

THE LEADING FACTS OF
ENGLISH HISTORY

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THE
LEADING FACTS OF ENGLISH
HISTORY.

BY
D. H. MONTGOMERY.

"Nothing in the past is dead to the man who would learn how the present came to be what it is."—STUBBS: *Constitutional History of England*.

SECOND EDITION, REVISED.

BOSTON, U.S.A. :
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I dedicate this book
to my friend J. J. M., who generously
gave time, labor, and valuable
suggestions towards its
preparation for
the press.

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PREFACE.

MOST of the materials for this book were gathered by the writer during several years' residence in England.

The attempt is here made to present them in a manner that shall illustrate the great law of national growth, in the light thrown upon it by the foremost English historians.

The authorities for the different periods will be found in the List of Books on page 434; but the author desires to particularly acknowledge his indebtedness to the works of Gardiner, Guest, and Green, and to the excellent constitutional histories of Taswell-Langmead and Ransome.

SECOND EDITION.

The present edition has been very carefully revised throughout, and numerous maps and genealogical tables have been added.

The author's hearty thanks are due to G. Mercer Adam, Esq., of Toronto, Canada; Prof. W. F. Allen, of The University of Wisconsin; President Myers, of Belmont College, Ohio; Prof. George W. Knight, of Ohio State University; and to Miss M. A. Parsons, teacher of history in the High School, Winchester, Mass., for the important aid which they have kindly rendered.

DAVID H. MONTGOMERY,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

13395



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¹ Each section or period is followed by a general view of that period.

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THE

LEADING FACTS OF ENGLISH HISTORY.

I.

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I.

" 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 to a house,
Against the envy of less happier lands;
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England."
SHAKESPEARE, *Richard II.*

—o—o—o—

BRITAIN BEFORE WRITTEN HISTORY BEGINS.

THE COUNTRY.

1. Britain once a Part of the Continent. — The island of Great Britain has not always had its present form. Though separated from Europe now by the English Channel and the North Sea, yet there is abundant geological evidence that it was once a part of the continent.

2. Proofs. — The chalk cliffs of Dover are really a continuation of the chalk of Calais, and the strait dividing them, which is nowhere more than thirty fathoms deep,¹ is simply the result of a

¹ The width of the Strait of Dover at its narrowest point is twenty-one miles. The bottom is a continuous ridge of chalk. If St. Paul's Cathedral were placed in the strait, midway between England and France, more than half of the building would be above the surface of the water.