

**THE SOCIALIST STATE; ITS
NATURE, AIMS, AND
CONDITIONS: BEING AN
INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY
OF SOCIALISM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649707003

The socialist state; its nature, aims, and conditions: being an introduction to the study of socialism by E. C. K. Gonner

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E. C. K. GONNER

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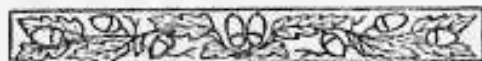
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LONDON: WALTER SCOTT, LTD
PATERNOSTER SQUARE 1895



Preface.

THE aim of this little book is chiefly expository. It is an attempt to indicate, with due regard to relative proportion, the various matters involved in the discussion of Socialism, as to which some opinion must be formed. In some cases the materials for an equitable decision lie ready to hand, recorded in the facts of past experience or in the arguments which have been set forth by the advocates or opponents of the movement, but in other cases we remain dependent on the conscious and unconscious experiments which are being wrought, or are to be wrought, in the sure laboratory of Time. Of one thing we may be certain; the problem of Social Action and Socialism cannot be ignored. And as it can-

PREFACE.

not be ignored, it is surely not too much to urge that it should be studied. This little book will attain its object if it facilitate a serious and fruitful study by a delimitation of the ground it should cover, and by the implied suggestion that a final judgment must be arrived at, not on one aspect or one presentment of the case, but after an even-minded review of the whole complex medley of interests, difficulties, dangers, and advantages.

My thanks are due to two friends who by their kind revision of the proof-sheets of this book, have enabled me to remove certain obscurities and defects which might otherwise have remained.

E. C. K. G.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,
4th May, 1895.



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