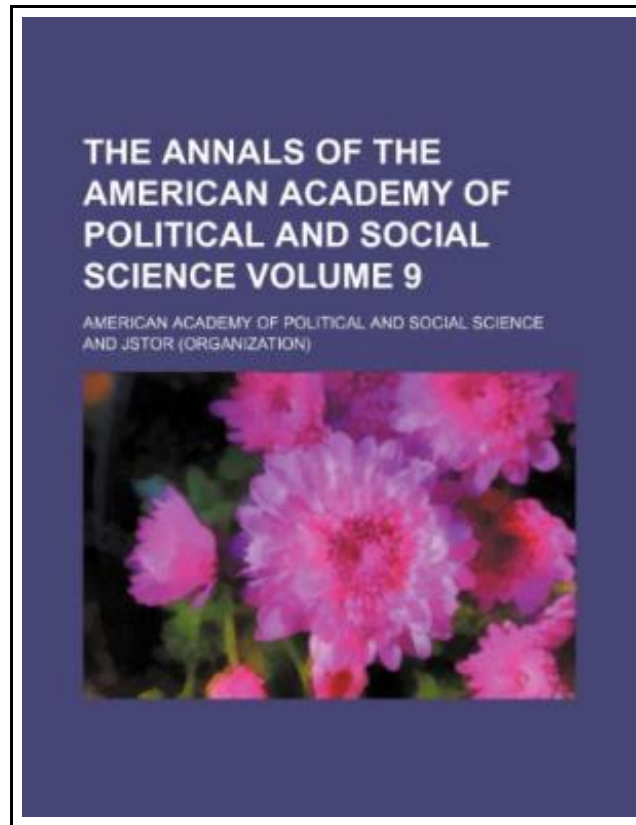


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Rarebooksclub.com, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1897 edition. Excerpt: . contribution towards its solution which is here made should be understood and recognized. Maine s explanation of ancient law assumed the universal prevalence in prehistoric times of the patriarchal family, founded on the palria poteslas, and limited by agnation. Bachofen s researches proved that the primitive systems of kinship traced descent through mothers instead of through fathers and tried to account for this fact by denying the truth of the patriarchal theory and assuming a primitive promiscuity in sexual relations, or perhaps a communism of women. McLennan brought great learning and critical insight to bear upon the question. Not then acquainted with the work of Bachofen, he independently discovered the primitive system of relationship through women, the widely observed rule of exogamy, and the prevalence of wife capture and of its surviving symbolism. These facts he accounted for by another widely extended practice, female infanticide, which he regarded as a cause of the other phenomena. Scarcity of food, he argued, compelled each little horde of primitive men to cut off its useless members, and the girl babies could most easily be spared. Scarcity of women, thus produced, led each horde to try to capture women from other hordes, and the captives were owned by their captors in common. Thus it came about that polyandry was the earliest form of marriage. Confirmation of this theory McLennan found in many practices that survived after polyandry ceased to exist, for example, the levirate of the Jews, or...

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