

**THE HOME LIBRARY  
OF LAW, VOLUME I**

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The Home Library of Law, Volume I by Albert S. Bolles

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**ALBERT S. BOLLES**

**THE HOME LIBRARY  
OF LAW, VOLUME I**



**THE  
HOME LIBRARY OF LAW**

*The*  
**Home Library of Law** <sup>ct</sup>  
Volume I

**The Ownership and Use of Land**  
including

**Its acquisition by Deed, Descent, Will, Occupancy,  
Prescription, Public Grant ; also Life Interests,  
and Rights of Married Men and Women,  
of Homestead Owners, of Landlords  
and Tenants**

By

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## INTRODUCTION

1. Different governments under which the people live.
2. Public and private laws.
3. Both apply to many acts.
4. But not in an unvarying manner.
5. Threefold division of the law defining private rights and duties.
6. Ignorance of the people respecting them.
7. Why the law is generally obeyed.
8. Consequences of failure to know the law.
9. Purpose of this work.
10. Origin of legal rules.
11. Custom or usage.
12. Judge-made law.
13. Statutes.
14. Interpretation of statutes.

1. EVERY individual in our country lives under three forms of government—national, state, and local; and his rights and duties as a member of each are defined by constitution, by statute and by common law.

2. Besides the laws defining the legal relations which exist between government and its members are other laws defining the legal relations between the people themselves. These laws are very numerous and in many respects touch the people more closely than the laws defining their public relations.

3. Many of the acts of individuals are double-sided—are both public and private. Thus, should the cashier of a bank rob it, he would be a debtor to the institution for the money stolen; also a wrong-doer to the public and answerable for his offence. Even if he should become repentant and refund the money stolen, he would be just as liable as before to arrest, trial and condemnation. It is true that the officers of a bank, after such an offence has been committed, are often willing, for the sake of recovering a portion, or all, of the property stolen, to overlook the misdeed and to protect, as far as they can, the criminal from punishment. In truth, they cannot give any legal protection; but they may darken the pathway of the public prosecutor by withholding testimony.

Another illustration may be given. A assaults B, boxing his ears. The wrong-doer is liable to B for the damage, the payment of money, which is the legal balm for the wound—often a poor medicine, but the most effective the law can prescribe. Yet, A, however privately he may have acted, in assaulting B, has committed a public offence, and no settlement with the injured man can prevent the state, through the public prosecutor, from arresting, trying and convicting him for his misdeed.

The individual, or private remedy, which consists in recovering money for the injury done, is called the civil remedy; the public action or prosecution by the state, the criminal remedy, and may result in imprisonment, or fine, or both.

4. This double-sidedness of human action from the legal point of view covers a large breadth of human