

SIR HENRY MAINE

ANCIENT
LAW

INTRODUCTION BY J. H. MORGAN



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Sir Henry Maine, like Lamb and Coleridge an old Bluecoat boy, became Master of Trinity Hall and Whewell Professor of International Law at Cambridge, having first filled a Chair of Jurisprudence at Oxford. Before his time as Reader to the Inns of Court, English law students were not required to know anything about the laws of other countries than England. This book, which made his reputation at a stroke, grew out of his lectures there. His experience extended also to political administration for, like T. B. Macaulay thirty years before, he served once on the Supreme Council for India and again, for the last seventeen years of his life, on the Secretary of State's Council for India.

His assured aim in ANCIENT LAW was to 'indicate some of the earliest ideas of mankind as they are reflected in ancient law, and to point out the relation of those ideas to modern thought.' In order to do this he applied a comparative method which made use of sources as far apart as India and Ireland. Not only was his eminence as an historian acknowledged by such masters as Pollock and Maitland, Vinogradoff and H. A. L. Fisher, but his conclusions as to the nature of the primitive societies revealed by ancient codes of law places him among the fathers of modern anthropology.

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HISTORY

Everyman, I will go with thee, and be thy guide,
In thy most need to go by thy side

SIR HENRY JAMES SUMNER
MAINE, the son of a doctor, born 1822
in India. Educated at Christ's Hos-
pital and Pembroke College, Cam-
bridge. In 1847 professor of civil law
at Cambridge; 1850, called to the Bar.
Member of Indian Council for seven
years. Died at Cannes, 1888.

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