

READINGS · IN
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VOLUME · I

JAMES · HARVEY · ROBINSON

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EUROPEAN HISTORY

*A collection of extracts from the sources chosen with
the purpose of illustrating the progress of
culture in Western Europe since
the German Invasions*

BY

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VOLUME I

FROM THE BREAKING UP OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
TO THE PROTESTANT REVOLT

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To E. P. C. AND D. C. M.

ONCE MY COLLEAGUES AND EVER MY STAUNCH FRIENDS
AND FAITHFUL FELLOW-WORKERS, THIS VOL-
UME IS FITTINGLY DEDICATED

PREFACE

In preparing my *Introduction to the History of Western Europe* I was forced to forego all the amenities of historical narration, except those of clearness and order, in my anxiety to present a tolerably coherent sketch of the course of events and the development of institutions. In this and the succeeding volume I hope that the reader, whether teacher or student, may find some of that life and reality without which historical study must remain arid and well-nigh profitless. I have accordingly made a special effort to select such passages as might most readily conciliate the reader's interest. Yet they are not the less useful for being interesting. Indeed, I hope that they may prove to be like that river of which Gregory the Great speaks, which is both shallow and deep, "wherein the lamb may find a footing and the elephant float at large"; for there are few among the excerpts that will not repay careful study and give the teacher abundant opportunity to test his own and his students' insight.

The rather long and elaborate bibliographies which follow the several chapters demand a word of explanation. They each fall into three divisions. The first section, *A*, contains specific references to a collection of forty or fifty standard volumes which should be in any good high-school library. *B*, *Additional readings in English*, is especially designed for those who have a good college library at their disposal, although many of the volumes mentioned in this division

might profitably be used by the high-school student. Lastly, under *C*, the teacher and advanced university student will find the necessary guidance in carrying on his work as far as he may feel inclined.

In the preparation of the present volume I am under special obligations to Miss Ellen Scott Davison, who greatly aided me in the quest for suitable material and in the translation, and to Miss Louise Ropes Loomis, Lecturer in Barnard College, who prepared portions of the bibliographies and also forwarded the translation. With the kind permission of my friends, Professors Cheyney and Munro, I have used some of the extracts which have already appeared in the *Translations and Reprints*, of which we three were the original editors. I have also included some of the pieces in Dr. Henderson's very useful *Select Historical Documents of the Middle Ages*, but I have frequently preferred a different rendering from his. I am also indebted to the translations in the Bohn series, although here, too, I have freely modified the wording in the interests of accuracy and clearness. I owe most of all, perhaps, to the admirable *Geschichtschreiber der deutschen Vorzeit* in clearing up the occasional obscurities of the mediæval chroniclers. My indebtedness to a considerable number of translators and editors is acknowledged in the list of citations which follows.

J. H. R.

HIGH MOWING, JAFFREY, N.H.,
September 1, 1904.

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¹ While I have freely availed myself of the assistance offered by translations, I have not hesitated to modify, or even frankly desert in some cases, the renderings which I mention in this list.