# HISTORY OF THE LAW OF REAL PROPERTY IN NEW YORK

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History of the Law of Real Property in New York by Robert Ludlow Fowler

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# ROBERT LUDLOW FOWLER

# HISTORY OF THE LAW OF REAL PROPERTY IN NEW YORK



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### HISTORY

OF THE

# LAW OF REAL PROPERTY

IX

### NEW YORK

AN ESSAY INTRODUCTORY TO THE STUDY OF THE

N. Y. REVISED STATUTES
(WITH APPENDICES)

BY

ROBERT LUDLOW FOWLER COUNSELLOR AT LAW

Stanford Library

NEW YORK
BAKER, VOORHIS AND COMPANY
1895

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#### PREFACE.

The casual reader of this volume may regard it as an undue emphasis of certain trite historical facts of no great significance in the practical application of the law of our own day. A perusal of the recent case of De Lancey v. Piepgras, 138 N. Y. 26, will tend to dispel this impression, for that case shows how complete the nexus really is between the old law and the new. It is quite true that the old law was perhaps unnecessary to the actual solution of De Lancey v. Piepgras, but it nevertheless received consideration there, and for the first time a point of Province law involved was determined in New York.

An attempt to trace the legal institutions of the England of the seventeenth century to their cis-Atlantic abode is followed by a more practical theme—the Revised Statutes—one of the most useful applications of the old common law to the institutions of America ever yet made. These celebrated statutes serve as the basis of the present law of real property, and their exposition by the great courts of this State contributes a body of law of infinite value to the particular jurisprudence of America.

In many instances cases will be found to be cited because they are deemed illustrative of the historical phase of the subject under consideration; but in the majority of instances only because they are decisive of the text. A multiplication of authorities has not been aimed at, as it always has seemed to the writer that there can be but one decision by a court of last resort, under the great fundamental doctrine of our jurisprudence, stare decisis et non quieta movere.

NEW YORK, March 27th, 1895.

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