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BY

CYRIL RANSOME, M.A.

MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD

SOMETIME PROFESSOR OF MODERN HISTORY AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

YORKSHIRE COLLEGE, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

N^o 34779.

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PREFACE.

THAT constitutional history is very dry, is an axiom admitted by almost all who have never read it; that it is far more interesting than what is commonly received as history, is almost equally admitted by those who have.

Constitutional histories are usually left unread, partly because they are long, partly because they generally contain a great deal of matter which the ordinary reader does not want to know, and partly because their arrangement is such that it is difficult to pick out exactly the information that is sought.

In this book, the author has endeavoured to confine his attention solely to the growth of the present relations between the sovereign, the ministry, the two Houses of Parliament and the people, and to put before the reader