

**A LAWYER'S
RECOLLECTIONS IN
AND OUT OF COURT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649043125

A Lawyer's Recollections in and Out of Court by George A. Torrey

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GEORGE A. TORREY

**A LAWYER'S
RECOLLECTIONS IN
AND OUT OF COURT**

A
LAWYER'S
RECOLLECTIONS

IN AND OUT OF COURT

BY
GEORGE A. TORREY
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAR

BOSTON
LITTLE, BROWN, AND COMPANY
1910

~~17385.11~~ US 13637.2

Joseph M. Black,
Boston.

Copyright, 1910,

By GEORGE A. TORREY.

All rights reserved

Published, September, 1910

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS, CAMBRIDGE, U.S.A.

PREFACE

THACKERAY says: "Some poet has observed, that if any man would write down what has really happened to him in this mortal life he would be sure to make a good book, though he never had met with a single adventure from his birth to his burial."

I have occupied my leisure hours by recalling to mind, and recording, some matters in my experience which may not be without interest.

While there is nothing in my career which so far distinguishes it from that of any other member of the legal profession, who has followed the law for a period of half a century, as to furnish an excuse for anything in the form of an autobiography,

PREFACE

I trust that the statement of some things which have occurred during my professional life may be of interest, especially to the younger members of the legal profession, and that the account of the simple way in which people lived during my boyhood and youth may not be uninteresting to the present generation.

G. A. T.

Boston, July, 1910.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. SCHOOL DAYS	1
II. HARVARD UNIVERSITY, 1855-'61 . . .	49
III. COUNTRY PRACTICE OF LAW	79
IV. THE SUPERIOR COURT	142
V. THE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT . . .	177



A Lawyer's Recollections

CHAPTER I

SCHOOL DAYS

I WAS born at Fitchburg, Massachusetts, in 1838. Fitchburg, now a city of more than thirty-five thousand population, was then a town of less than three thousand inhabitants. There was no railroad in that portion of the State. Lines of four-horse coaches ran to Boston, Worcester, Keene, New Hampshire, and Brattleboro, Vermont, and four- or six-horse teams were used for the transportation of merchandise.

Fitchburg was a flourishing manufacturing town and contained a number of wealthy people, that is, wealthy for those days. The style of living was quite primitive, and there was little or no ostentation of wealth. Nearly every one was engaged