A short constitutional history of England

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A SHORT
CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY
OF ENGLAND
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CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY
OF ENGLAND

BY
H. ST. CLAIR FEILDEN, M.A.
CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, OXFORD

THIRD EDITION
REVISED, AND IN PART RE-WRITTEN

BY
W. GRAY ETHERIDGE, M.A.
LATE SCHOLAR OF KEBLE COLLEGE

BOSTON, U.S.A.
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HENRY MORSE STEPHENS
PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

ALTHOUGH many handbooks of Constitutional History exist, I hope that the arrangement of this little book will be found useful enough to warrant its entry on a field apparently already so well occupied.

The want of a small book on English Constitutional History, in which the various subjects are treated in a connected and consecutive manner, has been much felt by me, not only whilst myself reading for the History School, but also whilst subsequently engaged in reading with others. I have therefore determined to publish my notes, in the hope that they may be useful to those about to read for the Schools of Modern History or Jurisprudence, and to any one who desires to ascertain at a glance the leading facts in the history of any subject of constitutional interest.

It has been my endeavour to give, with the Compiler's kind permission, as many references as possible to Professor Stubbs' Collection of Charters, in the hope that such references may in some slight degree assist the reader in his study of that valuable work.

I have to acknowledge with gratitude the courtesy of Professor Stubbs in allowing these references and
extracts to be made, and take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to those who have kindly aided me with suggestions and advice, more especially to Mr. F. S. Pulling, M.A., of Exeter College; Mr. F. York Powell, M.A., Lecturer of Christ Church; and Mr. R. Lodge, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Brasenose.

I trust that the dates—to verify which no pains have been spared—will be found accurate, and that the arrangement of the notes will really prove of some slight use to those who are studying Constitutional History.

H. St. C. F.

Halliford House, Middlesex,
October, 1882.
IN complying with the demand made for a second edition of this little book, the author has taken all pains to correct the various defects in the first edition, which have been pointed out to him by the friendliness of critics.

The present edition, besides undergoing complete revision, will be found to be considerably enlarged; and it is hoped that the additions will be found to be of such a character as to materially improve the usefulness of the book. For the notice of any errors which may exist, or for any suggestions which may be offered, the author will be most grateful.

The author's most sincere thanks are due to the many friends who have so kindly pointed out defects, and suggested improvements in the first edition, but most especially to the Rev. A. B. Beaven, M.A., of Preston; Mr. C. R. L. Fletcher, M.A., Fellow of All Souls; Mr. T. Duncombe Mann, LL.B., Barrister-at-Law; and Mr. J. Wells, Fellow of Wadham.

St. Moritz, Engadine,

March, 1887.
PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

In response to the call for a reissue of the late Mr. Feilden's work, the present edition has been prepared, in the hope that after thorough revision its usefulness may be further increased.

No alteration has been made in the arrangement of the book, but it seemed advisable to treat some of the subjects more fully than before. Chapter X and the greater part of Chapter IX have been rewritten, and considerable changes have been made in the earlier chapters. An attempt has been made to draw attention to the views of recent writers on such questions as Folcland and the Gilds, while every endeavour has been made to ensure accuracy in the dates and references.

The Editor wishes to express his thanks to Sir W. Anson, Warden of All Souls College, for permission to make use of his *Law and Custom of the Constitution*—a permission of which he has freely availed himself; and to Mr. G. N. Richardson, Lecturer in Modern History at Oriel and Pembroke Colleges, for his kindness in looking over the proof-sheets, and for many valuable suggestions.

Leamington College.
Dec. 1894.