

**PERSONAL RIGHTS  
AND  
SEXUAL WRONGS**

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Personal Rights and Sexual Wrongs by Oswald Dawson

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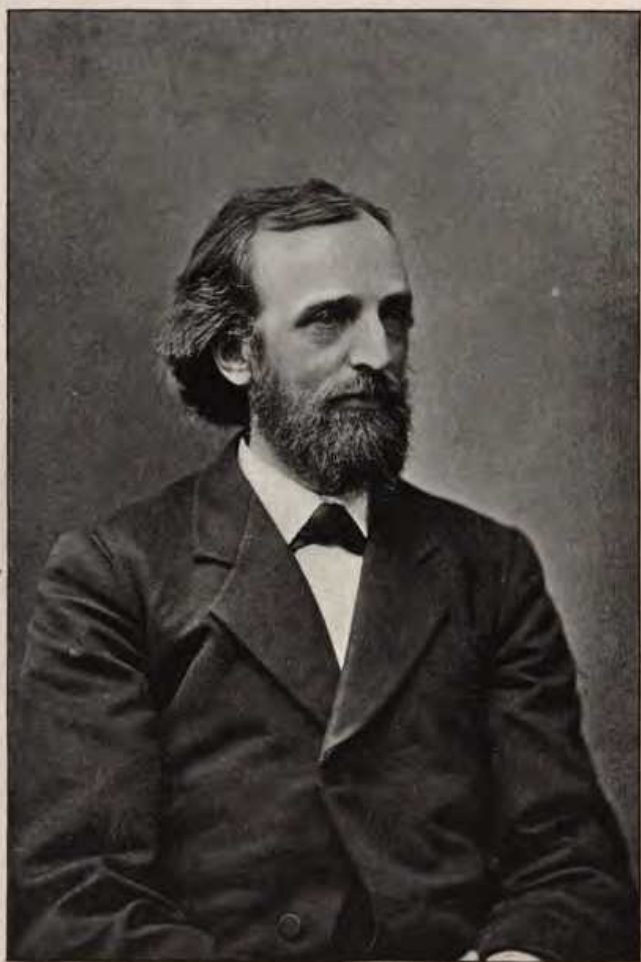
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**OSWALD DAWSON**

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PERSONAL RIGHTS  
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SEXUAL WRONGS.

BY OSWALD DAWSON.

FIRST EDITION.

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LONDON:  
WM. REEVES, 185, FLEET STREET.  
LEEDS:  
GEO. CORNWELL, 4, UPPER MILL HILL.  
1897.

## PREFACE.

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THE matter contained in *Personal Rights and Sexual Wrongs* was originally intended to form part of the First Annual Proceedings of the Legitimation League in 1894. That book, as an *Annual*, never appeared; but as the "First Biennial Proceedings," *The Bar Sinister and Licit Love*, was published in 1885.

Rather strong representation was made to me by a superior officer of the League that the continuation of a personal dispute would be objectionable, and, without arguing the point here as to how far the dissension between Mr. Levy and myself was a personal matter, I may say that I excised all that related to him and to the Personal Rights Association, except that portion dealing with the correspondence on Natural Children in *Personal Rights*, and Sir Roland Wilson's criticism of Mr. Wordsworth Donisthorpe's chapters on Marriage and the Status of Children in *Law in a Free State*. Even Mr. Henry Wilson's challenge to meet opponents on principle was deferred till the appearance of this *brochure*, though the principles of legitimation were traversed in his letter, as it also contained *decidedly personal matters*. The publication

was promised for simultaneous issue with the Proceedings ; but, on the one hand, I kept hoping that the impossibility of recording such an occurrence as my expulsion—without its subsequent rescission—might arise. I cherished the vain hope that, first, the Annual Meeting of 1895, then the like event of 1896, might bring the desired resuscitation of myself to the dignity of Member of the P.R.A. But it didn't. Then many friends argued—some contending that as an element of personal quarrel had something to do with the dissension, the matter had better drop—others that the performance would simply be a slaying of the slain, and that the affair was beneath notice. But I felt the cold of the bare prison walls which enclosed Ezra Heywood and Moses Harman too keenly to appreciate these arguments at convincing value ; and I had encouragement from America, more especially from Mr. E. W. Chamberlain and Mr. A. H. Simpson, to persist in presenting an English sketch of the American Inquisition : consequently I feel that, notwithstanding the unpleasantness of the task, and the lapse of time which has been allowed to occur, I must persist.

Another difficulty of a different order was gradually arising in my mind. Mr. Levy had been wrong in his contention that Legitimation meant "The 'so-called' Free-Love Propaganda." Legitimation meant respectable connubiality without the marriage bond, but with political freedom for



adulterous, or even incestuous unions as proclaimed by the President of the League in the very columns of *Personal Rights*.

Mr. Levy was right if he meant, which he didn't say, that in my case belief in legitimation would ultimately lead to "so-called," and properly so-called Free-Love, but the idea of simply proving that Mr. Levy was more addicted to anticipation than the facts then before him justified seemed superfluous; and if I said anything more in the matter I wished to record such progress as might have been made.

I withhold for the present the results of such progress. To-morrow the Annual Meeting of the Legitimation League takes place in London, and Mr. George Bedborough moves that the following be added to the objects of the League:—

"To educate public opinion in the direction of freedom in sexual relationships."

The League will henceforward have its Headquarters in the Metropolis, with Mr. George Bedborough as Honorary Secretary, and Mrs. Louie Bedborough as Treasurer.\*

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\* The Head-quarters are not at present settled upon, but Mr. Bedborough's private address is 127, East Street Buildings, Manchester Square, W. (near Baker Street Station). The First Meeting of the Fifth year of the League will be held at the Bedford Hotel, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, on Saturday Afternoon, April 3rd, probably at 3 o'clock.

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*Preface.*

Part III. of this *brochure*, entitled "The Outcome of Legitimation," already partly in type, and dealing therewith, with special regard to the development of my own views, will be published in the Second Edition.

OSWALD DAWSON.

HARMAN VILLA,

SEACROFT, NR. LEEDS,

30th March, 1897.

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NOTE.

INSTEAD of a Second Edition of *Personal Rights and Sexual Wrongs*, promised in the closing paragraph of the Preface thereto, and announced to contain a Third Part, treating of "The Outcome of Legitimation," it is my purpose to issue, towards the close of the present year, a separate volume under that title, the same to constitute the Second Biennial Proceedings of the Legitimation League, of which publication I have been appointed Editor.

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The Annual Meeting and Dinner of the League took place at the Holborn Restaurant, London—the future place of assembly for members and others interested in the movement—on March 31st. A newspaper report of the events may be had by writing the Hon. Sec., Mr. Geo. Bedborough, at the offices of the League, 16, John Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C., from whom also the new manifesto of the League may shortly be obtained post free.

At subsequent meetings held at the Holborn Restaurant Lillian Harman was chosen as President, and the following ladies and gentlemen elected as a Committee:—Mr. John Badcock, Jr., Mrs. G. C. E. Law, Miss Wardlaw Best, Dr. R. de Villiers, and, *ex officio*, Mrs. Louie Bedborough, Treasurer. The