

# PARLIAMENT AND ORATORS OF BRITAIN.

With **SPEECHES** from

LORD CHATHAM  
EDMUND BURKE  
WILLIAM PITT  
R. B. SHERIDAN  
CHARLES J. FOX  
LORD MACAULAY  
JOHN BRIGHT  
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

EDITED, WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES  
BY  
PROFESSOR DR J. KLAPPERICH

GLOGAU. CARL FLEMMING, VERLAG,  
BUCH- UND KUNSTDRUCKEREI, A.G.

# CONTENTS

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>  | <b>3</b>   |
| <b>PART THE FIRST. PARLIAMENT.....</b>  | <b>4</b>   |
| I. THE CONSTITUTION.....  | 4          |
| II. THE FUNCTIONS OF PARLIAMENT.....  | 13         |
| III. THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER. ....  | 16         |
| IV. THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT, 1904.....  | 25         |
| <i>House Of Lords.</i> ....   | 25         |
| <i>House Of Commons.</i> .....  | 30         |
| <b>PART THE SECOND. POLITICAL ORATIONS.....</b>   | <b>33</b>  |
| I. LORD CHATHAM. SPEECH ON THE GOVERNMENT<br>POLICY IN AMERICA.....   | 33         |
| II. EDMUND BURKE. SPEECH ON MOVING<br>RESOLUTIONS FOR CONCILIATION WITH THE AMERICAN COLONIES.<br>.....                                   | 41         |
| 2. <i>FROM SPEECHES AT THE TRIAL OF WARREN HASTINGS.</i><br>.....   | 44         |
| A. <i>FROM THE OPENING SPEECH ON HIS IMPEACHMENT,<br/>            DELIVERED IN WESTMINSTER HALL, 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 1788</i> ..... | 44         |
| B <i>PERORATION OF THE CONCLUDING SPEECH, DELIVERED IN<br/>            WESTMINSTER HALL, 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1794</i> .....              | 47         |
| III WILLIAM PITT. SPEECH ON THE SLAVE TRADE. ....   | 48         |
| IV. RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN. SPEECH ON THE<br>PROBABILITY OF A FRENCH INVASION. ....  | 61         |
| V. CHARLES JAMES FOX. SPEECH IN THE DEBATE IN<br>PARLIAMENT ON THE FRENCH OVERTURES FOR PEACE. ....                                       | 64         |
| VI. THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY. SPEECH ON<br>THE DUTY OF THE STATE WITH REGARD TO EDUCATION.....   | 70         |
| VII. JOHN BRIGHT. SPEECH ON THE CRIMEAN WAR... ..   | 83         |
| VIII. MR. CHAMBERLAIN. SPEECH ON HOME RULE. .   | 90         |
| <b>BIOGRAPHIES OF ORATORS.....</b>  | <b>96</b>  |
| <b>NOTES. ....</b>  | <b>100</b> |
| I. PARLIAMENT. THE CONSTITUTION. ....   | 100        |
| II. THE FUNCTIONS OF PARLIAMENT.....  | 103        |
| III. THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER. ....  | 104        |

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| IV. THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.....  | 107 |
| POLITICAL ORATIONS. ....            | 110 |
| I. LORD CHATHAM. ....               | 110 |
| II. EDMUND BURKE. ....              | 112 |
| III. WILLIAM PITT.....              | 114 |
| IV. RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN.....  | 114 |
| V. CHARLES JAMES FOX.....           | 115 |
| VI. THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY. .... | 116 |
| VII. JOHN BRIGHT.....               | 120 |
| VIII. MR. CHAMBERLAIN.....          | 123 |

## INTRODUCTION.

The present volume aims at giving the student some knowledge of the British Constitution, the organisation of the Houses of Parliament, their magnificent building on the bank of the Thames, and the proceedings during a session. The principal part of the book treats of the most distinguished orators of Britain from Lord Chatham to Chamberlain and contains, in chronological order, characteristic specimens of their best rhetoric. As these speeches deal with matters of great political interest, they give the reader an insight into modern English history covering a period of more than a hundred years.

For the extracts and notes the following works have been used:

1. Macmillan's History Reader VI. Macmillan & Co., London.
2. *London Past and Present*. Blackie & Son, Glasgow.
3. The Times Weekly Edition. February 1904.
4. William Clarke, *Political Orations*. Walter Scott, London.
5. *Sheridan's Complete Works*. Chatto & Windus. London.
6. Trevelyan, *Selections from Macaulay*. Longmans, Green, & Co., London.
7. G. Wendt, *Borne Rule*. Weidmann. Berlin.
8. Webster's International Dictionary.
9. Chambers's Twentieth Century Dictionary
10. Chambers's Biographical Dictionary
11. Royal English History Reader VII. Nelson & Sons, London.

Every care has been taken to furnish instructive passages as well as to remove all difficulties by giving the necessary informations in the notes.

Elberfeld, June 1905.

J. K.

## **PART THE FIRST.**

### **PARLIAMENT.**

#### **I.**

#### **THE CONSTITUTION.**

When the Saxons first came over to Britain and founded their various kingdoms, they had a council in each, called the Witenagemot, or the Assembly of the Wise Men, and when the kingdoms were united, there was a Witan, or Great Assembly, for the whole nation. From the very earliest times that we know of, there has always been a difference in rank between the people who go to make up a tribe or nation. These differences existed among the Saxons — there were the principal people, either the Wise Men or the leading soldiers; the ordinary freemen, who had land of their own; and the slaves. The great Assembly, to a certain extent, was led by the Kings. This state of things went on until the Norman Conquest, when William the Conqueror made many important changes in England; an especially important one being his alteration of the character of the Assembly.

In the first place, William brought the Feudal system into England; which means, among other things, that he took the whole of the country for his own, and gave out portions of it, in great estates, to those warriors who had helped him in the Conquest, or who promised to supply him with soldiers when he wanted them in the future. The Assembly, therefore, ceased to consist of leading men or freemen. It was now attended only by those who held their land from the King, and were called tenants-in-chief; and nobody else had any right to be present. The name, too, was altered. It was not called the Witan, but the Great Council.