

**PRACTICAL LEGISLATION; THE  
COMPOSITION AND LANGUAGE  
OF ACTS OF PARLIAMENT AND  
BUSINESS DOCUMENTS**

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Practical Legislation; The Composition and Language of Acts of Parliament and Business Documents by Henry Thring

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**HENRY THRING**

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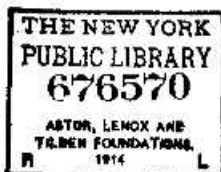
# PRACTICAL LEGISLATION;

THE COMPOSITION AND LANGUAGE  
OF ACTS OF PARLIAMENT AND  
BUSINESS DOCUMENTS,

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*1858-1907*  
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Mr. Maxwell - W. Edwards - Jan. 23, 1872  
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## INTRODUCTION.

THE following treatise was written many years ago for the instruction of the assistant draftsmen in the office of the Parliamentary Counsel. It was published by her Majesty's Stationery Office, and being now out of print, is republished, with the consent of the Government, with an introduction and with certain alterations required by recent legislation.

Mr. Austin, no mean authority, writes in his work on Jurisprudence, "I will venture to affirm that what is commonly called the *technical* part of legislation is incomparably more difficult than what may be called the *ethical*. In other words it is far easier to conceive justly what would be useful law, than so to construct that same law that it may accomplish the design of the law giver." Mr. Gladstone expressed his opinion to me that a Bill was the very soul of legislation, and one of the most learned men perhaps in modern times, Bishop Westcott, the late Bishop of Durham, points out the essential requisite in drawing Acts of Parliament, and indeed in all other sorts of serious composition when he says, speaking of the benefits that he had derived from the tuition of Dr. Prince Lee, the famous master of King Edward's school at Birmingham: "If I were to select one endowment which I have found most precious to me in the whole work of life, I should select the absolute belief in the force of words which I gained through the strictest verbal criticism."

For myself, I learnt from the instruction of those two great scholars, Dr. Kennedy and his brother George