the Crown possess any sole right ?

A.—There are three great peculiar prerogatives of the Sovereign.

Q.—Describe the first ?

A.—The power to make war or peace, also treaties with foreign courts.

Q.—In what consists the second ?

A.—The appointment of Ministers of State, and all Officers both Civil and Military.

Q.—What is the third capital prerogative of the Crown ?

A.—The whole executive power of the Government of the Kingdom by his Officers both Civil and Military.

Q.—Does the right not belong to the Crown of pardoning criminals ?

A.—Yes ! under certain restrictions.

Q.—What are those limitations ?

A.—In protecting his ministers for any injury done or conspired against the Constitution.

Q.—What description of cases come within the pardoning power of the Sovereign ?

A.—All offences under indictments in his own name, described as "sins against the King" come within this privilege of the Crown.

Q.—How do such offences differ from conspiracy against the Constitution ?

A.—In the former, the injury is presumed to extend but to a few, in the latter, against the whole people.

Q.—What do you understand by offences against the Constitution ?

A.—Conspiring against either of the three Estates, or to give undue power to either one to the injury of the other.

Q.—What other offences come under this head ?

A.—Raising armies in time of peace without being authorised by the Constituted powers ; or any means devised to benefit foreign States to the injury of Great Britain.

Q.—What peculiar interest does the Crown possess in lands ?

A.—The right to all lands to which no subject can prove a title, from the original proprietorship being vested in the Crown by the Constitution.

Q.—Do properties in land revert to the Crown under any other circumstances ?

A.—The lands of all persons convicted of crimes effected or attempted against the Constitution become the property of the Crown.

Q.—Can the Sovereign be coerced ?

A.—His person is protected by the Constitution from all acts of violence or constraint.

Q.—What power does the Sovereign exercise over the second Estate ?

A.—In the election of Peers.

Q.—By whom are Bishops appointed ?

A.—The Sovereign.

——————" Be just, and fear not :
Let all the ends, thou aim'st at, be thy Country's,
Thy God's, and Truth's ; then if thou fall'st——
Thou fall'st a blessed Martyr."

(*Shakspeare's Henry VIII.*)

LESSON 9TH.

The titles assumed by the Sovereigns of the Norman line were,—King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and Earl of Anjou ; on the conquest of France by Henry 5th, he added, King of France.

From the reign of James 6th. of Scotland and 1st of England, to the close of the 18th. century, the King has been styled,—King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith. Those of the line of Hanover, have added the titles, Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg, Arch-treasurer of the Holy Roman Empire, and Elector of Hanover.

Since the peace of 1815, George 4th. was elevated to the rank of King of Hanover.

The titles of an Heir apparent to the Throne, are Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall and Rothsay, Earl of Chester, Electoral Prince of Brunswick and Lune-

burg, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles, Great Steward of Scotland, and Captain General of the Artillery Company.

It is one of the prerogatives of the Crown to coin or impress money, and to specify change or determine the current value thereof.

It is the Sovereign's proclamation also, which gives value and currency to foreign coin. For this purpose the Crown is supposed to have reserved from original grants of land, a property in mines of Gold and Silver, which are therefore called Royalties.*

The Sovereign grants privileges to individuals, such as place and precedence, and charters to corporations.

It is also the right of the Crown to issue patents for special and personal purposes.

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* NOTE—"But though mines of Gold and Silver belong to the Sovereign, yet, mines of Copper and Tin belong to the subject, and herein in olden times, hath been a great question, namely, whether if the mine of Copper or Tin contained Gold or Silver, as they often do, whose it should be, the Sovereign's or the subject's, and the judges made a very extended construction and held, that Gold and Silver being the nobler and more valuable metals, should attract the less valuable, and belong to the Sovereign."

But in the reign of William and Mary, it was enacted, "that no mine of Copper, Tin, Iron or Lead shall be adjudged a royal mine, although Gold or Silver may be extracted out of the same. But the Crown has the privilege of possessing the ore extracted, by paying for it within thirty days after it shall be raised, at a price fixed by Statute."

The Monarch is also entrusted with the guardianship of the persons and possessions of idiots and lunatics.

The Sovereign has also the prerogative voice in the Legislature, as also the right to call the other two Estates to Parliament, and duly to continue, prorogue, and dissolve the same. The Sovereign with the advice of his Council,* publishes proclamations binding to the subject, but, then they are to be consonant to, and in execution of the laws of the land.

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* NOTE—Privy Councillors are made by the Sovereign's nomination, without either patent or grant, and on taking the necessary oath, they become immediately Privy Councillors during the life of the Monarch that chooses them, but subject to removal at the Sovereign's discretion.

The duty of a Privy Councillor appears from the oath of office which consists of seven articles as follows :

1. To advise the Sovereign according to the best of his ability and discretion.

2. To advise for the Sovereign's honor and good of the public, without partiality, through affection, love, meed, doubt or dread.

3. To keep the Sovereign's counsel secret.

4. To avoid corruption.

5. To help and strengthen the execution of what shall be there resolved.

6. To withstand all persons who would attempt the contrary, and lastly in general,

7. To observe, keep and do, all that a good and true Councillor ought to do for his Sovereign.

Next to the Lord President of the Council, the Lord Privy Seal sits in Council, the Secretaries of State, and many other Lords and Gentlemen, and in all debates of the Council, the lowest delivers his opinion first, and the Sovereign's judgment is declared last, and thereby the matter of debate is determined.

Here then we find that a Sovereign of Great Britain is constitutionally invested with every power that can possibly be exerted in acts of beneficence and public good.

Questions and Answers.

Explanatory of Lesson 9th.

Q.—What right does the Crown possess over the current money of the Realm?

A.—To coin, specify, change and determine its value.

Q.—Does the power extend to foreign Coin?

A.—Yes! it establishes its current value within the British Dominions.

Q.—Has the Crown a right in Mines?

A.—Yes! of Gold and Silver, which belong exclusively to the Sovereign, and are called Royalties.

Q.—What benefits is it the peculiar province of the Crown to grant to individuals?

A.—Place and precedence, and Charters to Corporations.

Q.—What other benefits does the Crown confer?

A.—Granting patents for special and personal purposes.

Q.—What peculiar protection does the Monarch grant?

A.—The guardianship of the persons and properties of idiots and lunatics.

Q.—By whom are the two Houses of Parliament called together?

A.—The Sovereign calls the two Estates together, and prorogues or dissolves them at will.

Q.—What is meant by Privy Councillors ?

A.—The sworn advisers of the Crown upon all matters of general interest.

Q.—By whom are they chosen ?

A.—The Sovereign appoints his advisers, and can continue or dismiss them at pleasure.

Q.—How is the Monarch constrained to act in issuing proclamations ?

A.—They must accord with the established laws of the land.

Order is Heaven's first law, and 'tis confest,
Some are and must be greater than the rest;
More rich—more wise,—but who infers from hence,
That such are happier, shocks all common sense.
(—POPE—)

LESSON 10TH.

The Aristocratical or second Estate.

The distinction of rank and honor is necessary in every well governed State, as a reward for eminent public services, in a manner the most desirable to individuals, and yet without any burthen to the community; exciting an ambitious, yet laudable, arduous, and generous emulation in every class of the people.

However dangerous these generous emotions might be in a Republic, they will certainly be attended with the happiest effects under a free Monarchy, when, without destroying its existence, or disturbing the public peace, guilty ambition will be continually restrained by the superior power, *the Sovereign*, from which all authority is derived.

A desire for advancement, when rationally diffused, gives life and vigour to the community, it sets all the wheels of Government in motion, which under a wise and patriotic Sovereign, may be most beneficially directed: and in consequence, every individual may be made subservient to the good of the public, while he exclusively seeks only to promote his own private views.

A body of nobility is peculiarly *necessary* in our compound constitution, in order to support the rights of the Crown, and people, and presenting a *barrier to the encroachment of either*. It creates and preserves that gradual scale of dignity which proceeds from the peasant to the Prince; rising like a pyramid from the broad foundation of the people; and diminishing to a point as it rises,—The Sovereign being its apex. The nobility being the pillars raised up from among the people, more immediately to support the Throne.

The Nobility of England consists of Lords Spiritual and Temporal.

The Spiritual Lords, consist of two Archbishops and twenty-four Bishops for England, and since the union with Ireland, four spiritual Lords of that Kingdom sit by rotation of sessions in the House of Lords, making the number for the United Kingdom, thirty.

The Temporal Lords comprise all the Peers of the Realm of whatever title or nobility.

All the ancient Peers sit in Parliament by descent, because their titles are hereditary.

The word Parliament is comparatively of modern date, derived from the French, meaning an assembly that met and conferred together.

The Nobility, or second Estate in the Constitution of Great Britain, was originally representative.

The members were ennobled by *tenure* and not by *writ* or *patent*, and they were holden in service to the Crown and Kingdom for the respective Provinces, Counties, or Baronies, whose name they bore, and which they represented.

It is *exclusively* the Royal prerogative to convene the Parliament, and the Sovereign issues writs forty days previous to the sitting of either House.

If the persons composing either House, were to meet as a Parliament *without* the Sovereign's writ, they would be guilty of high treason, and all their enactments would not only be void and of no effect, but would be held treasonable by the law.

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 10th.

Q.—Why is it necessary that there should be distinction of rank and honor?

A.—It excites an honorable ambition to deserve it, and is in general bestowed by the Sovereign as a reward for eminent public services.

Q.—What do you understand by public services?

A.—Benefits conferred upon the Nation by men eminent in the Senate—in the operations of the Army and Navy—or for distinguished talents in the learned professions, and for valuable discoveries in Science.

Q.—What good tendency does a body of Nobility present?

A.—It supports the rights of the Sovereign and people, and affords a barrier to the exercise of undue power in either.

Q.—What does the British Nobility consist of?

A.—Lords, Spiritual and Temporal.

Q.—How many Spiritual Lords are there?

A.—Thirty.

Q.—Describe the Spiritual Lords?

A.—Two Archbishops and twenty-four Bishops for England, and four Spiritual Lords for Ireland.

Q.—What are Temporal Lords?

A.—All the Peers of the Realm of whatever title or nobility.

Q.—What is meant by the word Parliament ?

A.—It is derived from the French, and means an assembly met to confer.

Q.—How was the nobility constituted in ancient times ?

A.—In members deriving their titles from the places which they represented.

Q.—How are they now created ?

A.—By writ or patent from the Crown.

Q.—By whom is the Parliament convened ?

A.—By the Sovereign, who issues writs calling the members together, forty days previous to the sitting of either House.

Q.—What would be the consequence if the members met without being so called together by the Royal proclamation ?

A.—They would be the guilty of high treason, and all their proceedings would be of no effect.

"Fair, peaceful, happy Britain
From hall and lowly cot,
A voice speaks forth of parted days
That may not be forgot;
It tells of deeds of glory done
By many a noble heart,
And fields well fought and victories won
To make thee what thou art."

LESSON IITH.

A title to be a member of the second Estate, was from the beginning hereditary. The Sovereign could not anciently either create or defeat a title to Nobility. Their titles were not forfeitable, except by the judgment ot their Peers, upon legal trial.

Until Henry the Seventh, the Nobles were looked upon as so many pillars, whereon the people rested their rights; accordingly, we find that in the grand compact between John and the collective body of the Nation, the King and the people jointly agree to confide to the Nobles the superintendence of the execution of the Great Charter, with authority to them, and their successors, to enforce the due performance of the covenants therein comprised. Such a preference must have proved an unremitting incitement to the cultivation of every virtue, and acts embracing the general welfare. The Crown did not at once assume the independent

right of conferring Nobility. Henry the Third, first omitted to call some of the Barons to Parliament who were personally obnoxious to him, and he issued his writs, or written letters, to some others who were not Barons, but from whom he expected greater conformity to his measures. These writs however did not ennoble the party, till he was admitted, by the second Estate, to a seat in Parliament, neither was such Nobility, by writ hereditary. To supply these defects, the arbitrary ministers of Richard the Second invented the method of ennobling by letters patent, at the King's pleasure, whether for years or for life, in fee simple, to a man and his heirs at large. This prerogative, however, was in many instances, declined and discontinued, more particularly by King Henry the Fifth, till, meeting with no opposition from the other two Estates, it has successively descended from Henry the Seventh down to our present Gracious QUEEN VICTORIA. Next to their Sovereign, the people have allowed to their Peerage several privileges of the most illustrious distinction. Their Christian names and the names that descended to them from their ancestors, are absorbed by the name from whence they take their title of honor, and by this they make their signature in all letters and deeds.—Every temporal Peer of the Realm is deemed a kinsman

to the Crown. Their deposition on their *honor* is admitted in place of their oath, in all places out of Parliament, except where they personally present themselves as witnesses of facts. Their persons are at all times exempted from arrests, except in criminal cases.

During a Session of Parliament* all actions and suits at law against Peers are suspended. In presentments or indictments by Grand Juries, and on impeachments by the House of Commons, Peers are to be tried by Peers alone, for in all criminal cases they are privileged from the jurisdiction of inferior courts, excepting on appeals for robbery or murder. Peers are also exempted from serving on inquests

All bills that are deemed likely to affect the rights of the Peerage, must in the first instance be brought before the House of Peers, and to suffer no change or amendments in the Lower House.

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* NOTE.—In voting in Parliament a Peer may vote by proxy for another Lord in his absence, by licence obtained from the Sovereign,—no Peer can have more than two proxies,—but upon any question of guilty or not guilty, proxies are not admitted.—Each Peer has a right by permission of the House, when a vote opposed to his sentiments passes, to enter his dissent upon the Journals of the House, which is termed his protest, as also his reasons for such dissent.

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 11th.

Q.—What is meant by the second Estate ?

A.—The nobility.

Q.—Are their titles hereditary ?

A.—Yes ! they descend to the eldest son, or the next male heir.

Q.—Do their titles ever become forfeitable ?

A.—Yes ! upon conviction by their Peers for any crime subversive of the Constitution.

Q.—By whom was the Great Charter conceded ?

A.—King John.

Q.—What compact did he make with the people ?

A.—To confide the superintendence of the execution of the Charter to the Nobles.

Q.—What Sovereign omitted to call some of the Barons to Parliament ?

A.—Henry 3rd.

Q.—Why ?

A.—Because they had rendered themselves personally obnoxious to him.

Q.—How did he supply their places ?

A.—By issuing patents, creating others, whom he expected would act agreeable to his will.

Q.—Were their titles hereditary ?

A.—No ! nor were they ennobled, 'till admitted to the second Estate.

Q.—Who first created nobility by letters patent ?

A.—Richard 2nd.

Q.—Has this continued so ever since ?

A.—It was discontinued by Henry 5th.

Q.—In whose reign was it resumed ?

A.—Henry 7th.

Q.—And is this privilege used by the reigning Sovereign ?

A.—Yes !

Q.—How are Peers distinguished ?

A.—By their title of honor.

Q.—What do you understand by title of honor ?

A.—The places from whence they take their title, as Devonshire—Dorset—Northumberland.

Q.—How do Peers sign public or private documents ?

A.—By their title of honor.

Q.—How are Peers called upon to attest ?

A.—Their deposition on their honor is admitted in place of their oath.

Q.—Are there any exceptions ?

A.—When deposing to facts at which they were present they are sworn.

Q.—Can Peers be arrested ?

A.—Not in civil cases, but they can for all criminal offences.

Q.—By whom are Peers tried ?

A.—The House of Lords, on indictments by Grand Juries or impeachments by the House of Commons.

Q.—Are they never subjected to inferior Courts ?

A.—Yes ! for robbery or murder.

Q.—Have they any peculiar right over bills affecting the rights of the Peerage ?

A.—Such bills must in the first instance be brought before the House of Peers, and the House of Commons cannot alter the same.

" Not a State, or a Nation that claims at this hour,
  To be civilized, wise, to be great or refin'd;
But owes to our England a part of that power,
  That's the cause of true greatness, the pow'r of the mind.
And there is not a soul that e'er panted on Earth,
  For liberty, honour—to be great, or be free,
But the sun, Noble England, that warmed into birth,
  Its brightest desires, first reflected from thee. "

LESSON 12TH.

The House of Lords is commonly called the Upper House, is contradistinction to the House of Commons, which is as frequently spoken of as the Lower House.

It is provided by the law and the established custom of Parliament, that persons are ineligible to take a seat in either House until after they have attained the age of twenty-one years, and this is a reasonable and just restraint, for it would be highly improper and dangerous to trust extensive privileges, and power, in the hands of younger persons. At twenty-one the law presumes men to have arrived at years of discretion, and they are then permitted to manage their own affairs, and evince an honorable ambition to hand down to their posterity a *good name* gained by an honest, honorable and inde-

pendent discharge of the sacred duties entrusted to them of legislation.*

The Bishops or Spiritual Lords have the privileges of Parliament, but have not the privileges of personal nobility.

All the Temporal or Spiritual Nobles who compose the House of Lords, however different in their titles and

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NOTE.—The House of Peers consists of Four Hundred and thirty members.

The Queen's Cabinet Ministers are as follow :

First Lord of the Treasury.
Lord Chancellor.
Chancellor of the Exchequer.
President of the Council.
Lord Privy Seal.
3 Secretaries { Home Department. / Foreign Do. / Colonial Do.
First Lord of the Admiralty.
President of the Board of Trade.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.
Secretary at War.

Those that follow are not *Cabinet* Ministers :

Post Master General.
Lord Chamberlain.
Lord Steward.
Master of the Horse.
Pay Master General.
Master of the Mint.
Master General of the Ordinance.
Chief Secretary for Ireland.
Attorney General.
Solicitor General.

degrees of Nobility, are called Peers* or equals, because their voices are admitted as of equal value, and the vote ot a Bishop or Baron is equivalent to that of an Archbishop or Duke.

The capital prerogative of the House of Peers consists in their being the *Supreme Court of Judicature*, to whom the final decision of all causes is confided, *in the last resort.* This *constitutional privilege* is a weighty counterpoise to the *Sovereign's second prerogative of appointing the administrators of justice throughout the Realm*, forasmuch, as Judges (who are immediately under the influence of the Crown) are yet refrained from infringing by any sentence the laws or Constitution of England, while a judgment so highly superior to their own impends.

The second great privilege of the House of Peers consists in their having the sole judicature of all impeachments commenced and prosecuted by the Commons.—And this again is a very weighty counterpoise to the *Sovereign's third prerogative* of the *Executive government of the Nation by his Ministers*, since all Ministers are amenable to such a tribunal.

The third capital privilege of the House of Peers consists in their share or particular department of rights

* From *pares*—equals.

in the legislature. The confirming or negativing all bills sent up from the Commons for the purposes of government, reserving always to the Commons their sole and undivided right of granting taxes or subsidies to be levied on their Constituents. This negative power of the Lords forms a happy counterpoise to the power both of Sovereign and Commons, should demands on the one part or bounties on the other exceed what is requisite.

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 12th.

Q.—What is understood by the Upper House ?

A.—The House of Lords.

Q.—Why is it called the Upper House ?

A.—To distinguish it from the House of Commons which is frequently described as the Lower House.

Q.—At what age are persons considered eligible to sit in either House ?

A.—Twenty one.

Q.—Why cannot persons sit in Parliament at an earlier age ?

A.—At twenty one the law presumes men to have arrived at years of discretion, and from the importance of matters submitted to their judgment, it is deemed unsafe to place such at their disposal at an earlier age.

Q.—Have Spiritual Lords the privileges of Parliament ?

A.—Yes ! but not of personal nobility.

Q.—Have their voices in Parliament equal weight with Temporal Lords ?

A.—Yes ! as Peers their votes are of equal value.

Q.—What is meant by the Supreme Court of Judicature ?

A.—It constitutes the capital prerogative of the House of Peers, and is the Grand Tribunal before which, causes can be brought to a final decision.

Q.—What powerful check does this privilege present to the Sovereign's will ?

A.—The Crown appoints the Judges throughout the Realm—and the House of Peers being a superior power to the Courts over which they preside, restrains them from infringing the laws or Constitution of England.

Q.—What is the second great privilege of the House of Lords?

A.—The sole power and definitive judgement of all impeachments prosecuted in the Commons.

Q.—What restraint does this impose on the power of the Sovereign?

A.—A check upon the third prerogative of the Crown, in having the whole Executive power of the Government both Civil and Military.

Q.—Explain it?

A.—The Sovereign appoints his Ministers—they are responsible for his acts, and are answerable to the tribunal of the Peers.

Q.—What is the third great privilege of the Peers?

A.—The confirming or negativing all bills which may have passed the Commons.

Q.—Is there any limitation to this power of the Peers?

A.—They have no power over bills passed by the Commons for levying taxes.

Q.—What powerful restraint does this privilege of the Peers offer?

A.—It presents a check to the power both of the Sovereign and people.

Q.—In what manner?

A.—If the Sovereign should demand, or the Commons should grant bounties beyond what is requisite.

"And were I deserted, alone on some shore,
Though friendless and poor, yet, respect still I'd claim,
Could I boast but one honor, I'd ask for no more—
'Tis an Englishman's birth-right, a share in her fame."

LESSON 13TH.

The title of Duke was originally synonymous with that of the leader of an army. It is derived from the Latin word "*Dux*" which signifies a leader or General. The first person created a Duke was Edward the Black Prince. His father Edward the 3rd. conferred on him the title of Duke of Cornwall; a title which though afterwards merged in the principality of Wales, has ever since been possessed by the Heir apparent to the Crown. The celebrated Henry Plantagenet was the second personage who enjoyed the title.

A Duke's eldest son is usually by courtesy called Marquis, and the other sons are called Lords.

Marquisses were first created in the fourteenth century. The first person on whom the dignity was conferred was Robert de Vere. He was created Marquis of Dublin in 1386 by Richard the Second. Another creation took place in the same reign; from which

time the title is supposed to have been extinct until the reign of Edward the Sixth.

The most ancient of the several titles belonging to the Peerage is that of Earl. When the dignity was first conferred is not known ; but it is supposed to be as ancient as the time of the Roman sway in Britain. It was originally, in every case, attached to the possession, or government, or both together, of some large tract or division of land, now known by the name of County or Shire.

An Earl in former times was entrusted with the sole administration of Justice, joined to a military command in the District in which he resided. His powers were similar to those of Governors General of our Colonies. In the course of time the dignity was conferred by letters patent from the Sovereign, and Earls ceased to exercise by virtue of their titles, this extensive jurisdiction. As these titles became more general, they were not confined as formerly to Counties, but extended to Towns, Villages, Estates, and, in a few instances even to sirnames,

The first creation of Viscount, took place in 1440, by Henry the Sixth, who conferred the dignity on John Beaumont by letters patent. The title has ever since been bestowed in the same way. Before the time of

Henry the Sixth, the term Viscount was applied to all the Deputies of Earls or Sheriffs of Counties, but it did not invest the possessor with any rank of nobility.

The title of Baron was conferred by William of Normandy, on his leading followers, as a reward for their services, when he conquered England.

To the dignity, there was in every instance attached a certain portion of land, called a Lordship or Barony, the extent of which was proportioned to the importance of the services which William's more distinguished followers had respectively rendered him. The title and all the privileges annexed to it are hereditary. Like all other orders of nobility, it is now created by letters patent from the Crown, and all heiresses of Barons, can have their title and privileges secured to them, only by the same means.

Questions and Answers.

Explanatory of Lesson 13th.

Q.—What is the title of Duke derived from ?

A.—From the Latin word "Dux" which signifies a leader or General.

Q.—Who was the first Duke ?

A.—Edward the Black Prince.

Q.—By whom was the title conferred ?

A.—His Father, Edward 3rd, who created him Duke of Cornwall.

Q.—Who was the second Duke ?

A.—The celebrated Henry Plantagenet.

Q.—In whom does this title centre ?

A.—The Heir apparent to the Throne.

Q.—What is the title of a Duke's eldest son ?

A.—Marquis.

Q.—What are the younger brothers of a Marquis called ?

A.—Lords.

Q.—At what period was the dignity of a Marquis created, and by whom ?

A.—In 1386 Robert de Vere was created Marquis of Dublin by Richard 2nd.

Q.—What is the most ancient dignity of the Peerage ?

A.—Earl.

Q.—At what period was it created ?

A.—It is not positively known when, but is supposed to be as ancient as the Roman sway in Britain.

Q.—Was the title of Earl in any manner connected with places ?

A.—Yes ! of a large tract of land described as County or Shire.

Q.—What power was an Earl permitted to exercise over such territory ?

A.—He was entrusted with the sole administration of justice as well as military command.

Q.—Do any persons exercise similar powers at this day ?

A.—Yes ! Governors General of Colonies.

Q.—Are Earls, invested with as extensive jurisdiction at the present day ?

A.—No Government is now attached to the title, which is granted by patent from the Crown.

Q.—Was the title of Earl in ancient days confined to large places, such as Counties or Shires ?

A.—No ! it extended in the course of time to Towns, Villages, Estates and sometimes even to sirnames.

Q.—About what period was the title of Viscount conferred ?

A.—In 1440 Henry 6th created John Beaumont, Viscount by letters patent.

Q.—Was not the term Viscount used before the time of Henry 6th ?

A.—Yes ! but it was applied to deputies of Earls or Sheriffs of Counties.

Q.—Did this confer nobility ?

A.—No.

Q.—Who originated the title of Baron ?

A.—William of Normandy on the conquest of England, so distinguished some of his followers.

Q.—Did he confer the title alone ?

A.—No ! certain portions of land called Lordships were attached.

Q.—Is it an hereditary title ?

A.—Yes !

Q.—How is the title conferred at the present day ?

A.—By letters patent from the Crown.

Q.—If a Baron die without a male heir, does the title die ?

A.—Yes ! but the Crown can extend it to heiresses, with all the privileges by letters patent.

"England, with all thy faults, I love thee still—
My Country! and while yet a nook is left,
Where English minds and manners may be found,
Shall be constrained to love thee."

(COWPER.)

LESSON 14TH.

The Democratical or Third Estate.

The election of Commoners to be immediate Trustees and Representatives of the people in Parliament, is the privilege of the people.

"The House of Commons was instituted by the Crown as a balance to the Barons, who were grown very opulent and numerous, and as appears by their wars very uneasy to the Crown; hence we find that upon any Barony becoming extinct for want of issue, or by forfeiture; the Crown parcelled it out into smaller districts, and this begot the distinction between the large Baronies and the small Baronies. The small Baronies, held by knights' service, and being too numerous to be all called to Parliament, were allowed to sit by representation. This matter was set on foot as a matter of the greatest service to the Crown, both for

the balancing of the Peerage and for the more conveniently taxing the people." "At the first instituting a House of Commons, the Representatives of Knights, Citizens and Burgesses, were only looked upon as trustees to manage the affairs of their principals, and therefore in former days it was held reasonable that they should be recompensed by their principals for the expence and trouble they were at in managing the trust reposed in them. Hence the fee of every Knight of the Shire was four Shillings a day."

The persons of Commoners, or the Representatives of the people, during their Session, and for a limited time before and after every meeting, adjournment, prorogation and dissolution of Parliament, are equally exempted with the persons of Peers, from arrest, and duress of every sort. They are also during their Session to have ready access to the Sovereign or House of Lords, and to address or confer with them on all occassions they may require.

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 14th.

Q.—By whom are Members of the House of Commons chosen?

A.—They are elected by the people.

Q.—What first led to the creation of a House of Commons?

A.—It was instituted by the Crown as a balance to the power of the Barons, who had become very numerous and powerful.

Q.—Were all the Baronies of equal extent?

A.—No! there were large Baronies and small Baronies.

Q.—What created the distinction?

A.—When a large Barony became extinct by death or forfeiture, it was divided into smaller districts.

Q.—By whom?

A.—The Sovereign.

Q.—Did the small Baronies or Districts possess the same privileges as the larger?

A.—No! They were too numerous to sit in Parliament together, and were therefore represented.

Q.—What great good did this effect?

A.—Both for balancing the Peerage, and for taxing the people whom they represented.

Q.—How were the Representatives distinguished?

A.—As Knights of the Shire.

Q.—Did Knights receive any pay ?

A.—It was held reasonable that they should receive recompense as trustees of the people, and their pay was four shillings a day.

Q.—Are Members of Parliament subjected to Civil arrest ?

A.—Not during their attendance in Parliament, nor for a limited time before or after the breaking up of their deliberations.

Q.—Have they the privilege of access to the Sovereign ?

A.—Yes ! and also to the House of Lords, to address or confer with them during their Session.

"And where is the heart that one moment can pause,
Or a soul-prizing spirit that e'er would controul
Its love and respect for that country and laws
Which has shewn every feeling that's bright in the soul."

LESSON 15TH.

No member of the House of Commons, any more than the House of Peers, can by right be questioned or compelled to answer in any place whatever, touching any thing said or done by himself or others in Parliament, in order that perfect freedom of speech and action may leave nothing undone for the public good.—They have also during the Session, an equal power to punish any who shall presume to traduce their dignity, or detract from the rights or privileges of their house.—The Commons form a Court of Judicature distinct from the Judicature of the House of Lords. Their's is the peculiar privilege to try and adjudge the legality of the election of their own members. They may fine and confine their own members, as well as others for delinquency or offence against the honor of their house.—But in all other matters of Judicature, they are merely a Court of *inquisition* and *presentment*, and not a tribunal of of *definitive judgment*.

In this respect, however, they are extremely formidable. They are considered the *grand inquest of the Nation*, for which they are supposed to be perfectly qualified by a personal knowledge of what has been ransacted throughout the several Shires, Cities, and Towns, from whence they assemble, and which they epresent.—Over and above their inquiry into all pubic grievances, all Ministers, Magistrates, Judges and Justiciaries, who sell, deny, or delay justice, who atempt or devise the subversion of any part of the Constitution, with all such as are above the reach of inferior Courts, come under the particular cognizance of the Commons, to be by them impeached and presented for rial at the bar of the House of Lords. And these inquisatorial and judicial powers of the two Houses, from which no man under the Crown can be exempted, are leemed a sufficient allay and counterpoise to the *whole executive power of the Sovereign by his Ministers.*

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 15th.

Q.—Can members of the House of Commons or House of Lords, by right, be called upon to account out of the House for anything said or done by themselves in it ?

A.—No ! it would tend to destroy freedom of speech and action.

Q.—How would it operate, if they were held accountable ?

A.—It would lessen their usefulness, and independence, so essential in the third estate.

Q.—If persons trespass on the rights or privileges of members, are they amenable ?

A.—Yes ! the House has the power to mete out punishment to the offenders.

Q.—In disputed elections of members, at what tribunal may they be decided ?

A.—The House of Commons alone has the right of deciding.

Q.—Are members of the House subjected to its power ?

A.—Yes ! they can be punished for offences, by fine or imprisonment.

Q.—In general matters of judicature are they privileged to decide ?

A.—No ! they are a court only of examination and presentment.

Q.—Have they power over Judges, Magistrates and other civil officers, for any wrong they may do ?

A.—Yes ! such as are not subjected to inferior courts in discharge of their official duties, can be impeached by the Commons and presented at the bar of the House of Lords for trial.

Q.—What powerful check do these extensive powers of the Commons present ?

A.—A salutary restraint upon the Sovereign, who possesses the whole executive power by his ministers.

" O where is that Briton so dead to all feeling,
Though fortune's bright beams on his destiny dwell;
(When his heart its most secret desires revealing)
Will sigh not again for his own native Isle. "

For the name of his Country is dear to the stranger,
Where'er he may wander, whatever his doom,
Though by trouble assail'd and surrounded by danger,
His heart like the needle still turns to his home. "

LESSON 16TH.

The legislative department of the powers of the Commons, is in all respects co-equal with that of the Peers. They frame any bills at pleasure for the purposes of Government. They exercise a right, as the Lords also do, to propose and bring in bills for the repeal and amendment of old laws, as well as for the ordaining of new ones—and each House hath alike a negative on all bills that are framed and passed by the other.

But the capital privilege of the House of Commons, arises from their being empowered to take from the people a small portion of their property, in order to restore it threefold, in the advantages of peace, equal government, and the encouragement of trade, industry and manufactures. This power once given to the people could never after be wrested from them, and the Com-

mons, the immediate organ of the people, have ever been exceedingly tenacious of their privileges, and have justly considered that to suffer the superior peerage to infringe them, would be the highest breach of trust they could be guilty of. By this great privilege, the Commons have the sole power over the money of the people, to grant or deny aids, according as they shall judge them either requisite or unnecessary to the public service. Their's is the province, and their's alone, to enquire into and judge of the several occasions for which such aids may be required, and to measure and appropriate them to their respective uses. Theirs also is the sole province of framing all bills or laws for the imposing of any taxes, and of appointing the means of levying the same upon the people. Neither may the first or second estate, either Sovereign or Peerage, propound or do any thing relating to these matters that may any way interfere with the proceedings of the Commons, except by their assent or dissent to such bills when presented to them. After such taxes have been levied and disposed of, the Commons have the further right of examining into the application of them, of ordering all accounts relative thereto to be laid before them, and of censuring the abuse or misapplication thereof.

The Royal assent to all other Bills is given in Norman French, expressing "*The King wills it.*"—If the King refuse his assent, "*The King will advise upon it.*" But when the Commons present their *bills of aid* to the Sovereign, it is answered, "The King thanks his loyal subjects and so willeth," an express acknowledgment that the right of granting or levying monies for public service lies solely in the people and their representatives. This capital privilege of the Commons constitutes the grand counterpoise to the *Sovereign's* principal prerogative of *making peace or war*, for no war could be undertaken without the *sinews* thereof—*money*, and the granting of which, is immediately vested in the people, through their representatives in the House of Commons. Both Houses must be prorogued together, and dissolved together, for one cannot subsist without the other.

Questions and Answers.

Explanatory of Lesson 16th.

Q.—Have the two Houses of Parliament equal legislative powers ?

A.—Yes ! they both introduce and pass measures which they deem necessary to the good of the state.

Q.—What do you understand by measures ?

A.—The creating of new laws, and the amendment of old ones.

Q.—Does a bill passed by either House, become a law ?

A.—No ! it must receive the sanction of the other House, and is then submitted for the final approval of the Sovereign.

Q.—What power does each House possess over any bill passed by the other ?

A.—To confirm, or negative it.

Q.—What is the great privilege of the House of Commons ?

A.—Determining in what manner and to what amount the people shall be taxed.

Q.—How are the means created by taxes, to be employed ?

A.—In support of the Government, and is appropriated by the Commons in the various ways it may deem most conducive to the good of the people.

Q.—Have the Lords any power over the money of the people ?

A.—It is the sole privilege of the Commons to impose taxes—

the Lords can only express assent or dissent when such bills are presented to them.

Q.—Have the Commons any further power in these matters ?

A.—Theirs is the right of enquiring into and satisfying themselves of the just application of all monies levied on the public.

Q.—How is the Sovereign's assent given to bills passed by both Houses ?

A.—"*The King wills it*" which is expressed in Norman French.

Q.—And what if he disapprove ?

A.—"*The King will advise upon it.*"

Q.—When the Commons present their bills of supply, how does the Sovereign express his acceptance ?

A.—"*The King thanks his loyal subjects, and so willeth.*"

Q.—What powerful check does this great privilege of the Commons offer to the power of the Sovereign ?

A.—The principal prerogative of the Crown, in declaring war or peace, for no war could be undertaken unless the means are granted by the Commons.

Q.—Are the Sessions of both Houses of the same duration ?

A.—Yes ! they must be prorogued and dissolved together.

My country ! 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty—
Of thee I sing :
Land, where my fathers died ;
Land of the pilgrim's pride ;
From every mountain-side,
Let freedom ring.

LESSON 17.

British rights and liberties are more generally talked of than understood, and yet it is highly necessary they should be perfectly known, and considered, lest ignorance of the points whereon they are founded, should hurry persons into faction and licentiousness on the one hand, or a pusillanimous indifference on the other.—In vain would these rights be declared, ascertained and protected by the dead letter of the law* if the Constitution had not provided certain and sure methods to secure their actual enjoyment. It therefore established subordinate rights of the subject. One of which is, applying to the Courts of Justice for the redress of injuries.—Since in England the law is the supreme arbiter of every man's life, liberty and property, Courts of Justice must

* The law is a dead letter 'till it is pronounced by the lips of a judge lawfully appointed to administer it.

—BLACKSTONE.—

at all times be open to the subject, and the law be duly administered therein.

If any uncommon injury, or infringement of the rights of the subject should happen, and which the ordinary course of law is too defective to reach, there still remains a right appertaining to every British subject, the right of petitioning the Sovereign, or either House of Parliament, for the redress of such injury or grievance.

So great a respect does the law of the land pay to private property, that it will not authorize the least violation of it, not even for the general good of the whole community.

The Great Charter has declared that no freeman shall be divested of his freehold, nor of his liberties, nor free customs, but by the judgment of his Peers, or by the law of the land, upon legal trial by the properly constituted authorities.

A British subject may claim a right to remain in his own country, so long as he pleases, and not to be driven from it, but by the sentence of the law, on conviction for infringement of the ordinances made and provided for the proper regulating of society.

Another absolute right of every British subject consists, in the free use, enjoyment, and disposal of all, or any part of his acquisitions, without controul, or

diminution thereof—save only by the laws of the land, when necessary for justice, from difference between parties litigating, obliging a reference thereto.

It has been the uniform policy of our legislators, to claim and assert our liberties as an entailed inheritance derived to us from our forefathers, and to be transmitted to our posterity. By this means, our Constitution preserves so great a unity in so great a diversity of its parts. We have an hereditary Crown,—an hereditary Peerage—and a House of Commons*—and a people inheriting, privileges, franchises, and liberties, from a long line of ancestors.

Note.—By the Reform Bill, a greater number of County Members of the Lower House has been created, about equal to the decrease made by disfranchising Boroughs which formerly returned members to Parliament.

There are	40	Counties in England which send	80	Knights.
	25	Cities	50	Citizens.
	167	Boroughs, (2 each)	334	Burgesses.
	5	do. (1 each)	5	do.
	2	Universities, (2 each)	4	
	8	Cinque Ports, (2 each)	16	Barons.
	12	Counties in Wales, (1 each)	12	Knights.
	12	Boroughs, do. (1 each)	12	Burgesses.
Also	—	Shires in Scotland, returning	20	Knights.
	—	Boroughs, do. do.	15	Burgesses.
	—	Shires in Ireland, do.	64	Knights.
	—	Boroughs, do. do.	36	Burgesses.
		Total number	648	

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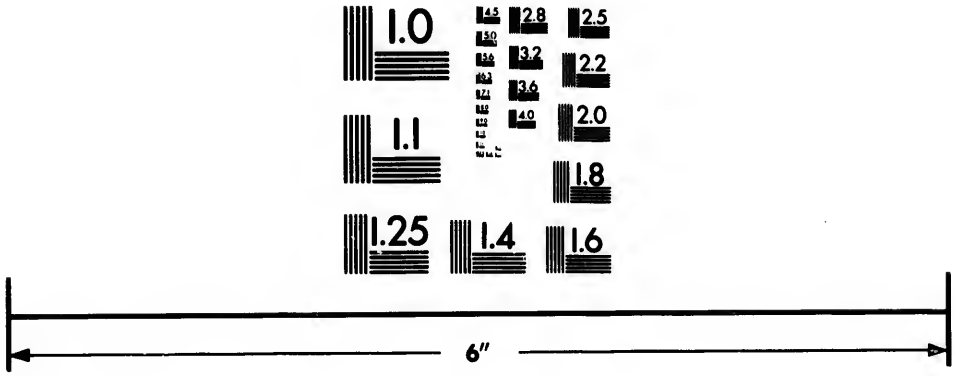

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Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 17th.

Q.—Why is it necessary that the liberties and rights of British subjects should be understood.

A.—To guard against disaffection, which generally arises from ignorance of the great and glorious principles of the British Constitution which directs for the good of all.

Q.—In what consists the guarantee which affords us this certainty of "equal justice to all."

A.—The constitutional precision with which those rights are pointed out, and shielded from invasion by legislative protection.

Q.—Point out one of these ?

A.—Courts of justice, open equally to the poor as the rich,—for the protection of life and property.

Q.—But if it should happen that there are matters of complaint which do not come within the reach of Courts of justice, what then remains ?

A.—The right of petitioning either House of Parliament, or even the Sovereign.

Q.—Is this the right of all ?

A.—Yes ! from the highest to the lowest.

Q.—Will the law of the land permit a man to be deprived of his property ?

A.—Neither the free right of person or property, until after legal trial by some properly constituted authority.

Q.—Can a man be compelled to quit his country?

A.—Never! unless convicted of some offence against the laws.

Q.—Has a man absolute and uncontrolled right over his own property?

A.—Yes—except when judgment is given against him in some Court of Justice in favor of another.

Q.—Are our liberties transferred as an entailed inheritance to our descendants?

A.—Yes! as pure as they have been transmitted to us from our ancestors, with the benefit of improvements and alterations suggested by expediency, and the wisdom of our rulers.

"My Country! dear native land!
My birth place proud and free;
A traitor's curse be on my head
When I am false to thee!
By every recollection dear,
By friendship's hallowed tie,
By scenes engraven on the heart,
By love that cannot die;—
I will remember thee!"

LESSON 18TH.

The three Estates in Parliament collectively considered.

The Sovereign, Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, have the *legislative power*, and when so assembled form the *great representative of the whole nation*.

The three Estates originally when assembled in Parliament, sat together consulting in the open field; accordingly at Runnimede, on the 15th June, 1215, in the seventeenth year of his Reign, King John passed the Great Charter,* (as therein is expressed) "by the

NOTE.—In the twenty first clause of the said Charter he covenants, that, "for having the Common Council to assess aids, he will cause the Lords spiritual and temporal to be summoned by his writs, and moreover he will cause the principal commoners or those who held from him in chief, to be generally summoned to said Parliaments by his Sheriffs and bailiffs."

advice of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and of several Commoners, and of others of his faithful people."

In the said assemblies, however, the concourse became so great and disorderly, and the contests frequently ran so high between the *several estates in assertion of their respective privileges*, that they judged it more expedient to *sit apart* and separately to exercise the offices of their respective departments.

One of the greatest benefits conferred by the British Constitution, and which is an essential part of it, is the *trial by jury*,* and which may be traced to very ancient origin. But the trial by jury in civil and criminal causes by twelve men, appears to have been first placed on tangible footing by William the Conqueror, and made permanently perfect by the famous Act of 12, Charles the second, from which data we may reckon the re-establishment of Church and Monarchy.—By that act Charles removed all the slavish tenures and disabilities, the badges of foreign dominion. And the greatest security by the same Monarch was thrown around the liberty of the subject, by that great bulwark

* NOTE.—Mr. Hume has given an opinion that the first lineaments of English Jury displayed itself, in the fertile mind, and wise acts of the great Alfred.

of our Constitution, the *Habeas Corpus Act*;* which is of inestimable value, and even more beneficial than the Magna Charta, unwillingly conceded by John at Runnimede.

By the sixth of William and Mary it was enacted that Parliaments could not continue longer than three years; but in the first of George the first, it was enacted that Parliaments may respectively have continuance for seven years, except by demise of the Crown, or by exercise of the prerogative of the Sovereign in dissolving the Parliament. But to prevent tumults and confusion, it has been provided by a solemn act, "that a Parliament sitting, or in being at the demise of the Sovereign, shall continue for six months, and if not sitting, shall meet expressly for keeping the peace of the realm and preserving the succession."

NOTE.—"This writ being one of high prerogative, must issue from the Court of Queen's Bench; its effects extended equally to every County; and by it the Sovereign requires the person who holds a subject in custody, to carry him before the judge, with the date of the confinement, and the cause of it, in order to discharge him, according as the judge shall decree."

Questions and Answers,

Explanatory of Lesson 18th.

Q.—What forms the *great representative power* of the whole Nation ?

A.—The Sovereign, Lords and Commons, assembled in legislative duties.

Q.—By whom was the Great Charter conceded ?

A.—King John.

Q.—At what period ?

A.—On the 15th. June 1215, in the seventeenth year of his reign.

Q.—Did the three Estates originally sit apart ?

A.—They met together in the open field, for discussion.

Q.—Why was this practice discontinued ?

A.—The several Estates frequently became greatly excited in asserting their respective rights, and it was deemed better that they should exercise their offices apart.

Q.—What peculiar inestimable benefit is conferred by the British Constitution ?

A.—Trial by Jury.

Q.—By whom is trial by Jury supposed to have been first instituted ?

A.—William the Conqueror.

Q.—By what Sovereign was it perfected ?

A.—Charles the 2nd.

Q.—How did he increase the benefits arising from it ?

A.—By removing many oppressions and unjust exactions.

Q.—Did the same Monarch confer any other great benefit upon the Nation ?

A.—Yes ! he instituted that great preserver of the liberty of the subject, the *Habeas Corpus Act.*

Q.—How long have British Parliaments continuance, as provided for by the Legislature.

A.—Seven years.

Q.—In whose reign was it so established.

A.—George the 1st.

Q.—Had they shorter continuance before ?

A.—In the reign of William and Mary they were continued for three years only.

Q.—By what circumstance are they made of shorter duration now ?

A.—By exercise of the Royal prerogative they can be dissolved at pleasure.

Q.—From any other circumstance ?

A.—On the death of the Sovereign.

Q.—Do they then cease immediately ?

A.—It is provided by law that a Parliament sitting at the death of the Monarch, shall be continued for six months.

Q.—And if not sitting, does it terminate at once ?

A.—It is ordered that it shall then meet for keeping the peace, and preserving the rightful succession to the throne.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said, —
This is my own, my native land." — *Scott.*

SUMMARY.

In all steps of national import, the sovereign is to be conducted by the direction of the Parliament, his great national council, a council on whom it is equally incumbent to consult, for the Sovereign, with whom they are connected, as for the people, whom they represent.

Thus the Sovereign is constitutionally to be guided by the sense of his Parliament, and the Parliament is to be constitutionally guided by the general sense of the people. Now while the three Estates act distinctly within their respective departments, they affect and are reciprocally affected by each other. For instance, the *Sovereign* has the *sole prerogative of making war*, but the means are in the hands of the *people* and their *representatives.*

Again, to the *Sovereign* is committed the *whole executive power*,—but then the *ministers of that power are accountable to a tribunal* from which a criminal has no appeal.

Again, the *Sovereign* hath a *negative voice upon all bills*, whereby his own prerogatives are guarded from invasion.

But should he refuse the Royal assent to *bills tending to the general good of the subject*, the *Commons* can also withhold their *bills of supply*.

Again, to the *Sovereign is committed the cognizance of all causes*,—But should his *Judges or Judiciaries* pervert the rule of right and strict justice, an *inquisition*, *impeachment*, and *trial* impends, from whose *judgment the Judges cannot be exempted*.

While the Sovereign is thus controlled by the *Lords* and the *Commons*,—while the *Lords* are thus controlled by the *Commons* and the *Sovereign*,—and while the *Commons* are thus controlled by the other *two Estates*, from attempting anything to the prejudice of the general welfare, the three Estates may be justly compared to three pillars divided below at equi-distant angles, but united and supported at top, merely by the bearing of each pillar against the other. Take but any one of these pillars away, and the other two must inevitably fall; but while all act on each other, all are equally counteracted, and thereby establish the general frame.

*** The whole of this compendium lesson is so fully demonstrated in preceding chapters, as to render the Catechist explanations unnecessary.

"Isle of the bright and beautiful!
O thou art dear to me!
Thou sittest as a glorious Queen
Upon the azure sea!
That sea in all its power divine,
Ne'er quits a nobler strand;
For all Earth's purest gifts are thine
O bright and happy land!

Honour to thee O England!
Sweet isle of peace and mirth,
The Sage's pride, the boast of Kings,
The glory of the Earth!
What were the brightest lands of old
In all their Majesty,
With all their pomp and power and gold
England! compared with thee?"

STATISTICS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The superficial area of the British Empire is eight million, nine hundred and forty-three thousand, four hundred and sixty-nine square miles.

The population of the British Empire is one hundred and sixty-one millions, five hundred and forty-eight thousand, seven hundred and ninety-eight.

The British Army, peace establishment, in Europe, Africa, and America, is about one hundred and twenty-five thousand men.

The force in British India is nearly three hundred thousand men.

The British Navy in time of war, was, one hundred and eighty four thousand seamen.

The revenue of Great Britain and Ireland is fifty-five millions, one hundred and twenty-five thousand Pounds, Halifax Currency.

The Revenue of British India, is twenty-seven millions, nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand, five hundred pounds, Halifax Cy. This will have been increased by the very extensive accession of territory to the British Crown, by conquests at Cabul and other places in India.

The sun always shines upon some part of the possessions of Great Britain, and the four seasons of the year are enjoyed at the same time in her dominions.—The subjects of Great Britain and those enjoying her protection, give more than one seventh of the whole human race, on the face of the globe.

The British Navy consists of 735 vessels of War including Steam Frigates in commission or in ordinary, mounting 37,000 guns. This force has however been considerably augmented of late.

THE LAST CENSUS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The total population of England according to the census just completed, is 7,321,875 males; 7,673,-633 females—total, 14,995,508: that of Wales, 447,-533 males; 463,788 females—total, 911,321: that of Scotland, 1,246,427 males; 1,382,530 females—total, 2,628,957; and that of the Islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, Harm, Jethon, and Man, 57,598 males; 68,481 females—total, 124,579.—Those numbers, including 4,003 males, and 793 females ascertained to have been travelling by the railways and canals on the night of June 6, make the totals 9,077,436 males; and 7,587,325 females. The population, therefore, of Great Britain amounts to 18,-664,761 persons. The returns include only such part of the army, navy, and merchant seamen as were at the time of the census within the kingdom shore.

"The Roman, the Saxon, the Norman, the Dane,
Have in turn sway'd thy sceptre, thou Queen of the main!
Their spirits though diverse, uniting made one,
Of nations the noblest beneath yon bright Sun.—*Mrs. Moodie.*

KINGS AND QUEENS OF ENGLAND FROM THE CONQUEST TO VICTORIA 1st., WITH LENGTH OF REIGNS.

Sovereigns.	*Commenced their Reign.*	*Reigned. Yrs.*	*Mos.*	*Ds.*	*Years since Reigned.*
Wm. Conqueror	Octr. 14-1066	20	10	26	753 Septr. 9
Wm. Rufus.	Septr. 9-1087	12	10	24	740 Augt. 2
Henry 1st.	August 2-1100	35	3	29	705 Decr. 1
Stephen	Decr. 1-1135	18	10	24	686 Octr. 25
Henry 2nd.	Octr. 25-1154	34	8	11	651 July 6
Richard 1st.	July 6-1189	9	9	0	641 April 6
John	April 6–1199	17	6	13	623 Octr. 19
Henry 3rd.	Octr. 19-1216	56	0	28	567 Novr. 16
Edward 1st.	Novr. 16-1272	34	7	21	533 July 7
Edward 2nd.	July 7-1307	19	6	18	513 Jany. 25
Edward 3rd.	Janry. 25-1327	50	4	27	463 June 21
Richard 2nd.	June 21-1377	22	3	8	441 Sept. 29
Henry 4th.	Septr. 29-1399	13	5	20	427 Mar. 20
Henry 5th.	March 20-1413	9	5	11	418 Aug. 31
Henry 6th.	Augt. 31-1422	38	6	4	379 Mar. 4
Edward 4th.	March 4-1461	22	1	5	356 April 9
Edward 5th.	April 9-1483	0	2	13	357 June 22
Richard 3rd.	June 22–1483	2	2	0	355 Augt. 22
Henry 7th.	Augt. 22-1485	23	8	0	331 April 22
Henry 8th.	April 22-1509	37	9	6	293 Jan. 23
Edward 6th.	Janry. 23-1547	6	5	8	287 July 6
Mary 1st.	July 6-1553	5	4	11	282 Nov. 17
Elizabeth	Novr. 17–1558	44	4	7	237 Mar. 24
James 1st.	March 24-1603	22	0	3	215 Mar. 27
Charles 1st.	March 27-1625	23	10	3	191 Jan. 30
Charles 2nd.	Janry. 30-1649	36	0	7	155 Feby. 6
James 2nd.	Febry. 6-1685	4	0	7	151 Feb. 13
Mary 2nd. }	Febry. 13-1689	5	10	15	146 Dec. 29
William 3rd. }	Febry. 13-1689	13	0	28	138 Mar. 8
Anne	March 8-1702	12	4	24	126 Augt. 1
George 1st.	August 1–1714	12	10	10	113 June 11
George 2nd.	June 11-1727	33	4	14	80 Octr. 25
George 3rd.	Octr. 25-1760	59	3	4	19 Jany. 29
George 4th.	Janry. 29-1820	10	0	28	9 June 26
William 4th.	June 26-1830	7	7	0	5 June 20
Victoria 1st.	June 20-1837	Vivat Regina.			

"Thine are the glorious memories
That breathe from tomb and shrine,
That on thy poet's glowing page,
In deathless beauty shine;
Memories deep fraught with joy and pride
That float upon thy breeze,
And wander on the swelling tide
Of thine eternal seas.

O fair and merry England!
Glory be ever thine!
For patriots hands and patriots hearts
To guard thy right combine—
Bright Eden of the starry West!
Queen of the azure sea!
Land of the beautiful and blest,
Thou art the land for me.

Abstract of the Extent and Population of the British Empire at the Accession of Queen Victoria, A. D. 1837.

(EUROPE.)

Countries.	Square miles.	Population.
England }	57,000	13,089,836
Wales }		805,236
Scotland Western Isles— Orkney, Shetland and other small Isles	30,000	2,365,807
Army and Navy		277,017
Ireland	30,000	8,000,000
Man and other Islands in the British sea..		90,000
Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and other Isles		50,000

Heligoland	.. ..	2,200
Gibraltar	.. ..	12,000
	1,500	
Malta and Goza	.. ..	93,000
Ionian Islands.	.. ..	230,000
	118,500	25,015,596

(ASIA.)

Presidency of Bengal	69,710,071
Do. Madras	13,508,535
Do. Bombay	6,251,546
Doubtful Districts	600,000

Countries under British protection.

The Nizam of Deccan..		10,000,000
Rajah of Naypoor		3,000,000
Kingdom of Oude		3,000,000
The Guickwar		2,000,000
The Satarah Rajah		1,500,000
The Mysore Rajah		3,000,000
Travancore and Cocheu		1,000,000
Kotah, Bondee, and Bopaul..		1,500,000
Rajpoot and other States		15,000,000
Whole number of square miles to the above ..	..1,300,000	
The following States are allies of the English East India Company, but excepting the Seiks have only a precarious independence—		
The Maharatta—		
Prince Sindu ..4,000,000		
Rajah Nepaul ..2,000,000		
The Seiks 3,000,000		
Ceylon	20,000	2,000,000
Other Islands and settlements in the Indian sea including Malacca		50,000

Ceded by the Burmese in 1826.

Carracan, Yeh, Tavoy, Mergue and Tenasserin ..	50,000	1,000,000
The following States which at one time formed part of the Birman Empire, are now nominally independent as their respective Rajahs are appointed by the British Government in India:		
Maunipore, Radschar, Assam, Yeahung	3,500,000	35,000
Van Dieman's Land	24,000	23,000

(AFRICA.)

Cape of Good Hope, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, settlements on the Gambia, Accra, Cape Coast, and the Islands of St. Helena, Ascension, Isle of France, Muhe and Seychelles	250,000	350,000
	5,262,500	158,535,784

(NORTH AMERICA.)

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, Newfoundland, L. Canada, U. Canada, Labrador, Hudson's Bay Territory, &c., ...	3,500,000	2,000,000

(SOUTH AMERICA.)

Demarara, Essequibo, Berbice, Honduras, and the Falkland Islands	165,000	1,200,000

(WEST INDIES.)

Bermudas	40	
Bahammas..	5,500	
Jamaica	6,400	
Barbadoes	140	
St. Christophers	80	
Antigua	100	
Nevis and Montserrat ..	72	
Barbuda	60	
Anguilla	60	
Dominica	150	
St. Vincent's	150	
Grenada	150	
Tobago	80	
Trinidad	2,897	
St. Lucia	90	
The Grenadians and other small Islands in the Caribean Sea	.. ..	.. 1,143,050
Total square miles	8,943,469	161,548,798 Total population in the British Empire.

RATES OF WAGES, ENGLISH, AND FOREIGN.

Comparative statement of wages paid to mechanics, manufacturing operatives, and agricultural labourers, in the various countries, from whence [in time of plenty] bread and corn could be exported; and the wages paid to similar work-people in Great Britain, 1840.

Wages per day, paid to a Mechanic, on the borders of the Black Sea, Odessa, 1s. 2d.; to an Agricultural Labourer, 4d.

Wages per day, paid to a Mechanic, in Poland and Russia, 1s. 8d.: to a Manufacturing Operative 1s. 3d.; to an Agricultural Labourer, 5d.

Wages per day, paid to a Mechanic, in Spain and Portugal, 1s. 3d.; to a Manufacturing Operative, 1s.; to an Agricultural Labourer, 7d.

Wages per day, paid to a mechanic, in Denmark and Germany, 1s. 4d.: to a Manufacturing Operative, 10d..; to an Agricultural Labourer, 9d.

Wages per day, paid to a Mechanic in France, 2s. 7d.; to a Manufacturing Operative, 1s. 4d; to an Agricultural Labourer, 1s. 2d.

Average wages in Foreign Countries, per day to a Mechanic, 1s. 7½d.; to a Manufacturing Operative, 1s. 1¼d.; to an Agricultural Labourer, 7d.

Wages per day, paid to a Mechanic, in Great Britain, 3s. 8d.; to a Manufacturing Operative 1s. 8d.; to an Agricultural Labourer, 1s. 10d.

From whence it will be seen that the agricultural labourer in Great Britain is paid nearly three times as much wages as the Agricultural Labourer of the above Countries which is only 7½d. per day. The British manufacturing operative, gets about one-half more than the average of the Foreign operative, 1s. 1¼d. per day; and the British mechanic and artizan is paid more than double the average of the mechanics in the above Countries, at 7½d. per day.

In France the sawyer works seven days a week, and earns 11s 3d., with which he can buy twenty loaves of bread at 6⅓d. and 5d over.

In England the sawyer works six days and earns 15s. with which he can buy 25 loave at 8d. In England, then, six days labour will buy one-fourth more bread than seven days labour in France. In which country then is bread cheapest to the labourer?

In France the Agricultural labourer works seven days and earns 7s. a week—equal to twelve loaves and 6d. over, and provides his own drink.

In England the Agricultural labourer works six days and earns 19s. a week—equal to fifteen loaves; and is found beer equal to eighteen pence more,

The same proportions hold good with regard to shoemakers, tailors, and all operatives and artisans.

In France there are no poor laws, no provision for

aged and infirm—so that the labouring class have to lay up in store for the days when their strength is exhausted; and wretched indeed is then their state. Here, again, England offers an advantage to her labouring population—a retreat in sickness and old age, and a maintenance for the families of the disabled; and at whose expense? chiefly the landowners and occupiers, who, in addition to wages, pay a large sum to the poor rate.

"To that dear Isle, from whence we sprung,
Which gave our fathers birth;
What glorious deeds our bards have sung
The unrivalled of the earth—
The highest privilege we claim,
To own her sway,—to bear her name!"
(Mrs. Moodie.)

A Chronological Table of the Principal atchievements of the British Army and Navy.

I would commence with and direct the minds of my readers to the destruction of the Spanish Armada in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, in the year . 1588.

The English under Admiral Penn obtained possession of Jamaica in . . . . . 1656.

Gibraltar was taken by Admiral Brooke in 1703.

The English took Barcelona and the Spanish fleet was defeated off Gibraltar in . . 1705.

The French were defeated at Ramilies by the Great Marlborough in . . . . . 1706.

The French were defeated at Oudenarde by Marlborough in . . . . . 1708.

And were again defeated by the same General at Malploquet in the same year.

The British took Louisburgh and Cape Breton in . . . . . 1745.

A signal victory was gained by Hawke over the French fleet in . . . . . 1747.

Guadaloupe was surrendered to the British —and Quebec was stormed and taken by Wolfe in . . . . . 1759.

Montreal and Canada surrendered to British prowess in . . . . . 1760.

Pondecherry and Belisle were taken in . 1761.

The French fleet was defeated by Admiral Lord Howe and seven sail of the line taken in 1794.

The English took the Cape of Good Hope in . . . . . 1795.

Ceylon, Malacca, and Cochin were taken from the Dutch by the British in . . . 1796.

The Island of Elba surrendered to Britain in the same year.

In the same year a Dutch squadron with 2,000 troops on board, surrendered to Admiral Elphinstone.

An important and signal victory was gained over the Spanish Fleet off Cape St. Vincent by Sir John Jarvis in the same year.

The Dutch fleet was defeated by Admiral Duncan off Camperdown, also in the same year.

The Toulon Fleet was defeated by Admiral Lord Nelson at the memorable battle of the Nile when nine sail of the line were captured, two burnt, and two escaped, in 1798.

Lord Cornwallis compelled a French force which landed in Ireland under Humbert to surrender to him in the same year.

A French squadron full of troops and bound for Ireland was captured by Sir J. B. Warren in the same year.

Bonaparte was twice repulsed at Acre by Sir Sidney Smith, in 1799

Seringapatam was taken by the British in this year.

Admiral Mitchell compelled the Dutch fleet of twelve ships of the line and thirteen Indiamen to surrender to him also in this year.

Sir Ralph Abercrombie effected a landing in Egypt; Aboukir surrendered to the British in the same year.

The French were repulsed at Alexandria and the gallant Sir Ralph Abercrombie gave up his life a sacrifice to his country's greatness in the same year.

The memorable bombardment of Copenhagen which was in part destroyed by Lord Nelson, the Danish fleet of 29 sail taken and destroyed in the same year.

A victory was gained over the Spanish and French Fleets near Cadiz, by Sir James Saumarez, the Saint Antonia mounting 74 guns was captured in 1801

In the same year Lord Nelson bombarded Boulogne destroyed 5 vessels and disabled 10.

The Mahratta Chief Scindiu was defeated by the British and Agra surrendered to the English in 1803

In this year also the French were compelled to evacuate St. Domingo by the British.

An homeward bound East India fleet under Captain Dance defeated a French Fleet in 1804

Surinam was also taken by the British in the same year.

Three Spanish Frigates were captured also about the same period with three million of dollars on board.

The French and Spanish fleets were defeated by Sir Robert Calder in . . 1805

In this year the immortal Nelson gained a most decisive and glorious victory over the French and Spanish Fleets off Trafalgar when twenty four of the enemy's ships were taken or destroyed. In this memorable battle the hero received his mortal wound, which terminated his valorous and patriotic life in the atchievement of one of the greatest naval victories on record.

The French fleet was taken by Sir R.

Strachan, in the same year.

I come now to the period in which the "Hero of a hundred fights" signalized himself in defeating Junot at the battle of Vimeira, the illustrious Duke of Wellington was then Sir Arthur Wellesley, this atchievement was in . . . . . 1808.

The memorable battle of Corunna, in which after victory, the retreat rendered imperative, was so skilfully effected by Sir John Moore, but who was unfortunately killed, thus offering up another valuable life on the altar of his Country's greatness—this was in the same year.

The Isles of France and Bourbon were taken by the British in . . . . 1810.

The French were defeated by General Graham at Barossa in . . . . 1811.

General Beresford defeated the French under Soult at Albufeura, and Lord Wellington defeated Massena near Ameida in the same year.

Lord Wellington stormed Ciudad Roderigo in . . . . . 1812.

And stormed Badajos in the same year.

General Hill took Almarez, and Lord Wellington took Salamanca at the same period, and soon after entered Madrid.

The Americans were defeated at Riviere

au Raisin, and the American Frigate Chesapeake was captured by the Shannon in this year . . . . . 1813.

Pampeluna surrendered to the British, and the decisive Battle of Leipsic occurred the same year.

The British entered Bordeaux, and Soult was defeated in . . . . . 1814.

Soult was finally defeated by the British at Toulouse, and Genoa was surrendered about the same period.

In the same year the City of Washington was taken by the British.

The BATTLE OF WATERLOO.—The immortal WELLINGTON at the head of about 69,000 men, and Napoleon Bonaparte, one of the greatest Generals of any age—with about 80,000 men fought this great and memorable battle, upon which, the peace of Europe, and fate of the world might be said to have rested. It commenced on the 16th of June, 1815, and was maintained with the greatest military skill and daring, until the evening of the 18th when the hopes of Napoleon were for ever crushed, by as signal and complete a defeat, as can be found on the page of record. This was the first and only time these two renowned warriors met to test their military tactics in the field.

The military honor and glory of France and England centered in these two great men! yes! *two* great men, for whoever would deny Napoleon the credit of possessing the most brilliant military skill and courage, would rob Wellington of half his glory.—Napoleon is numbered with his fathers,—requiescat in pace.—His virtues were few—his failings many.—But quickness of apprehension, profound military skill, the rapidity and daring of his movements, together with his successful atchievements—place him, as a warrior, upon a pinnacle of renown that few have attained.—Future ages will do him the justice that the present has denied him—and the errors of the man, shall be buried in the fame of the warrior.—But our great, good, and glorious Wellington lives—lives in the hearts of millions—who know not which to admire most in the same individual—the *honest statesman*, or the *Conqueror of Napoleon*.

Cambray was soon after taken by the British.

Algiers was bombarded by Admiral Lord Exmouth—it was nobly executed in a glorious cause, and effected the freedom of a great number of prisoners, and obliged the Dey to the abolition of slavery. Honor to

thee my Country—thou art always as ready to fight for the rights of mankind, as to protect thine own—this summary chastisement of the pirate nation occured in . . . 1816.

The Burmese in India were completely overthrown, and 50,000 square miles extent of country, ceded to Great Britain in 1825.

The Turkish Fleet was destroyed at Navarino by the united Fleets of Great Britain, France and Russia, led by that of Great Britain in . . . . . 1827.

The great and important conquest by Gen. Sir John Keane, in Cabul and other places, in India in 1839, is the last of my chronology. The conquests in China, and the operations of the army in India being of recent data are before the public.

In her Naval Battles, Great Britain has not had an equal—and her military atchievements in the field, place her upon a footing at least, with any nation, either at present, or of old. Her commerce is the most extensive of any Nation on the Globe.—The fine arts, and philosophy find a cradle, and are nursed into maturity in Great Britain.—Her charities are universal.—The philanthropy, and honorable bearing of her sons,—beyond all praise.—The refinement, virtue, and beauty

of her daughters,—appreciated at home, and the theme of admiration to foreigners. In a word, Great Britain is the seat of learning—the birth place of liberty—the envy of the world.

A cheer for gallant Britain !
  The chivalrous—the free !
Thy soldier in the battle-field,
  Thy sailor on the sea,
Ne'er found a foe they fled from—
  A foe they did not quell,
Hurrah ! for gallant Britain,
  The land we love so well.

A cheer for generous Britain !
  Amidst the surging sea
The persecuted exile found
  A refuge rock on thee.
In thee the slave exultant
  Leapt as his fetters fell,
Hurrah ! for generous Britain,
  The land we love so well.

A cheer for happy Britain,
  Where justice holds the sway,
Where learning stirs to enterprize,
  And science points the way ;
Where peace, and love, and charity,
  With all the virtues dwell,
Hurrah ! for gallant Britian,
  The land we love so well.

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