### HARVARD HISTORICAL STUDIES

### PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

FROM THE INCOME OF

THE HENRY WARREN TORREY FUND

VOLUME XXXIV

#### HARVARD HISTORICAL STUDIES

- I. The Suppression of the African Slave-Trade to the United States of America, 1638-1870. By W. E. B. DuBois.
- II. The Contest over the Ratification of the Federal Constitution in Massachusetts. By S. B. Harding.
- III. A Critical Study of Nullification in South Carolina. By D. F. Houston.
- IV. Nominations for Elective Office in the United States. By Frederick W. Dallinger.
- V. A Bibliography of British Municipal History, including Gilds and Parliamentary Representation. By Charles Gross.
- VI. The Liberty and Free Soil Parties in the Northwest. By Theodore Clarke Smith.
- VII. The Provincial Governor in the English Colonies of North America. By Evarts Boutell Greene.
- VIII. The County Palatine of Durham. A Study in Constitutional History. By G. T. Lapsley.
- IX. The Anglican Episcopate and the American Colonies. By Arthur Lyon Cross.
- X. The Administration of the American Revolutionary Army. By Louis Clinton Hatch.
- XI. The Civil Service and the Patronage. By Carl Russell Fish.
- XII. The Development of Freedom of the Press in Massachusetts. By C. A. Duniway.
- XIII. The Seigniorial System in Canada. By W. B. Munro.
- XIV. The Frankpledge System. By William

Alfred Morris.

- XV. The Public Life of Joseph Dudley. By Everett Kimball.
- XVI. Mémoire de Marie Caroline, Reine de Naples. Edited by Robert Matteson Johnston.
- XVII. The Barrington-Bernard Correspondence. Edited by Edward Channing.

- XVIII. The Government of the Ottoman Empire in the Time of Suleiman the Magnificent. By Albert Howe Lybyer.
- XIX. The Granger Movement. By S. J. Buck.
- XX. Burgage Tenure in Medieval England. By Morley de Wolf Hemmeon.
- XXI. An Abridgment of the Indian Affairs transacted in the colony of New York from 1678 to 1751. By Peter Wraxall. Edited with an introduction by Charles Howard McIlwain.
- XXII. English Field Systems. By Howard Levi Gray.
- XXIII. The Second Partition of Poland. By Robert Howard Lord.
- XXIV. Norman Institutions. By Charles Homer Haskins.
- XXV. Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy. By Charles Wendell David.
- XXVI. Bismarck's Diplomacy at its Zenith. By Joseph Vincent Fuller.
- XXVII. Studies in the History of Medieval Science. By Charles H. Haskins.
- XXVIII. The Origins of the War of 1870. New Documents from the German Archives. By Robert H. Lord.
- XXIX. The Monroe Doctrine, 1823-1826. By Dexter Perkins.
- XXX. The Franco-Russian Alliance, 1890-1894. By W. L. Langer,
- XXXI. Fur Trade and Empire. George Simpson's Journal...together with accompanying documents. Edited with an introduction by Frederick Merk.
- XXXII. The Schleswig-Holstein Question. By Lawrence D. Steefel.
- XXXIII. The Presbyterian Churches and the Federal Union, 1861-1869. By Lewis G. Vander Velde.
- XXXIV. The Influence of the Commons on Early Legislation. By Howard L. Gray.

#### HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS CAMBRIDGE, MASS., U. S. A.

# THE INFLUENCE OF THE COMMONS ON EARLY LEGISLATION

## A Study of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries

BY

### HOWARD L. GRAY

Marjorie Walter Goodhart Professor of History
Bryn Mawr College



# CAMBRIDGE HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS LONDON: HUMPHREY MILFORD OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

1932

### COPYRIGHT, 1932 BY THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE

### To

Professor Charles Homer Haskins with appreciation of his inspiring scholarship and his unfailing kindness.