

**A HISTORY OF
THE ART OF WAR
IN THE MIDDLE AGES
VOL. I**

BY THE SAME AUTHOR
ENGLAND BEFORE THE CONQUEST

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A HISTORY OF THE ART OF WAR IN THE MIDDLE AGES

BY

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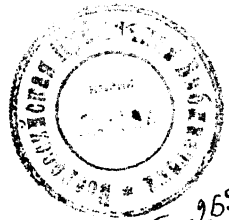
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VOLUME I

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WITH MAPS, PLANS, AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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PREFACE

AS far back as the year 1898 I published a volume on the *Art of War in the Middle Ages*, which traced its history down to the year 1375 only—a bad and arbitrary date, as I had to acknowledge in my Preface. It took some twenty years to exhaust this edition, which finally went out of print at the end of the Great War. Since 1918 many friends have asked me from time to time to continue my narrative down to the end of the Middle Ages. I have therefore taken advantage of the long parliamentary recess of 1923, and have added six new sections to the eight which were contained in my original book. These not only continue the tale of Western warfare down to the year 1485, but deal with certain topics which I had avoided in the first edition, viz. the origin of cannon and gunpowder, the Wars of the Mongols and Ottoman Turks in Europe, and the military history of the Italian Condottieri and the Swiss. By strict logic there should have been some comment on all these subjects in the old book, as they all began to acquire importance long before 1375.

In consequence of the writing of the six new sections, this second edition has swelled to two volumes, and contains some four hundred pages of fresh matter. But I have also gone through with care the whole of the eight old sections, and have rewritten entirely some of their chapters, in particular those dealing with Anglo-Norman military institutions, with castle-building, with the Italian wars of the thirteenth century, and with the Welsh campaigns of Edward I. On all these subjects there has been much research since 1898, and what I wrote in that year required correction and revision.

I must once again warn the reader that these volumes are