LAW AND THE FAMILY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649626045

Law and the Family by Robert Grant

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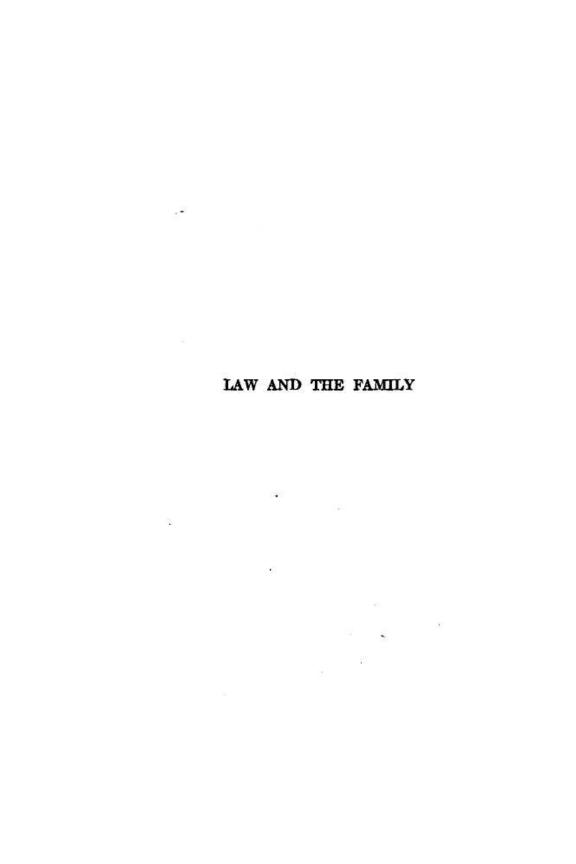
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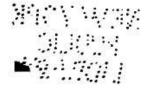
NEW YORK
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Published October, 1919





FOREWORD

(BEING AN EXTRACT FROM VERSES READ AT A BAB ASSOCIATION DINNER)

A Probate Judge who talks in verse Suggests a decorated hearse; But these slow lips I cannot teach To make an after-dinner speech. So I will utilise my time By dropping briefly into rhyme. A Probate Judge who outlives you May break your will-yes, tax it, too. Concerning various other things His power outrivals that of kings: If he decides you are insane, All your remonstrances are vain. A spendthrift-he can cut you short. Your wife asks separate support And finds the Judge her nearest friend. You drink-and Foxboro is the end. Your children, when you prove unfit. Are whisked away by sovereign writ. If your accounts aren't just and true,

FOREWORD

Upon your bond the Judge will sue. In short, it may be truly said He has you living, has you dead. The moral is—as on you trudge, Propitiate the Probate Judge.

Patient he sits, while year by year
Old women whisper in his ear;
All sorts of skeletons he knows,
Sad secrets told beneath the rose.
He may not lay his bosom bare;
He turns the key and keeps them there.
Where are there fiercer battles fought
Than those peculiar to his Court?
When rival kinsman children claim;
When cestuis hold trustees to blame;
When cousinly greed backed up by skill
Conspires to break a rich man's will.
And if the lawyers compromise,
He knows the fees and gently sighs.

If you desire to change your name The Probate Judge permits the same; And ere the very youthful wed His nod must bless the nuptial bed.

[vi]

FOREWORD

He construes the obscure devise
And shows the difference which lies
'Twixt Tweedledum and Tweedledee,
Which is sometimes hard to see.
In times of stress his powers prevail;
He sends contemptuous folk to jail,
And by injunction's awful might
Protects the weak and guards the right.
Thus equity corrects the flaw
Which justice finds in common law.

And yet as judges go, has not
The Probate Judge a happy lot?
He always sleeps in his own bed
And eats three well-cooked meals instead
Of tempting a dyspeptic fate
By frequent circuits through the State
As other Courts are forced to do.
He lives at home and knows who's who.