

名古屋大学図書



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COMMENTARIES  
ON THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE EMPIRE  
OF  
JAPAN.

BY  
COUNT HIROBUMI ITO.

TRANSLATED  
BY  
MIYOJI ITO.



TOKYO:  
IGIRISU-HŌRITSU GAKKO,  
No. 2, NISHIKICHO NICHOME.  
22ND YEAR OF MEIJI (1889).

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## NOTICE.

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His Excellency Count Ito has been pleased to honor the Igirisu-Hōritsu Gakkō (English Law College) by the presentation to it of the copyright of the English translation of his "Commentaries on the Constitution of the Empire of Japan," which has been undertaken and accomplished by Mr. Miyoji Ito, at the request of His Excellency: the copyright of the original version he has had the condescension of presenting to the Kokka-Gaku-Kai (Association for the Science of State).

Our admiration of the spirit of disinterestedness and of devotion to the interests of the public, is greatly excited by the action of the distinguished donor. The College feels deeply grateful to him for the honor he has done it and for the exceptional favor he has conferred upon it.

We have published the work that it may be a hand book for all, that by sales of it funds may be realized to be applied to the furthering of the

interests of this institution, and, above all, that the kind feeling His Excellency has manifested towards it may be had in remembrance forever.

*Tokyo, the 28th day of the 6th month  
of the 22nd year of Meiji (1889).*

KENZO TAKAHASHI

*For the Iqirisu-Hōritsu Gakko.*



## PREFACE.

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THE Imperial House Law is an exposition of the instructions bequeathed by the Sacred Imperial Ancestors of successive ages, and is intended to be a guide to posterity for all time to come. The Constitution of the Empire of Japan is a collection of the fundamental rules of the State, and lays down clear definitions of the relations that ought to mutually exist between the Sovereign and His people. These two Laws are precise and definite in their meaning; they may be compared even, for brilliancy, to the heavenly luminaries. They are couched in language whose import is deep and comprehensive; indeed there is no word adequate enough to express the praise due to them. They embody profound conceptions and a far-sighted policy, that owe their origin to the wisdom of His Imperial Majesty. I, Hirobumi, while engaged with the officials subordinate to me, in the study of these Laws, have made notes of the results of our investigations, and after

revision of them, I have given them the name of Commentaries. I do not intend them to be a systematic exposition of these great Laws; they are meant only as a medium for conveying information. To another generation must be left the composition of an exhaustive elucidation of them, a task that is beyond any aspiration of mine.

*The 4th month of the 22nd year  
of Meiji (1889).*

COUNT HIROBUMI ITO.

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